

ROMANCE LANGUAGES, MA

The Romance Languages MA degree program is open to native and non-native speakers alike. The program promotes the development of cutting-edge pedagogical practices, all aim at optimal preparation for success in attaining academic and professional goals. The department is committed to providing this training by means of the best facilities and technology available, and by relying on a staff of teachers and scholars with commensurate international experience and expertise. The Romance Languages MA degree program incorporates two concentrations: French and Spanish, and the Romance Languages MA, without a concentration and combining two Romance languages.

The French Concentration of the Romance Languages MA is designed to provide students with enhanced proficiency in French (for non-native speakers) and intercultural competence relevant to France and other Francophone nations, regions and minorities in an interconnected global context, and to foster the development. The development of analytical skills in relation to French and Francophone literature, culture, and linguistics. The French Concentration has two focused areas of study: literature and culture, and linguistics, each with or without a thesis. Both focused areas of study are open to qualifying Accelerated Master's Program students who complete their BA while commencing the MA.

The Spanish Concentration of the Romance Languages MA is designed to provide students with enhanced proficiency in Spanish (for non-native speakers) and intercultural competence relevant to Spain and other Hispanophone nations, regions and minorities in an interconnected global context, and to foster the development. The development of analytical skills in relation to Spanish and Latin American (as well as Latinx) language, culture, and linguistics. The Spanish Concentration has two focused areas of study: literature and culture, and linguistics, each with or without a thesis. Both focused areas of study are open to qualifying Accelerated Master's Program students who complete their BA while commencing the MA.

The Romance languages MA without a concentration, combines two Romance languages, with or without a thesis, and is designed to provide students with enhanced proficiency in French and Spanish (for non-native speakers) and intercultural competence relevant to France, Spain and other Francophone and Hispanophone nations, regions and minorities in an interconnected global context, and to foster the development of analytical skills in relation to French, Francophone, Spanish and Latin American (as well as Latinx) language, culture, and linguistics. Occasional graduate coursework in Italian or Italian studies (usually bearing an RL prefixed to the course number) is available and can be included.

Admission Requirements

In addition to the minimum Graduate School admission requirements, to be considered for regular admission an application must include:

- **Writing Sample(s):** If pursuing the French Concentration applicants must submit a French writing sample. If pursuing the Spanish Concentration applicants must submit a Spanish writing sample. If pursuing the Romance Languages without a concentration applicants must submit one writing sample French and one in Spanish. Each writing sample should be about 10 pages (double spaced) in length and the candidate seeking admission will need to demonstrate a commensurate level of proficiency in the target language as well as critical thinking skills.
- **Statement of Purpose:** The applicant should describe how prior academic experience has prepared them for graduate study in the

target language at The University of Alabama (UA) and specify the fields of interest. The statement should indicate how the Modern Languages and Classics (MLC) Department's programs and courses align with the applicant's goals both as a student at UA and after graduation. If the applicant is interested in GTA support, include information on why teaching and pedagogical training during their Graduate program will support their professional goals.

- **Video Recording(s) in the target Language:** If pursuing the French Concentration applicants must submit a French video recording. If pursuing the Spanish Concentration applicants must submit a Spanish video recording. If pursuing the Romance Languages without a concentration applicants must submit one video recording in French and one in Spanish. Each video submission should be 3-5 minutes (.mpv4 or .mov format) in which the applicant speaks freely about themselves in a conversational manner in the target language (do not read a prepared text). Then read a paragraph from a target language text of the applicant's choice or a short poem.
- A resume
- 3 letters of recommendation

No entrance exam scores are required. However, applicants to all programs who seek to position themselves for possible consideration for additional financial support in the form of an enhanced assistantship or fellowship should submit an entrance score (GRE or MAT), even when it is not required for admission. Applications for both full-time and part-time status are welcome. All applicants seeking full-time student status are considered for financial support in the form of a graduate teaching assistantship.

For applicants with insufficient undergraduate preparation, admission may be contingent upon completion of designated undergraduate requirements. Qualified students with an appropriate undergraduate degree may be admitted directly to the Doctoral program in Romance Languages. However, in such circumstances completion of all requirements for the appropriate Master of Arts program, including comprehensive testing and subsequent awarding of the Master of Arts degree, will be a prerequisite for completion of the Doctoral degree.

