

LATIN AMERICAN AND IBERIAN STUDIES

PREPARATION FOR THE MAJOR

High School Preparation

Recommended as part of or in addition to UC's "a-g" admission requirements:

English composition and literature,
Comparative literature,
California history,
European and American history,
Two or more years of Spanish or Portuguese,
Chicano studies courses,
Available social science courses.

Transfer Preparation

To make normal progress in the major, complete the following courses prior to transfer:

Beginning and intermediate Spanish or Portuguese, or the equivalent demonstrated level of competence,
Introduction to Latin American history.

Recommended:

Introductory courses in:

Anthropology,
Psychology,
Sociology.

Available Chicano studies courses.

Please see the UCSB *General Catalog* (www.catalog.ucsb.edu) or your school counselor for more information on course preparation. California community college students should see www.assist.org.

Latin American and Iberian Studies at UCSB examines the peoples and cultures of Spanish and Portuguese-speaking countries throughout the world. Such study encompasses not only Spain, Portugal, and Latin America, but also Angola, Mozambique, the Philippines, Macao, and the U.S. Chicano and Puerto Rican populations. However, most students center their studies on Latin America.

The focus of Latin American and Iberian Studies is quite different from the traditional emphasis on language and literature found in a foreign language major. Latin American and Iberian Studies examines the whole culture or civilization, not only through the humanities and fine arts, but also through the social sciences and history. This allows students to explore a variety of topics—in addition to Spanish and Portuguese language and literature—such as Latin American anthropology, the history of Spain and Portugal, and the political life of Hispanic communities.

The Major

UCSB offers the Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Latin American and Iberian Studies. The program's faculty includes professors of Anthropology, Political Science, Chicano Studies, Communication, Education, History, Art History, English, Spanish, Portuguese, Sociology, Black Studies, Economics, and Religious Studies. The major's interdisciplinary approach, combined with its flexibility, enables students to concentrate on those areas in which they are genuinely interested, to pursue a double major if they prefer, and to plan their programs of study in accord with their academic and career goals. Many students combine Latin American and Iberian Studies with Anthropology, Chicano Studies, or History for a double major. All Latin American and Iberian Studies faculty are available to assist students in planning appropriate programs of study.

To prepare for the major, students should complete two years of university-level Spanish or Portuguese. Students also should complete an introductory course in Latin American history.

The major requires completion of upper-division (junior and senior level) courses selected from the following four areas:

- Social sciences - includes specific classes in Anthropology, Chicana/o Studies, Communication Studies, Environmental Studies, Economics, Linguistics, Political Science, Black Studies, Religious Studies, Sociology, Spanish, and Portuguese.
- Art, art history, music, drama, and film - includes specific classes in Art History, Black Studies, Chicana/o Studies, Dramatic Art, Film Studies, Music, Spanish, and Portuguese.
- History - includes specific classes in Chicana/o Studies and History.
- Literature and language - includes specific classes in Chicana/o Studies, English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

The LAIS program also provides courses to help students fulfill their major requirements. All students must complete an undergraduate proseminar in the fall quarter which acquaints them with current research in the main areas of Latin American and Iberian studies.

Special Opportunities

Latin American and Iberian studies majors are encouraged to study abroad, either through the university's Education Abroad Program (EAP) or through study at other universities in Latin America, Spain, or Portugal for which the University of California grants transfer credit. EAP, which is headquartered on the UCSB campus, has programs with the universities of Alcalá de Henares, Barcelona, Granada and Madrid in Spain, the University of Costa Rica in San Jose, the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) in Mexico City, and the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil, as well as a host of new programs in Mexico, Brazil, and Chile. Students should consult the EAP office for further information. Latin American and Iberian Studies majors, with their grasp of the language and understanding of the culture, are especially qualified for such programs.

Through the Latin American and Iberian studies honors program, students who have maintained a grade-point average of 3.6 or above in their major coursework undertake a research project which culminates in the writing of a senior honors thesis. Students complete their project under the direction of a faculty advisor. The Latin American and Iberian Studies program also offers academic credit for internships. These internships, which require approval from the program advisory committee, are completed as part of an independent studies course under the supervision of a faculty advisor.

Career Options

Latin American and Iberian Studies, with its solid liberal arts foundation, can prepare students for a wide variety of careers. The major also can prepare students for graduate programs in ethnic-American studies, as well as allied fields in the arts, humanities, and social sciences. With additional study or training, students can pursue professional careers of special importance to the Spanish-speaking communities in the U.S., such as education, law, medicine and the health sciences, and civil and social services.

The major's interdisciplinary approach and double major option allow students to prepare for specific career goals. For example, students interested in anthropology can consider careers in field archaeology or museum work. Students interested in art history can pursue careers in the preservation and restoration of Latin American and Iberian art. Students interested in literature and the performing arts may turn to art criticism, writing and playwriting, or theater production work.

Students who become fluent in Spanish or Portuguese can consider careers in translating, interpreting, diplomacy, and foreign service. Students who particularly enjoy language, literature, and communication may be attracted to careers in publishing, journalism, or library science. Positions in these areas include editorial assistant or editorial researcher, technical writer, foreign correspondent, news reporter, interviewer, library assistant, and library administrator. Students who enjoy sociology and political science may consider careers in community service, the federal, state, or local governments, or politics. Careers in these areas run the gamut from urban renewal and planning, to work with government bureaus, to international humanitarian efforts such as the VISTA/Peace Corps program. Another career option lies in the area of international business.

Students interested in teaching and research at the university level should complete the PhD degree. Students interested in teaching at a community college should pursue graduate work at least through the master's degree. Teaching at the high school (secondary) or elementary level requires a California teaching credential. The elementary credential offers a bilingual cross-cultural emphasis. Students interested in pursuing the secondary or elementary options should discuss their plans with the credential advisor in UCSB's Graduate School of Education early in their academic careers.

For more information on UCSB's Latin American and Iberian Studies major, please call or write to:

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