Hispanic Studies B.A.
Major
Bachelor of Arts
World Languages and Cultures
College of Liberal Arts

The Hispanic Studies program provides cultural knowledge, language skills and a broader world perspective. Situated in the Department of World Languages and Cultures (WLC), Hispanic Studies reflects the variety of cultural products, practices, and perspectives that students will experience in our classes. We are committed to continuing to connect with our students and to help them become engaged citizens of the world. Our students apply their linguistic and interdisciplinary skills to a wide variety of local, regional, national and international career choices.

Acquired Skills

The BA in Hispanic Studies fosters the development of cross-cultural competency and broader world perspectives through the study of history, cultural production and texts of Spanish-speaking communities and cultures, and their concomitant inherent diversity. This major presupposes the acquisition of Spanish language in order to carry out coursework in the study, analysis and understanding of literary texts and cultural products from Spain, Latin America, and United States Latino communities. It prepares students for graduate or professional school programs such as law, or for work in government, in education or with agencies and businesses having international ties.

Career Possibilities

Recent graduates have utilized their intercultural competency, language proficiency and critical thinking skills in a variety of careers and experiences: working in the Peace Corps, Human Resources, Cultural Consulting, Government work in the US and abroad, AmeriCorps, teaching abroad as well as in the US; continuing studies in professional programs such as Law and Pharmacy, or attending graduate school in Linguistics, Museum Studies, Hispanic Studies, Government and Public Policy, Education and Communication Sciences and Disorders.

Why UMD

Four out of five UMD Hispanic Studies majors study abroad! Possibilities include the UMD faculty-led four-week six-credit program to Salamanca, Spain, in June, a semester at the UMD-sponsored University of Deusto in Bilbao, Spain, or a wide array of semester-long and short-term UMD featured programs in Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Peru, among others. Scholarships are available through the Study Abroad Office, the College of Liberal Arts and the Department of World Languages and Cultures. Our faculty are award winning teachers and scholars. Our curriculum is comprised of language coursework; classes on film, literature, and sociocultural movements in communities where Spanish and coetaneous languages are spoken. We also offer a for-credit internship and Advanced Spanish for Business. Our classes—and our extracurricular events—are dynamic spaces where students are encouraged to be creative and to take calculated risks.
Scholarships

CLA is proud to be able to offer over 90 alumni and donor funded scholarships to our students each year. In total over $190,000 is awarded out to CLA majors and some minors as well. Each department facilitates the process for their specific scholarships and students are also encouraged to apply for CLA-wide scholarships offered to students in any field. World Languages and Cultures departmental scholarships:

- Alayne and Charles Berkins Scholarship
- Angela Marinelli Scholarship
- Frances A. Knobloch Scholarship

Student Clubs

The UMD Club de Español (Spanish Club) is a student-run organization that plans events where students (and faculty) can connect and celebrate their love of the Spanish language and Hispanic cultures. Recent events include a bonfire in Bagley Nature Area, a holiday goodie decorating party, yoga in Spanish, among others. The club has also hosted fundraisers such as Mock-arita miércoles. The club’s leadership team organizes student volunteering with the Spanish immersion program at Lowell Elementary School.

Faculty Highlights

Our faculty are nationally and internationally known scholars who publish on the literature, cinema, social realities and diversity of the Spanish-speaking world. Recent publications pertain to identity and intersectionality as they relate to race, gender and language use; female exile in Europe; representation and identity formation in 21st-century Spain; recovery of historical memory in the wake of the Spanish Civil War and dictatorship, social media and indigeneity, among others. Our faculty secure prestigious grants to travel to conduct interviews, research in archives and have first-hand contact with the subjects they investigate. The faculty have received recognition and awards for their teaching and research. We connect with our community through events such as the World Languages and Cultures Film Series, in which we have shown and discussed cinematic works such as "Ixcanul," the first film every produced in the Kaqchikel language (which is in the Mayan family language group), and "14 kilómetros," on the perilous and deadly voyage of those who cross the Strait of Gibraltar into Spain in search of a better life.

Graduate Report

Recent UMD Graduates Job Placement Data & Employers

Here’s a sampling of positions and grad programs Hispanic Studies B.A. grads have attained six months to one year after graduation.

- Medical Scribe - Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center, Milwaukee, WI
- High School Spanish Teacher - Eden Prairie Schools, Eden Prairie, MN
- Media & Vendor Relations Coordinator - Giant Voices, Duluth, MN
- Merchandise Analyst - Kohl’s Corporate, Milwaukee, WI
- Spanish Teacher - North Branch Area Public Schools, North Branch, MN
- Graduate School, Integrated Biosciences, University of Minnesota Duluth
- Graduate School, Nursing, University of Minnesota Twin Cities
- Law School, University of Minnesota Law School
- Optometry School, University of California Berkeley

For more data see the Hispanic Studies B.A. Graduate Follow-Up Report.
For ideas about Hispanic Studies B.A. and other majors visit Career & Internship Services.