

PROPOSAL TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY TO ESTABLISH OR MODIFY AN UNDERGRADUATE MINOR

Title of the proposed minor: Revision of the Minor in Spanish
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Sponsoring unit(s):

Department of Spanish and Portuguese
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Melissa Bowles, bowlesm@illinois.edu

COLLEGE CONTACT: Karen Carney, Associate Dean, LAS. 333-1350,
kmcарney@illinois.edu

Brief description of the program of study: Please explain how the proposed minor meets each of the following criteria:

- The minor program of study should require some depth in the subject, but not as extensive as the major.
- Ordinarily, the minor should be 1) a comprehensive study in a single discipline, or 2) an interdisciplinary study focusing on a single theme. If this minor is an exception, please explain and justify.

The proposed minor requires 18 credit hours of coursework (identical to our current minor) beyond the fourth-semester language level, making it less comprehensive than the major, which requires 33 credit hours of coursework.

Justification:

The minor in Spanish, as revised in this proposal, offers the students a solid foundation in the Spanish language and an introduction to one or more areas of Spanish studies. Within the discipline of Spanish studies students would be able to focus on various aspects of the literature, cultures, and language varieties in the Spanish-speaking world. This allows students to select courses that best complement their major area of study and gain deeper subject matter knowledge in those areas. (See Appendix for specific examples.) For instance, a Spanish minor majoring in Business might choose courses related to Spanish in the professions, whereas a Spanish minor majoring in History might choose courses that deal more with the history and culture of Latin America and/or Spain.

Budgetary and Staff Implications:

a. Additional staff and dollars needed

No new financial resources are required for this proposal. Our number of Minors and Majors has dropped significantly in the last ten years. In the Fall of 2006, we had around 500 Minors and 315 Majors, whereas this semester we have only 284 minors and 148 majors. The current structure of both our minor and major has produced scheduling difficulties that place an undue burden on both students and faculty: students must take courses in very structured sequences in order to complete the major and several courses (some

with multiple sections) must be offered every semester in order to allow students to progress. The proposed structure also allows students to take any 200- or 300-level SPAN course for credit towards the minor, which is not currently the case. The increased flexibility of the proposed changes would enable us to meet current demands with reduced offerings, since more courses would be available to any given student in a particular semester. By extension, the proposed structure would also afford a greater capacity to meet increased demand with existing faculty and departmental resources.

b. Internal reallocations (e.g. change in class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratio, etc.)

There are no plans to reallocate any resources. It gives students greater capacity to choose which courses they want to take (instead of following a rather strict path of requirements and prerequisites as we have in the current minor). In time we may find changes in student demand for particular courses. However, the increased flexibility in this revision will allow our department to easily shift resources to courses with more student demand because we will not be locked into teaching a large number of required courses. On the other hand, we might find that students distribute themselves rather evenly among the courses offered. In either case, reducing the number of required and prerequisite courses will allow our department to shift our resources, not to require more. Regarding student-faculty ratio, we expect an increase. The number of minors (and majors) in Spanish is now about half of what it was ten years ago, with roughly the same number of faculty members. With these changes we hope to go back to healthy enrollments in our program.

c. Effect on course enrollment in other departments and explanations of discussions with representatives of those departments

There is no foreseeable effect on course enrollments in other departments.

d. Impact on library, computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.

There will be no effect.

Requirements:

These requirements are met.

SPAN 228 Spanish Composition = 3 hrs

2-3 additional SPAN courses at the 200 level = 6 hrs – 9 hrs

2-3 courses SPAN courses at the 300 or 400 level = 6 hrs – 9 hrs

Must total at least 18 hrs of SPAN courses

Prerequisites for the minor:

Because this is a language minor and most courses are taught in Spanish, a certain level of proficiency in the language is required for students enrolled in the minor. As a prerequisite of the minor, students must have completed four years of high school Spanish, four semesters of college Spanish, or have an equivalent level of proficiency as determined by a placement exam.

Expected enrollment in the minor:

At present we have 284 minors. If the changes that we are proposing are implemented, we may possibly go back to the number of minors that we had ten years ago, more than 500.

Admission to the minor:

The Spanish Undergraduate Advisor will monitor admission to the minor. At this time there are no plans to limit enrollment.

Minor advisor:

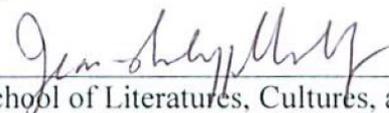
The Department of Spanish and Portuguese employs a full-time Undergraduate Advisor (A.P.) who is in charge of advising our majors and minors. The Spanish advisor will work with students to create a plan that best matches their Spanish proficiency level as well as their area of academic interest. The Spanish advisor will also communicate with advising colleagues across campus to educate them about optimal paths for students.

