**Department of Modern Languages and Literatures**

**School of Arts and Humanities**

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**Program Description**

The Master of Arts in Spanish program is designed to enable students to perfect all their communications skills: listening, reading, speaking and writing. The curriculum is carefully planned and integrated to ensure a foundation of professional skills, and a uniform degree of coverage in the areas of Spanish and Spanish-American literature and culture, linguistics and second-language pedagogy, and the business-related fields of interpretation and translation. Students gain an excellent preparation to become far more effective teachers of Spanish or professionals who are able to interact expertly throughout their careers with Spanish-speaking persons.

To meet these objectives, the program provides: (1) balance for those who wish to terminate their studies at the Master’s level and whose primary aim is to teach in a community college; (2) advanced training for teachers who wish to improve their professional skills and status; (3) a variety of courses for students who plan to continue toward the Ph.D. degree at another institution; and (4) continuing education for those who wish to extend their knowledge as an end in itself through an interesting and stimulating series of classes in literature, criticism, language and culture.

**Application and Admission**

Students with a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university may apply to the University for post-baccalaureate status and simultaneously to the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures for admission to the master’s degree program in Spanish. Admission to the graduate program leading to the Master of Arts Degree in Spanish requires the following:

 Acceptance to the University as a post-baccalaureate student,

 Submission of the Department’s application form (available from the departmental office),

 A baccalaureate degree in Spanish from an accredited college or university with an overall grade point average of

2.5 on a 4.0 scale (or 3.0 in Spanish major) during the last 90 quarter units (60 semester units), or

 A baccalaureate degree in an appropriately related field (to be determined by the departmental admissions committee) with a grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale (or 3.0 in major) during the last 90 quarter units (60 semester units).

Applicants who have a baccalaureate degree in a subject other than Spanish must complete the six-course (30-unit) undergraduate core requirements of Spanish with a GPA of 3.0 before being considered for admission to the master’s degree program in Spanish. At the discretion of the departmental admissions committee, additional courses may be required. The undergraduate core requirements are:

1. Span 300 or 409, 301, 302, 303

2. One of the following: Span 424, 426 or 428

3. One of the following: Span 412 or 420

**Classification of Graduate Students**

There are three classifications for students in the Spanish graduate program.

**Classified**

A student who meets all the requirements for admission to the master’s degree program in Spanish will be admitted as a Classified Graduate Student. A Classified Graduate Student may take any graduate-level course meeting the requirements of his or her plan of study as long as the appropriate prerequisites have been met.

**Conditionally Classified**

A student may be admitted as Conditionally Classified if, in the judgment of the Graduate Committee for the Modern Languages and Literatures Department, he or she has the potential to fulfill all the conditions specified by the Committee for admission as a Classified Graduate Student and potential for successful completion of all the requirements for the graduate program. Upon fulfillment of all conditions specified by the Committee, the student’s status will be administratively changed to Classified Graduate Student.

**Candidacy**

Classified students who have maintained a 3.0 GPA will be advanced to candidacy in the quarter in which they intend to graduate.

**Academic Advising**

Meeting with the Graduate Program Coordinator is an important first step in the MA program. It is the student’s responsibility, in consultation with the Graduate Program Coordinator and departmental advisors, to choose appropriate courses. The Graduate Program Coordinator guides students during the period of graduate study and responds to any concerns students may have while in the program. It is essential that MA students stay in contact with the Graduate Program Coordinator, so the department can provide current information to help the student move expeditiously through the program. Students have a responsibility to schedule regular meetings with the Graduate Program Coordinator and their advisors.

**Examination Committee**

Each MA student in Spanish must have an Examination Committee to conduct both the written and oral examinations specified in number 4 of the Program Requirements (See also SPAN 690). The committee will be comprised of faculty members representing each of the three fields specified in number 1 of the Program Requirements. The Graduate Program Coordinator can provide assistance in forming this committee.

**Requirements for the Master of Arts in Spanish**

1. Completion of a minimum of 48 units of approved upper-division and graduate courses (400 through 600 level) in Spanish to include SPAN 500 and at least two 5-unit courses, one of which must be at the 600 level, from each of the following fields:

 **Linguistics, Second-Language Acquisition Pedagogy and Interpretation/Translation:** SPAN 412, 413, 415, 420, 477, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 577, 639, 677, 698, and 699

 **Spanish Literature and Culture:** SPAN 477, 532, 533, 537, 538, 552, 577, 630, 631, 677, and 699

 **Spanish-American Literature and Culture:** SPAN 416, 419, 424, 426, 428, 477, 495, 534, 535, 550, 551, 577, 636, 677, and 699

The remaining 10 units may be taken from any of the courses listed above. However, a maximum of only four 400-level courses (20 units) may be counted toward the Master of Arts degree in Spanish. Courses taken as an undergraduate do not count and may not be repeated toward fulfillment of the master’s degree requirements. No more than 13.5 quarter units (9 semester units) of transfer graduate credit are allowed, subject to approval by the departmental admissions committee.

2. Maintain of a 3.0 GPA in all work undertaken as a graduate student.

3. All graduate students must meet the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR). If the student earned his/her baccalaureate from CSUB or any CSU campus in the last two decades, then the student will have already met the GWAR requirement. All other students must fulfill the GWAR through an approved course of by passing the writing exam.

4. Successful completion of a “culminating experience” consisting of written examinations on the Graduate Reading List in each of the three fields listed in number 1 above. In addition all students must pass an oral comprehensive examination.