When available, we offer teaching assistantships to qualified full-time MA and PhD candidates. Assistantships include a stipend paid over nine months, a tuition waiver and health insurance. Exceptionally qualified candidates may be eligible for fellowships or enhanced assistantships.

We have rolling year-round admissions.

See the Admission Criteria section of this catalog for more information.

Curricular Requirements

The Romance Languages degree program is available in a variety of configurations; two concentrations: French and Spanish, and the MA in Romance Languages without a concentration and combining two Romance languages (for example, Spanish and French). Each configuration can incorporate either of the two focused areas of study:

- Linguistics
- Literature/Culture

All focused areas of study include a comprehensive exam. However, the configuration of the exam is specific to each area of study, as indicated below. Regardless of the concentration or area of study, all new graduate

teaching assistants must enroll into the Practicum in Applied Linguistics (SP 502 Pract Appl Linguistics or FR 512 Practicum Appl Linguist).

All nonthesis areas of study of the Master of Arts in Romance languages include a core of six courses in the six areas listed below:

- Teaching Practicum
- Topics in Linguistics
- Research Methodology: Critical Theory/ Qualitative or Quantitative methods in Linguistics
- Topics in Culture and Civilization
- Graduate Seminar
- Special Topics/Directed Readings

Concentration in French

The French concentration of the Romance Languages, MA has two focused areas of study: the literature and culture area of study and the linguistics area of study, each with or without a thesis. Both focused areas of study are open to qualifying Accelerated Masters' Program students who complete their BA while commencing the MA.

All focused areas of study include a comprehensive exam. However, the configuration of the exam is specific to each area of study, as indicated below. Regardless of the area of study, all new graduate teaching assistants must enroll into the Practicum in Applied Linguistics (FR 512).

Literature and Culture - Focused Area of Study with a Thesis

This focused area of study requires a total of 33 hours, with 27 hours of coursework and a thesis, including at least one course in each of the five fields below. A teaching practicum is required, FR 512 Practicum Appl Linguist.

Code and Title	Hours
Teaching Practicum	
FR 512 Practicum Appl Linguist	3
At least one course in each of the following five fields:	15
Additional courses maybe available with advisor approval.	
Early Modern	
FR 545 17th Cent French Lit I	
FR 546 17th Cent French Lit II	
19th Century	
FR 552 Spec Top 19th Cent French Lit	
20th and 21st Centuries	
FR 535 Bande Dessinée	
FR 553 20th-Century French Novel	
FR 554 20th-21st FR Lit Sp Topics	
FR 577 French Cinema	
Francophone Studies	
FR 531 Francophone Sub-Saharan Africa	
FR 533 Top French Culture Civilizatn	
FR 535 Bande Dessinée	
FR 555 Quebecois Lit & Culture	
FR 578 Writing Immigration	
French Linguistics	
FR 514 Qual Methds/Applied Ling Res	
FR 515 Topics 2nd Lang Acquistn	
FR 521 Pronunciation & Phonetics	

FR 561 French Linguistics	
FR 563 French-English Translation	
Research Methodology	3
FR 511 Research Methodology	
RL 557 Critical Theory	
Thesis	6
FR 599 Thesis Research	
Elective Courses	6
Elective courses include French Language, literature, culture and linguistics options as well as RL courses that relate to French and francophone topics.	
Total Hours	33

French Linguistics - Focused Area of Study with a Thesis

This focused area of study requires a total of 36 hours, with 30 hours of coursework and a thesis. In addition to the thesis, the linguistics focused area of study involves two components: language and linguistics. The language component consists of 15 hours of course credit in French language, literature, and/or culture. A teaching practicum is required, FR 512 Practicum Appl Linguist.