Certification of successful completion:

The college of the student will confirm whether the minor has been completed, based on the course work designated by the college of the sponsoring department/unit. If a Minor Modification Form is needed, the college offering the minor will review the course substitutions, in consultation with the department sponsoring the minor if needed, and approve completion of the minor with the college of the student.

CLEARANCES:

 11/22/16
Head, Department of Spanish & Portuguese

 11/22/16
School of Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics

 12-5-16
Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Chair, Senate Educational Policy Committee

Proposed Effective Date: Fall 2017

Statement for the Academic Catalog:

Overview tab (no edits)

Mariselle Melendez, Head of Department
4080 Foreign Languages Building, 707 South Mathews, Urbana
PH: (217) 333-3390
<http://www.spanport.illinois.edu/>

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese offers majors in the following areas: Spanish, Portuguese, and a Curriculum Preparatory to the Teaching of Spanish. The department also offers the following undergraduate minors: Spanish and Portuguese. The 5 year BALAS /MA in Spanish and European Union Studies allows students to receive two degrees, a BALAS in Spanish and an MA in European Union Studies.

Minor tab (no edits)

Minor website (edits):

Minor in Spanish

Email: span-port@illinois.edu

Minimum 18 hours of Spanish Courses	
SPAN 228 Spanish Composition	3
2-3 additional SPAN courses at the 200 level	6-9
2-3 SPAN courses at the 300 or 400 level	6-9
Total Hours	18

Appendix A
Comparison of current and proposed requirements

Current Requirements:	Current Hours	Proposed Requirements:	Proposed Hours
Basic Skills Courses			
Span 200- Readings in Hispanic Texts	3		
SPAN 204- Advanced Spanish Grammar in Context	3		
SPAN 228- Spanish Composition	3	SPAN 228 Spanish Composition	3
Select one of the following: SPAN 250- Intro to Literary Analysis SPAN 252- Intro to Hispanic Linguistics SPAN 254- Intro to Cultural Analysis	3	2-3 additional SPAN courses at the 200 level	6-9
Electives from among SPAN courses at the 300 or 400 level chosen from a list maintained at the Spanish advisor's office	6	2-3 SPAN courses at the 300 or 400 level	6-9
Total Hours	18	Total Hours	18

APPENDIX B
PATHS WITHIN THE MINOR IN SPANISH

The proposed revision to the Spanish minor allows students to choose courses that best fit their needs, both in terms of their proficiency in Spanish and subject matter. On our website, we will provide model plans for students, and our full-time Spanish advisor will provide individual guidance. Below are examples of a few student profiles.

Advanced learner of Spanish. Students who fit this profile are often heritage speakers of Spanish or second language learners who have had good, sustained K-12 Spanish instruction. They benefit from taking more advanced courses.

228- Spanish Composition	309- Varieties of Spoken Spanish
254- Intro to Cultural Analysis	308- Spanish in the United States
252- Intro to Hispanic Linguistics	326- Cultural Studies Americas II

Intermediate learner of Spanish. Students who fit this profile begin with an intermediate proficiency level for a variety of reasons. They benefit from taking more 200 level courses.

200- Readings in Hispanic Texts	308- Spanish in the United States
204- Advanced Span Grammar in Context	332- Spanish and Social Entrepreneurship
208- Oral Spanish	
228- Spanish Composition	

Specialized area of interest: Social Justice. The majority of students of Spanish are interested in combining Spanish with another major or another area of scholarly interest. Social justice is one example among many that we can highlight for students.

228- Spanish Composition	308- Spanish in the United States
232- Spanish in the Community	309- Varieties of Spoken Spanish
246- Gender and Sexuality in Latina/o Lit	332- Spanish and Social Entrepreneurship

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

EP.17.47

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor
for Academic Affairs

Swanlund Administration Building
601 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820



December 6, 2016

Bettina Francis, Chair
Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Office of the Senate
228 English Building, MC-461

Dear Professor Francis:

Enclosed is a copy of a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to revise the undergraduate minor in Spanish.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Kathryn A. Martensen'.

Kathryn A. Martensen
Assistant Provost

Enclosures

c: A. Elli
J. Mathy
A. Abbott
M. Melendez
K. Carney

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Office of the Dean

2090 Lincoln Hall
702 S. Wright Street, MC-448
Urbana, IL 61801



December 5, 2016

Kathryn Martensen
Associate Provost
Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
207 Swanlund Administration Building
MC-304

Dear Kathy:

The Committee on Courses and Curricula on behalf of the Faculty of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has voted to approve the following proposals:

Revise the Undergraduate Minor in Spanish
Revise the BALAS in Spanish

Please address all correspondence concerning these proposals to me. This proposal is now ready for review by the Senate Educational Policy Committee for proposed implementation in Fall 2017.

Sincerely,

Karen M. Carney
Associate Dean

enclosures

C: Professor Mariselle Melendez
Professor Melissa Bowles
Dr. Ann Abbott
Professor Jean-Philippe Mathy