

SPANISH

Degree Requirements

Master of Arts (M.A.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Policies. (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>)

A candidate for the M.A. degree must take a minimum of 30 credits at the 400, 500, or 800 level, with at least 18 credits in 500-level courses. Required courses for the M.A. degree are SPAN 502 (1 credit) and PORT 123 (2 credits). Students are required to take PORT 123 in order to achieve basic proficiency in Portuguese; however, as a 100-level undergraduate course, PORT 123 will not count towards the 30 minimum credits required for the degree and will not count in the cumulative GPA.

The culminating experience for the M.A. degree is a scholarly essay. A cumulative examination is also required, which serves as the doctoral qualifying examination for students continuing in the Ph.D. program. The M.A. degree (or equivalent) is normally a prerequisite for entrance to the Ph.D. program.

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

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For the Ph.D. degree, a student must complete at least 51 credits (including M.A. credits) of course work at the 400, 500, 600, or 800-level. Other requirements include reading knowledge of a language other than English and Spanish and submission of an essay to a peer-reviewed journal. Doctoral students must pass a qualifying examination, a comprehensive written and oral examination, and a final oral examination (the dissertation defense). To earn the Ph.D. degree, doctoral students must also write a dissertation that is accepted by the Ph.D. committee, the head of the graduate program, and the Graduate School.