Code and Title	Hours
Teaching Practicum	3
FR 512 Practicum Appl Linguist	
Linguistics Component	
FR 561 French Linguistics	3
Select three of the following:	9
FR 514 Qual Methds/Applied Ling Res	
FR 515 Topics 2nd Lang Acquistn	
RL 523 Quantitative Methods in Ling	
RL 587 Bilingualism	
Research Methodology	3
Select one of the following:	
RL 523 Quantitative Methods in Ling	
FR 514 Qual Methds/Applied Ling Res	
These courses need not be language-specific; they can be general and inclusive of all literature and languages.	
Elective Courses	12
Elective courses include French Language, literature, culture and linguistics options as RL courses that relate to French and francophone topics.	
Thesis	6
FR 599 Thesis Research	
Total Hours	36
Literature and Culture - Focused Area of Study Non-Thesis	
This focused area of study requires 33 hours of coursework, including at least one course in each of the five fields below. A teaching practicum is required, FR 512 Practicum Appl Linguist.	
Code and Title	Hours
Teaching Practicum	
FR 512 Practicum Appl Linguist	3
At least one course in each of the following five fields:	15

Additional courses maybe available with advisor approval.

Early Modern

FR 545	17th Cent French Lit I
FR 546	17th Cent French Lit II

19th Century

FR 552	Spec Top 19th Cent French Lit
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20th and 21st Centuries

FR 535	Bande Dessinée
FR 553	20th-Century French Novel
FR 554	20th-21st FR Lit Sp Topics
FR 577	French Cinema

Francophone Studies

FR 531	Francophone Sub-Saharan Africa
FR 533	Top French Culture Civilizatn
FR 535	Bande Dessinée
FR 555	Quebecois Lit & Culture
FR 578	Writing Immigration

French Linguistics

FR 514	Qual Methds/Applied Ling Res
FR 515	Topics 2nd Lang Acquistn
FR 521	Pronunciation & Phonetics
FR 561	French Linguistics
FR 563	French-English Translation

Research Methodology 3

FR 511	Research Methodology
RL 557	Critical Theory

Elective Courses 12

Elective courses include French Language, literature film, culture and linguistics options as well as RL courses that relate to French and francophone topics.

Total Hours 33

French Linguistics - Focused Area of Study Non-Thesis

This focused area of study requires 36 hours of coursework. The linguistics focused area of study involves two components: language and linguistics. The language component consists of 21 hours of course credit in French language, literature, and/or culture. The linguistics component is comprised of a 3-hour descriptive linguistics course (FR 561 French Linguistics) and 9 hours of other linguistics courses. A teaching practicum, FR 512 Practicum Appl Linguist, is required.

Code and Title Hours

Teaching Practicum

FR 512	Practicum Appl Linguist	3
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Linguistic Component

FR 561	French Linguistics	3
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Select three of the following: 9

FR 514	Qual Methds/Applied Ling Res
FR 515	Topics 2nd Lang Acquistn
RL 523	Quantitative Methods in Ling
RL 587	Bilingualism

Research Methodology 3

Select one of the following:

RL 523	Quantitative Methods in Ling
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FR 514 Qual Methds/Applied Ling Res

Elective Courses 18

Elective courses include French Language, literature, culture and linguistics options as RL courses that relate to French and francophone topics.

Total Hours 36

Concentration in Spanish

The Spanish concentration of the Romance Languages, MA has two focused areas of study: the literature and culture area of study and the linguistics area of study, each with or without a thesis. Both focused areas of study are open to qualifying Accelerated Masters' Program students who complete their BA while commencing the MA.

Masters' Program students who complete their BA while commencing the MA.

All focused areas of study include a comprehensive exam. However, the configuration of the exam is specific to each area of study, as indicated below. Regardless of the area of study, all new graduate teaching assistants must enroll into the Practicum in Applied Linguistics (SP 502).

Literature and Culture - Focused Area of Study with a Thesis

Curriculum requirements: 24 hours of coursework and a thesis. The curriculum centers on Peninsular and Spanish-American literature. The Romance languages core requirements do not apply to thesis options. However, the curriculum must include either a course in critical theory or a literature course designated as theory enriched. The Teaching Practicum, SP 502, is also required.

24 credit hours of graduate coursework plus a thesis. Candidates must take a minimum: of 6 credit hours in Peninsular literature, 6 credit hours in Latin American literature, 3 credit hours in Spanish linguistics, 3 credit hours in the Teaching practicum, and 6 credit hours of SP/RL electives. One of the previous 8 classes (a 3 credit-hour course) must be either the Critical Theory class (RL 557) or a literature class with a strong emphasis on literary theory.

Code and Title Hours

Teaching Practicum

SP 502	Pract Appl Linguistics	3
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Peninsular and Latin American Literature/Culture Courses 12

Additional courses maybe available with advisor approval.

