


**DEPARTMENT OF ROMANCE, GERMAN, RUSSIAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES**
**Spanish Program**
**California State University, Long Beach**

Dear students,

Welcome to the Master of Arts in Spanish website. Thank you for your interest in our MA program. Graduate Studies at California State University, Long Beach is committed to academic excellence and inclusivity through our high-quality, affordable programs.

Choosing to pursue graduate studies in Spanish is a dynamic step toward mastering one of the world's most widely spoken languages as well as exploring the rich cultural landscapes of the Spanish-speaking world. Our program is designed to deepen your understanding of Hispanic literatures, linguistics, and cultural studies while enhancing your critical thinking skills.

Our faculty is dedicated to fueling your academic journey and professional growth, preparing you for impactful careers in **academia, translation, global business, public policy, international relations, or bilingual education**.

This site serves as a resource for both prospective and current graduate students. Here you will find essential information regarding admissions criteria, course offerings, faculty research interests, and degree milestones.

Should you have any further questions, please contact me via email at the address below or set up a time to visit me during my regular office hours.

We look forward to welcoming you to our academic community.

Dr. Maria Nelly Goswitz
Interim Graduate Advisor in Spanish
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AS- 328

# M.A. PROGRAM IN SPANISH

**CSULB**

## I. PROGRAM FACULTY

Our Spanish Faculty are wholly dedicated to excellence in teaching and research. Their fields of specialization appear below:

- Professor Jeannette Acevedo Rivera, PhD from Duke University
  - *Specialization:* 19th century French and Spanish literature and culture; intersections among gender constructions and material culture; album phenomenon
- Professor Alicia Del Campo, PhD from University of California, Irvine
  - *Specialization:* Latin American Literary & Cultural Studies; Latin American and Spanish Theatre & Performance, Theatricality and Politics, Testimonial Literature
- Professor Bonnie Gasior, PhD from Purdue University
  - *Specialization:* Transatlantic Studies (16th & 17th Centuries)
- Professor Daniel Herrera Cepero, PhD from University of California, Davis
  - *Specialization:* 20th Century Avant-Garde poetry and film, 20th and 21st Centuries Hispanic Short Narrative, and Creative Writing
- Professor Daniela Suárez, PhD from University of California, Davis
  - *Specialization:* 20th/21stC Mexican & Latin American Literatures; The U.S. in the Mexican & Latin Americanist Essay; *Crónica* & Social Justice Journalism

## II. PREREQUISITES AND REQUIREMENTS

### A. Prerequisites for unconditional admittance into the program

18 units of undergraduate core coursework (which must include SPAN 300, 310, 330, 341) in Spanish or its equivalent. 3.0 minimum GPA in the major. Please note that a 3.0 GPA does not guarantee admission. For more on pre-requisites, please see the Spanish Program homepage by visiting us at: https://www.csulb.edu/college-of-liberal-arts/romance-german-russian-languages-and-literatures/spanish

*Please note:* We do sometimes admit strong students who have not taken all the Spanish pre-requisites. If you are admitted contingent upon taking pre-requisites, note that classes taken at any level below 500 do not count toward graduation and are not figured into the GPA.

### B. Program Requirements

#### 1) Courses

- **10 courses (30 units) of 500-600 courses**, distributed as follows:
  - 2 courses in Peninsular/Spanish of student's choosing
  - 2 courses in Latin American of student's choosing
  - 2 courses in Linguistics of students choosing
  - 4 electives

- **Two years of a second foreign language** other than Spanish or English. Must have an A or a B in the final semester or equivalent. All other grades in the second language do not matter. None are factored into GPA at CSULB. The foreign language requirement may be met at a different university or may have been met before arriving to the program. Transcripts from the **final semester** are required for verification.

***NB:*** The 600-level teaching methodology course (**RGR601**) is an optional class and does not count toward the MA but does allow you to potentially become a Teaching Assistant in the Spanish program.

**2) Exams**

All students take comprehensive exams in all three areas covered in the program, so we strongly recommend that you take classes across the spectrum:

- Linguistics
- Latin American Literature and Culture
- Peninsular (Spanish) Literature and Culture

Exams are taken after the 30 units are completed. The foreign language requirement does not have to be met for students to be able to take the exams, but students cannot graduate until those courses are completed.

More information about the exams, including reading lists and preparation guides are available on our website.

**C. Transfer Credits**

We allow up to six units (two classes) to be transferred from other accredited M.A. programs. Syllabi, course descriptions, and coursework must be presented to the Graduate Advisor for consideration of the transfer. Courses need to be in Spanish and need to relate to program of study.

## III. APPLICATION AND ADMISSION PROCESS

**A. Application**

Apply to the University via Cal State Apply. You will need to upload the following documents:

- **Application form.** Fill out and upload the "**Solicitud de Ingreso**" found under Useful Links for Spanish M.A. Student.
- **Essay.** Ideally, a corrected essay from one of your upper-level Spanish courses. It should have professor's comments and a grade on it. If you do not have a B.A. or minor in Spanish or such a paper, you need to submit a 3–10-page essay related to a topic relevant to the M.A. program courses upon consultation with the Graduate Advisor.
- **Statement of Purpose.** A short (2-3 page) Statement of Purpose in English or Spanish explaining your personal/professional goals and history in a way that makes clear why getting an M.A. in Spanish will help you meet those goals.
- **Official Transcripts.** If you graduated from CSULB, unofficial transcripts will suffice.
- **Letters of recommendation.** Two letters of recommendation to be uploaded directly by the recommender in Cal State Apply. The letters must attest to the candidate's academic performance and ability to succeed in a graduate program, ideally with good evidence.

***NB about applications:*** The Spanish MA program at CSULB expects that the personal statement included with the application be 100% written by the candidate, regardless of their writing level. The statement will go through a verification of AI use, and any percentage of AI compatibility will disqualify the candidate from being considered for admission in the program.

**B. Departmental Deadlines**

- For **Fall Admission**: apply by **June 1st**
- For **Spring Admission**: apply by **November 1st**

**C. International Students**

**International students should complete the following application: Cal State Apply for International Students** by April/September 1st (note that this is 2 months earlier). F

**For more information:**

**https://www.csulb.edu/international/future-students/graduate-admissions-requirements**

**D. Admissions Decisions**

Decisions are made by the Graduate Admissions Committee, which consists of the graduate faculty in Spanish. We advise students usually within 15 days of the admissions deadline.

You will receive an email with a notification of your official admission, conditional admission, or denial of admission into the program.

**E. What to Do if Accepted**

If you are accepted, you need to follow the instructions on the memo you receive from the graduate advisor. You will need to accept your admission and contact the graduate advisor regarding your intent to accept or decline your admission.

We have graduate orientation sessions in the Spring and Fall to help students get oriented to the program and to help ensure everyone's successful completion of what we believe to be one of the strongest M.A. programs in Southern California. We invite you to apply and to contact us with questions.

**F. How to Take Classes If You Miss the Application Deadline**

There is a way for you to take classes in Spanish if you missed the application deadline and still want to start taking classes. Here is what you need to do:

1. Visit the Open University site.
2. Contact the Graduate Advisor in Spanish for input on which course or courses you should take.
3. Remember that taking classes in the program without being admitted yet is a good way to get to know the professors, students, and the program. However, it is not a guarantee that you will be admitted.

Questions?

Contact the Graduate Advisor:

Dr. Maria Nelly Goswitz

Maria.Goswitz@csulb.edu