



Sam Houston  
State University

# Master of Arts in Spanish

Graduate Student Handbook



Department of  
World Languages & Cultures  
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES  
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

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# Master of Arts in Spanish

The Master of Arts in Spanish is designed to prepare students for careers as Spanish instructors in secondary and higher education institutions, for employment as professional interpreters within various industries, for future advanced study, and for advancing their proficiency in a second language and culture.

This non-thesis program provides a thorough foundation in practical fluency and cultural skills through 36 credit hours of analytical and linguistic coursework.

Once-weekly night classes offered in person at SHSU's The Woodlands Center. Courses also offered online.

**Plan A** - designed for students seeking to continue their education into doctoral studies, to become professional interpreters, and to improve personal language skills.

**Plan B** - designed for students seeking to teach Spanish at the secondary and college levels

Program Breakdown	
Catalog Entry	Master of Arts (MA)
Length	36 Credit Hours
Enrollment	Fall, Spring, Summer

## Application Deadlines

- 📅 Fall: August 1
- 📅 Spring: December 1
- 📅 Summer: May 15

Please note that application deadlines will occasionally change. Please contact your academic advisor for confirmation on application deadlines.

## Academic Advisors



Dr. Maria Barker  
936.294.4584  
wolcgrad@shsu.edu  
ABIV 323



Dr. Montse Feu  
936.294.3448  
wolcgrad@shsu.edu  
ABIV 329

# Requirements

Our current requirements are as follows:

- Complete the ApplyTexas application: <http://www.shsu.edu/admissions/apply-texas.html>
- Pay the associated application fee: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-studies/application-fee.html>
- Upload materials following instructions at this link: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-admissions/prospective-students.html>
  
- Transcripts documenting all prior degrees.\*
- A current resume or curriculum vitae (in English).
- A writing sample of scholarly or professional work (in Spanish), showcasing the applicant's writing ability (1000 words minimum).
- A statement of interest (in English) that summarizes the applicant's professional goals, how this degree will help the applicant obtain their professional goals, and how the applicant's personal and professional experiences have prepared them for the MA program. The statement should be no more than two single-spaced pages
- Name and contact information for at least two individuals who can speak about the applicant's academic and professional potential.
- Applicants who do not possess a graduate degree from an accredited institution, are expected to have earned a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 from the accredited institution granting the undergraduate degree
- Applicants are expected to have at least 18 undergraduate hours of Spanish.
- Applicants who do not possess 18 undergraduate hours of Spanish or have an undergraduate GPA below 3.0 may submit additional information as evidence of their academic and professional potential. Additional information may include, but is not limited to: GRE scores, a narrative that provides an explanation for the applicant's low GPA and why the GPA is not indicative of the applicant's academic and professional potential, and/or a narrative that explains in what other ways the applicant has acquired knowledge of Spanish language and Hispanic culture, etc.

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\*Applicants may submit unofficial transcripts for review by the admissions committee. However, under university policy, admission decisions are contingent upon receipt of official transcripts.

Applicants must submit all application materials directly to Graduate Admissions by the relevant deadline. A holistic review of each applicant's file will then be completed, with admission to the MSA Program offered to applicants on a competitive basis.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Many of our classes are given in Spanish, but depending on your area of interest, you will be required to take two or more courses in English. Some courses have required readings in both English and Spanish, so proficiency in both languages is important.

We have very limited TA opportunities within the program, though there may be some opportunities for work study (Jobs for Kats <http://www.shsu.edu/get-started/jobs4kats.html>) or scholarships.

OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS  
936.294.1971  
[graduate@shsu.edu](mailto:graduate@shsu.edu)

# Curriculum

The M.A. in Spanish requires a minimum of thirty-six hours of graduate credit, and the student may choose one of two degree plans. At the end of the program, students must also take and pass written two-hour comprehensive exams covering three specific areas of study in the MA program (linguistics, literature, culture).

## Plan 1 - M.A. in Spanish

Master of Arts in Spanish		
<b>Specified Courses</b>		
SPAN 5332	Spanish Golden Age Lit	3
SPAN 5333	Spanish/Am Lit: Pre-Eur to Ind	3
SPAN 5334	Contemp Spanish American Lit	3
SPAN 5337	Lit Analysis & Research Method	3
SPAN 5338	Second Lang Teaching & Method	3
SPAN 5361	The Structure of Spanish	3
SPAN 5370	History of Spanish Language	3
SPAN 5371	Contemporary Spanish Literat	3
<b>Restricted Electives</b>		
Select two of the following:		6
SPAN 5060	Special Topics in Spanish	
SPAN 5331	Sem in Comp Spanish Art/Cultur	
SPAN 5336	Hispanic Women's Studies	
SPAN 5372	Spanish for Technical Comp	
SPAN 5373	Theory/Pract of Trans/Interpet	
SPAN 5374	Studies in Spanish Linguistics	
<b>Electives</b>		
Select 6 credit hours of additional graduate courses in SPAN		6
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>36</b>