Thematic Courses

SP 527	Spanish Women Authors
SP 537	Gender in Hispanic Works (may count as peninsular or Latin American)

Peninsular

Golden Age Peninsular

SP 591	Cervantes
SP 593	16th C Peninsular Lit
SP 594	17th C Peninsular Lit

19th Century Peninsular

SP 521	19th-Century Spanish Prose
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20th and 21st Century Peninsular

SP 526	20th C Span Novel Post Civil W
SP 528	Historical Memory in Spain
SP 530	Contemporary Iberian Culture

Latin America

19th and 20th Century Latin America	
SP 516	19th C Span Amer Lit
20th and 21st Century Latin America	
SP 538	Spanish American Short Story
Latinx Studies in the United States	
SP 689	Sem Spanish-American Lit (Any relevant topic)
Spanish Linguistics	3
SP 556	Intro Spanish Linguistics
SP 570	Special Topics Spanish Ling
SP 581	Topics 2nd Lang Acquistn
SP 584	Phonetics and Phonology
SP 585	History of Spanish Language
SP 586	Pragmatics
RL 587	Bilingualism
Research Methodology	3
RL 557	Critical Theory
Theory-enriched course in one of the fields listed above	
Elective Courses	3
Any SP or RL courses with the provision that the candidate's final research project for the RL courses must be related to a Spanish or Hispanic topic.	
Thesis	6
SP 599	Thesis Research
Total Hours	30

The curriculum must include either a course in critical theory or a literature course designated as theory enriched. In consultation with the Spanish graduate advisor, each student must also select a special area of interest in Hispanic literature in order to write the thesis. Six hours of SP 599 Thesis Research with the thesis director are required beyond the 24 hours of coursework. It is the student's responsibility to keep syllabi from each course on file for reference.

Spanish Linguistics - Focused Area of Study with a Thesis

This focused area of study requires 36 hours of coursework and a thesis. In addition to the thesis, the Spanish linguistics focused area of study involves two components: language and linguistics. The language component consists of 15 hours of course credit in Spanish language, literature, and culture (a minimum of 6 hours must be in peninsular literature and 6 hours in Latin-American literature. Thematic courses can count as either peninsular or Latin American). A teaching practicum is required, SP 502 Pract Appl Linguistics.

Code and Title	Hours
Teaching Practicum	
SP 502	Pract Appl Linguistics
Linguistics Component	
SP 556	Intro Spanish Linguistics
Select three classes from the list below:	
SP 584	Phonetics and Phonology
SP 585	History of Spanish Language
SP 586 or	Pragmatics
RL 586	Pragmatics
SP 581	Topics 2nd Lang Acquistn
RL 587	Bilingualism

Additional courses maybe available with advisor approval.

Research Methodology	3
Select one of the following:	
SP 523	Quantitative Methods Span Ling
RL 514	Qual Methds/Applied Ling Res
These courses need not be language-specific; they can be general and inclusive of all literature and languages.	
Literature Courses	12
Six hours must be in peninsular literature and six hours in Latin American literature.	
Thematic Courses	
These courses may cover either Peninsular or Latin American areas.	
SP 527	Spanish Women Authors
SP 537	Gender in Hispanic Works
Peninsular - Six Hours	
SP 591	Cervantes
SP 593	16th C Peninsular Lit
SP 594	17th C Peninsular Lit
SP 521	19th-Century Spanish Prose
SP 526	20th C Span Novel Post Civil W
SP 527	Spanish Women Authors
Latin American - Six Hours	
SP 515	Span Amer Colonial Texts
SP 516	19th C Span Amer Lit
Thesis	6
SP 599	Thesis Research
Total Hours	36

Literature and Culture - Focused Area of Study Non-Thesis

This focused area of study requires 30 credit hours of graduate coursework, of which 27 credit hours must be Spanish graduate courses. Candidates must take a minimum: of 9 credit hours in Peninsular literature, 9 credit hours in Latin American literature, 3 credit hours in Spanish linguistics, 3 credit hours in the Teaching practicum, 3 credit hours in Spanish electives, and 3 credit hours in other elective graduate courses. One of the previous 10 classes (a 3 credit-hour course) must be either the Critical Theory class (RL 557) or a literature class with a strong emphasis on literary theory.

Code and Title	Hours
Hours Teaching Practicum	
SP 502	Pract Appl Linguistics
Literature	18
Nine hours must be in peninsular literature and nine hours in Latin American literature.	
Additional courses maybe available with advisor approval.	
Thematic Courses	
These courses may cover either Peninsular or Latin American areas.	
SP 527	Spanish Women Authors
SP 537	Gender in Hispanic Works
Peninsular	
Golden Age Peninsular	

SP 591	Cervantes	
SP 593	16th C Peninsular Lit	
SP 594	17th C Peninsular Lit	
19th Century Peninsular		
SP 521	19th-Century Spanish Prose	
20th and 21st Century Peninsular		
SP 526	20th C Span Novel Post Civil W	
SP 527	Spanish Women Authors	
SP 528	Historical Memory in Spain	
SP 530	Contemporary Iberian Culture	
Latin American		
Colonial Latin America		
SP 515	Span Amer Colonial Texts	
19th and 20th Century Latin America		
SP 516	19th C Span Amer Lit	
Latinx Studies in the United States		
SP 689	Sem Spanish-American Lit (Any relevant topic)	
Spanish Linguistics		
SP 584	Phonetics and Phonology	
SP 585	History of Spanish Language	
SP 586 or	Pragmatics	
RL 586	Pragmatics	
RL 587	Bilingualism	
Research Methodology		3
RL 557	Critical Theory	
Theory-enriched course in one of the fields listed above		
Elective Courses		6
Any SP or RL courses with the provision that the candidate's final research project for the RL courses must be related to a Spanish or Hispanic topic.		
Total Hours		30

Spanish Linguistics - Focused Area of Study Non-Thesis

This focused area of study requires 36 hours of coursework. The linguistics area of study involves two components: language and linguistics. The language component consists of 21 hours of course credit in Spanish language, literature, and culture (a minimum of 6 hours must be in peninsular literature and 6 hours in Latin-American literature. Thematic courses can count as either peninsular or Latin American). A teaching practicum, SP 502 Pract Appl Linguistics.

Code and Title	Hours	
Teaching Practicum		
SP 502	Pract Appl Linguistics	3
Linguistics Component		
SP 556	Intro Spanish Linguistics	3
Select four courses from the list below:		12
SP 584	Phonetics and Phonology	
SP 585	History of Spanish Language	
SP 586 or	Pragmatics	
RL 586	Pragmatics	
SP 581	Topics 2nd Lang Acquistn	
RL 587	Bilingualism	

Additional courses maybe available with advisor approval.

Research Methodology 3

Select one of the following:

SP 523	Quantitative Methods Span Ling
RL 514	Qual Methds/Applied Ling Res

These courses need not be language-specific; they can be general and inclusive of all literature and languages.

Literature Courses 12

Six hours must be in peninsular literature and six hours in Latin American literature.

Thematic Courses

These courses may cover either Peninsular or Latin American areas.

SP 527	Spanish Women Authors
SP 537	Gender in Hispanic Works

Peninsular - Six hours

SP 591	Cervantes
SP 593	16th C Peninsular Lit
SP 594	17th C Peninsular Lit
SP 521	19th-Century Spanish Prose
SP 526	20th C Span Novel Post Civil W
SP 527	Spanish Women Authors
SP 528	Historical Memory in Spain
SP 530	Contemporary Iberian Culture

Latin American - Six Hours

SP 515	Span Amer Colonial Texts
SP 516	19th C Span Amer Lit

Additional courses maybe available with advisor approval.

Elective Courses 3

Any SP or RL courses with the provision that the candidate's final research project for the RL courses must be related to a Spanish or Hispanic topic.

Total Hours 36

Some courses can be counted as either language or linguistics, depending upon the candidate's programmatic needs. For example, a candidate with a focus on Spanish with linguistics can count a course in Spanish linguistics under the language category or under the linguistics category in order to free up additional hours in the category that best serves the candidate's programmatic needs.

Romance Languages without a Concentration - combination of Romance Languages

It combines Romance Languages and incorporates two focused areas of study: the literature/culture area of study and the linguistics area of study, each with or without a thesis.