## Plan 2 - M.A. in Spanish

Master of Arts in Spanish		
<b>Specified Courses</b>		
SPAN 5332	Spanish Golden Age Lit	3
SPAN 5333	Spanish/Am Lit: Pre-Eur to Ind	3
SPAN 5334	Contemp Spanish American Lit	3
SPAN 5337	Lit Analysis & Research Method	3
SPAN 5338	Second Lang Teaching & Method	3
SPAN 5370	History of Spanish Language	3
SPAN 5371	Contemporary Spanish Literat	3
<b>Restricted Electives in BESL</b>		
Select two of the following:		6
BESL 5311	Applied Linguistics in ESL/EFL Settings	
BESL 5302	Soc Cult Lang Infl On Learning	
BESL 5304	2nd Lang Acquisition & Develop	
<b>Restricted Electives in SPAN</b>		
Select two of the following:		6
SPAN 5060	Special Topics in Spanish	
SPAN 5331	Sem in Comp Spanish Art/Cultur	
SPAN 5336	Hispanic Women's Studies	
SPAN 5372	Spanish for Technical Comp	
SPAN 5373	Theory/Pract of Trans/Interpet	
SPAN 5374	Studies in Spanish Linguistics	
<b>Electives</b>		
Select 6 credit hours of additional graduate courses in SPAN		6
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>36</b>

# Graduate Course Descriptions

## **SPAN 5332. Spanish Golden Age Lit. 3 Hours.**

Students conduct an in-depth study of the Spanish Golden Age (1500-1700), including authors, works, and concepts (e.g., Renaissance, Baroque, Picaresque). Topics may include poetry, plays, and other genres of the era.

## **SPAN 5333. Spanish/Am Lit: Pre-Eur to Ind. 3 Hours.**

Students examine the literary cultures of Spanish America from the Colonial to the Post-Colonial period (end of the 19th century). Topics may include national literatures, cultural backgrounds, ethnic, linguistic, and identity issues.

## **SPAN 5334. Contemp Spanish American Lit. 3 Hours.**

Students examine the literary expressions of various Hispanic cultures during the 20th century and beyond including the U.S. Latino experience. Topics may include authors, themes, artistic/literary genres or contemporary social and political issues.

## **SPAN 5337. Lit Analysis & Research Method. 3 Hours.**

Students enhance their literary consciousness and capability through reading and discussion. They develop familiarity with and appreciation for Hispanic literature while increasing their ability to interpret and evaluate cultural products. Students practice analytical and interpretive skills to conduct independent research for scholarly presentations and publications.

## **SPAN 5338. Second Lang Teaching & Method. 3 Hours.**

Students evaluate second language acquisition theories to understand their relationship to effective teaching with a focus on language skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing, and cultural awareness). Emphasis is given to the evaluation of language based on state and federal guidelines.

## **SPAN 5361. The Structure of Spanish. 3 Hours.**

Students broadly examine the linguistic structure of Spanish. Topics may include phonetics/phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics of the Spanish language. Prerequisite: SPAN 3367 or department approval.

## **SPAN 5370. History of Spanish Language. 3 Hours.**

Students discover the history of the Spanish language over the last two millennia. Topics may include the formal development of Spanish phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics.

## **SPAN 5371. Contemporary Spanish Literat. 3 Hours.**

Students conduct an in-depth study of the major authors, works (including films), and aesthetic currents of Spanish literature beginning with the 20th century. Texts are studied from a variety of theoretical approaches.

**SPAN 5060. Special Topics in Spanish. 1-3 Hours.**

Students examine Hispanic culture, including the US Latino population. Topics vary and may include specific authors, themes, literary genres, and/or sociopolitical issues. Variable Credit (1-3).

Prerequisite: SPAN 5337, SPAN 5372, or departmental approval.

**SPAN 5331. Sem in Comp Spanish Art/Cultur. 3 Hours.**

Students conduct an in-depth comparison of cultural representations, both visual and aural, across the Hispanic world. Topics vary from semester to semester. Student develop Spanish language ability and cultural consciousness.

**SPAN 5336. Hispanic Women's Studies. 3 Hours.**

Students examine Hispanic women's literature and art. Students interpret, evaluate, and respond to a variety of genres within this topic.

**SPAN 5372. Spanish for Technical Comp. 3 Hours.**

Students study forms of exposition, including narration, to develop competency for clear and effective technical writing for various professions including health, law, criminal justice, education, science, technology, literature and business.

**SPAN 5373. Theory/Pract of Trans/Interpet. 3 Hours.**

Students are trained in the cognitive processes and language skills required to translate and interpret written or audiovisual texts.