Romance Languages without a Concentration (combination of Romance Languages) with a Thesis

Curriculum requirements: 24 - 30 hours of coursework and 6 hours of thesis. The curriculum requires study of at least two Romance languages, one as the primary and one as the secondary. The primary component includes a minimum of 18 hours (six courses). The secondary component includes a minimum of 12 (four courses). **More than the minimum is recommended for both the primary and the secondary languages.** Graduate courses in Italian studies are available on occasion

(see the RL prefix in course listings). Based on the advice of the graduate advisor, the appropriate courses taken will fulfill the Romance languages core requirements listed above.

Code and Title	Hours
Primary Language (minimum)	18
Secondary Language (minimum)	12
Course selection must include:	
Research Methodology course - Three Hours	
Critical Theory course - if focus is literature and culture	
Quantitative or Qualitative course - if focus is linguistics	
Teaching Practicum - Three Hours	
FR 512 or Practicum Appl Linguist	
SP 502 Pract Appl Linguistics	
If the candidate is a Graduate Teaching Assistant in either French or Spanish, then the candidate must accumulate no fewer than 18 hours in the respective language during the first two semesters of enrollment.	
Thesis	6
FR 599 or Thesis Research	
SP 599 Thesis Research	
or	
RL 599 Thesis Research	
Total Hours	36

Romance Languages without a Concentration (combination of Romance Languages) Non-Thesis

Curriculum requirements: This focused area of study requires 30 - 36 hours of coursework. The curriculum requires study of at least two Romance languages, one as the primary and one as the secondary. The primary component includes a minimum of 18 hours (six courses). The secondary component includes a minimum of 12 hours (four courses).

More than the minimum is recommended for both the primary and the secondary languages. Graduate courses in Italian studies are available on occasion (see the RL prefix in course listings). Based on the advice of the graduate advisor, the appropriate courses taken will fulfill the Romance languages core requirements listed above.

Code and Title	Hours
Primary Language (minimum)	18
Secondary Language (minimum)	12
Course selection must include:	
Research Methodology course - Three Hours	
Critical Theory courses - if focus is literature and culture	
Quantitative or Qualitative courses - if focus is linguistics	
Teaching Practicum - Three Hours	
FR 512 or Practicum Appl Linguist	
SP 502 Pract Appl Linguistics	
If the candidate is a Graduate Teaching Assistant in either French or Spanish, then the candidate must accumulate no fewer than 18 hours in the respective language during the first two semesters of enrollment.	
Total Hours	30

Transfer Credit

Graduate School information on Transfer Credit.

Comprehensive Exam

French Concentration: Literature and Culture - Focused Area of Study with a Thesis and Non-Thesis

For the literature/culture focused area of study, candidates must pass a comprehensive examination based on their coursework in the five fields of study. However, for the written component of the exam, students may be exempted from examination in a maximum of two fields (and earn an automatic "pass" in those fields) in two ways: either by writing a research paper in the field and presenting it at a professional conference or by satisfactorily completing two courses in the field, earning a grade of "A" or "B." Success on the written component precedes the oral component of the exam, which involves generating an oral presentation on a topic indicated in advance.

French Linguistics - Focused Area of Study with a Thesis and Non-Thesis

For the linguistics focused area of study, the comprehensive examination is based on the coursework. From the selection of questions provided, the candidate must generate six written answers (one for FR 512, one pertaining to linguistics, one pertaining to French linguistics, and three pertaining to electives).

Spanish Concentration: Literature and Culture - Focused Area of Study with a Thesis and Non-Thesis

For the literature/culture focus area of study, the six-part written examination will be based both on coursework and a reading list in each area. Candidates are required to take exams in the following areas: either three Peninsular areas (of the student's choosing) and two Latin American areas (of the student's choosing) or vice versa, and one area of linguistics.

It is important that the candidate keep an archive of the course syllabi of every course taken. Should the candidate, for any reason, not take a course in one of the assigned areas, he/she will have to make up for this omission by supplying appropriate selections from the Reading List for the Master of Arts in Spanish. Please check the Spanish Literature MA reading list (PDF) for a detailed description of the selections for each area.

Spanish Linguistics - Focused Area of Study with a Thesis and Non-Thesis

For the linguistics focus area of study, the written examination will be based on coursework. Candidates are required to take exams in the following areas: SP 502 and an elective, Spanish language and linguistics, and literature. From the selection of questions provided in each area, the candidate must generate six written answers.

Romance Languages, without a concentration - Combination of Romance Languages with a Thesis and Non-Thesis

From the selection of questions provided, the candidate must generate six written answers (four pertaining to the primary main language and two pertaining to the secondary language; however, if the candidate has 18 or more hours in both French and Spanish, then the candidate will generate three written answers for each).

General scheduling and assessment of the written MA Comprehensive Examination

For all plans and areas of the MA in Romance Languages degree program, typically, there are three exam days, with two exam sessions each day, spread out over the course of a week. Each exam day lasts

3 hours, divided into two sessions. During each exam session, the examinee writes answers to one question. A typical sequence for taking the exam would follow this schedule: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for 3 hours each. After evaluating the written answers, the professor in each area of specialization decides if the candidate passes his/her question. In order to pass the entire exam, a candidate must earn a pass in five of the six areas. Should the candidate fail more than two areas, he/she will have one final opportunity to repeat the failed areas, normally in the following semester (without expectation of renewed support in the form of an assistantship). Should the candidate fail in two areas, normally he/she must repeat both areas two weeks later. Should the candidate pass both repeated areas or fail in only one of the two repeated areas, then the candidate will earn a pass on the overall exam. Should the candidate fail both repeated areas, then he/she has one final opportunity to retake the failed exams, normally the following semester (without expectation of renewed support in the form of an assistantship).

Plan I - Thesis Process Requirements

A thesis evidencing research capacity, independent thought, and the ability to interpret materials is required of all master's degree candidates who pursue Plan I. The subject chosen must be in the major field and must be approved by the graduate committee of the major department or school and by the head of the candidate's major department or division.

A thesis committee must consist of at least three members appointed by the dean of the Graduate School. Candidates set up their committee through the Graduate Academic Activities portal on the Graduate School website. The request normally is made as soon as the successful defense of the thesis proposal has been completed. All members of a thesis committee must be members of the Graduate Faculty. The Committee Chair must be a full or associate member of the Graduate Faculty. One member must be from outside the candidate's major department. The majority of the thesis committee must be full-time regular University of Alabama faculty. If the outside member is not a full or associate member of the UA Graduate Faculty (e.g., a highly qualified person from another university, a business, or industry), the graduate dean needs to appoint that member by approving Affiliate Graduate Faculty status for the specific purpose of serving on the candidate's thesis committee. Unless there are extraordinary circumstances meriting approval by the graduate dean before the final oral defense of the thesis, all members of the thesis committee must attend the defense.

The candidate must give members of the examining committee a minimum of two weeks to read the thesis before the date of the final oral examination. All members must agree that the candidate is ready for the final oral thesis defense. A final oral thesis defense is required of all candidates completing a thesis. All members of the thesis committee must be members of the UA graduate faculty and must attend the final oral thesis defense unless there are extraordinary circumstances warranting the graduate dean's approval of the absence prior to the defense meeting.

The final oral thesis defense is the culminating experience in the master's program. As such, all members of the thesis committee are expected to attend and participate in real time. Virtual attendance via interactive video or teleconference is permitted for off-campus external committee members, but the student and Tuscaloosa campus faculty should attend in person unless extraordinary circumstances dictate the need for virtual attendance. In circumstances where virtual participation is necessary, all participants must follow the Virtual Participation guidelines found in this catalog.

Plan II - Non-Thesis Process Requirements

For the literature and culture focused areas of study a minimum of 30 hours are required. For the linguistics focused areas of study a minimum of 36 credit hours are required. Candidates in both areas are required to take the Comprehensive exams in their last semester in the program.

Time Limits for Degree Completion Requirements

Graduate School information on Time Limits.

Student Progress Requirement

Graduate School information on Student Progress.

Academic Misconduct Information

Graduate School information on Academic Misconduct.

Withdrawals and Leave of Absence Information

Graduate School information on Withdrawals and Leave of Absence.

Academic Grievances Information

Graduate School information on Academic Grievances.

Scholastic Requirements

Graduate School information on Scholastic Requirements.

Graduate School Deadlines Information

Information on Graduate School Deadlines.

Application for Graduation Information

Information for the Application for Graduation.