**SPAN 5374. Studies in Spanish Linguistics. 3 Hours.**

Students apply Spanish linguistics principles. Topics vary and may include phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics. Related topics may include specific approaches to language variation, bilingualism, and language acquisition.

## WOLC MA Comprehensive Exam Policy- Effective Fall 2014 Semester

Beginning this semester, the comprehensive exam process will be conducted as follows. Students will select three (3) professors of their choice to form an examination board. Only these three professors will examine the student. Each professor will represent one (1) field of examination (even if there are other faculty with whom students have studied in related classes). Each of the three professors will create a choice of questions (not more than two (2) each) from which the student will be able to choose to answer. The questions will be derived from synthesizing information from the existing WOLC comps study guide, in order that students having begun preparations under that manual will not be penalized. Each question will be broadly thematic of the field under consideration and will be answered by a written essay not to exceed two (2) hours (or approximately 2200-2500 words) in execution. Thus, the total testing period will not exceed six (6) hours or 7500 written words. Students may arrange to take exams in separate sittings, within the ability of the department to provide proctoring. Students may also opt to take all three (3) exams on one day with a maximum of two (2) breaks of one (1) hour each allowed during the testing period. All arrangements must be made in advance with the WOLC department.

When a student has completed her written exams, the faculty members of the panel will report a grade outcome within one (1) calendar week. Faculty members must provide specific comments of evaluation for each exam and specific instructions of correction for any failed exam. Passage of any two (2) of the three (3) chosen fields will constitute passage of the written examination exercise as a whole.

Upon passage of the written examination exercise, students can arrange to have an oral examination. If the student has not passed at least two (2) of the three (3) written exams, she cannot proceed to the oral examination until she has done so. Students in need of re-examination must wait at least one (1) week to retake any portion of the exam and in doing so must respond to the specific directions for correction issued by the examining faculty members. Faculty members administering a retaken examination will have three (3) business days to report the results of the re-examination. If a student fails a re-examination, the process will be immediately halted and the student will meet with the WOLC Graduate Director to file petition for subsequent examination or alternative assignment for completion of the degree program.

For the oral examination, students will sit before the same three (3) person panel that conducted the written examinations. Panel members will have the right to request elaboration, clarification, or correction of materials from the written exam. Panel members may not introduce new material at this stage of the exam. The purpose of the oral examination is solely to gain clarification/closure on the submitted written exams. The oral exam period may last up to but no longer than two (2) hours. At the end of the oral examination, panel members will ask the student to leave the examination room. Members will then consult on the oral exam grade. Two (2) of three (3) panel members agreeing to pass the student will constitute passage of the oral exam exercise as a whole. In any case, panel members will immediately report the oral examination results to the student at that time. If the student does not achieve a minimum of two (2) votes in favor of passage, the examination committee will immediately inform her of those results and then adjourn to deliberate in consultation with the WOLC Graduate Director what remedial actions will be requested of the student to secure closure of the oral examination requirement. Prescribed remedies will vary on a case-by-case basis.

Completion of the oral exam will complete the comprehensive examination. All components of the examination must be completed prior to the scheduled last day to submit comps results, per the CHSS and University regulation deadlines.



# Graduate Student Resources

## Office Of The Graduate School

The Office of The Graduate School has created an Online Graduate Orientation, which will be available year-round. Students enrolling in the spring or summer semesters and those unable to attend the fall orientation now have a more convenient way to access the same information provided at the New Student Graduate Orientation.

Please note that this orientation is beneficial to all graduate students, whether they are enrolled in online or face-to-face courses. Students will simply need to click the orange forward and back arrows to navigate through the orientation.

<https://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-studies/orientation.html>

## Scholarships Available to Graduate Students

[https://www.shsu.edu/dept/financial-aid/scholarships/scholarship\\_blocks/graduate.html](https://www.shsu.edu/dept/financial-aid/scholarships/scholarship_blocks/graduate.html)

## MA in Spanish Events

<https://www.shsu.edu/academics/foreign-languages/ma-in-spanish/eventsmaspanish>

## Graduate Events Calendar

<https://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-studies/workshops.html>

## Graduate Catalog

<http://catalog.shsu.edu/graduate/#graduatestudiestext>

## Graduate Handbook Important Policies

<https://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/policies/930129%20Graduate%20Degree%20Enrollment%20and%20Completion%20Requirements.pdf>

<https://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/900823%20Academic%20Grievance%20Procedures%20for%20Students-180504.pdf>

<https://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/810213%20Procedures%20in%20Cases%20of%20Academic%20Dishonesty-180504.pdf>

<https://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/curriculum/910312%20Academic%20Probation%20Suspension%20Termination-180504.pdf>

\*Spanish MA students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the graduate policies and procedures.



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