

Spanish MA

Goal: Demonstration Of Breadth Of Knowledge

Goal Description:

Spanish MA students will demonstrate their graduate-level of knowledge in literature, language, and linguistics. Graduate-level knowledge gives students the ability to teach and/or clearly communicate what they have learned through their focused study in the discipline.

Providing Department: Spanish MA

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Learning Objective: Breadth Of Knowledge

Learning Objective Description:

Spanish MA students will demonstrate their graduate-level knowledge through comprehensive written exams demonstrating their ability to clearly communicate what they have learned through their program of study. Students whose dominant language is not Spanish will demonstrate their Advanced High Oral Communication skills on the ACTFL OPI-C.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Indicator 1: Breadth of Knowledge

Indicator Description:

During their last semester of study, Spanish MA students will demonstrate their graduate-level knowledge through written comprehensive exams in three subject areas of their choosing. Students select these areas from their MA coursework and work with faculty to develop a reading list and exam questions.

Criterion Description:

All Spanish MA students will achieve a score of Pass or High Pass on their written comprehensive exams during their final semester of study.

Findings Description:

All students achieved a score of Pass or High Pass on their comprehensive examinations.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Indicator 1: Breadth of Knowledge

Action Description:

WOLC will maintain this criterion.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Indicator 2: Breadth of Knowledge

Indicator Description:

Prior to graduation, Spanish MA students whose dominant language is not Spanish will take the ACTFL OPI-C and obtain a minimum score of Advanced High. WOLC selected this benchmark based on the ACTFL guidelines for Oral Proficiency Levels in the Workplace (2015) (see: <https://bit.ly/ACTFLOPITW>).

Attached Files

 [OralProficiencyWorkplacePoster.pdf](#)

Criterion Description:

All students taking the OPI-C will obtain a minimum score of Advanced High. ACTFL describes this level as follows:

“Speakers at the Advanced High sublevel perform all Advanced-level tasks with linguistic ease, confidence, and competence. They are consistently able to explain in detail and narrate fully and accurately in all time frames. In addition, Advanced High speakers handle the tasks pertaining to the Superior level but cannot sustain performance at that level across a variety of topics. They may provide a structured argument to support their opinions, and they

may construct hypotheses, but patterns of error appear. They can discuss some topics abstractly, especially those relating to their particular interests and special fields of expertise, but in general, they are more comfortable discussing a variety of topics concretely.

Advanced High speakers may demonstrate a well-developed ability to compensate for an imperfect grasp of some forms or for limitations in vocabulary by the confident use of communicative strategies, such as paraphrasing, circumlocution, and illustration. They use precise vocabulary and intonation to express meaning and often show great fluency and ease of speech. However, when called on to perform the complex tasks associated with the Superior level over a variety of topics, their language will at times break down or prove inadequate, or they may avoid the task altogether, for example, by resorting to simplification through the use of description or narration in place of argument or hypothesis.

Findings Description:

All students had Spanish as their dominant language.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Indicator 2: Breadth of Knowledge

Action Description:

WOLC will maintain this criterion.

Goal: Graduate Student Scholarship

Goal Description:

Graduate-level study will give students essential professional scholarly knowledge and skills.

Providing Department: Spanish MA

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Learning Objective: Graduate Student Scholarship

Learning Objective Description:

Through a deliberate admissions process and faculty-student research collaboration, the MA Spanish program will give students essential professional and scholarly knowledge and skills.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Indicator 1: Graduate Student Scholarship

Indicator Description:

The Spanish Graduate Faculty revised admissions criteria to more accurately reflect program content and goals. Prior to admission, graduate faculty evaluate students’ prior coursework (minimum of 18 hours undergraduate Spanish), undergraduate GPA, writing in Spanish and English, and students’ letters of recommendation from academic and professional sources. The student application package reflects these criteria; students must submit writing samples in Spanish and English and must provide letters of recommendation from academic and professional mentors. Application packages are evaluated using the attached rubric.

Attached Files

 [Admission Rubric Spanish MA.pdf](#)

Criterion Description:

All students admitted to the Spanish MA program will meet minimum criteria for program admission or will have a clear remediation plan in place prior to admission.

Findings Description:

All admitted students have met the minimum program criteria.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Indicator 1: Graduate Student Scholarship

Action Description:

WOLC will maintain this criterion.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Indicator 2: Graduate Student Scholarship

Indicator Description:

WOLC will build a program of regular graduate student external scholarly activity.

Criterion Description:

Each academic year, at least 2 graduate students will collaborate with faculty to prepare a scholarly project for submission to a peer-reviewed conference, publication venue, or grant agency.

Findings Description:

1 WOLC MA student participated in faculty research.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Indicator 2: Graduate Student Scholarship

Action Description:

WOLC will maintain this criterion as a stretch goal for the next cycle.

Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify):

Closing Summary

- 1) Continue direct recruitment in Houston-area schools and at campus events to increase enrollment
- 2) Continue to survey school districts, teachers, and current/future MA students to tailor curriculum and program development.
- 3) Revise current Spanish MA program to be a fully online WOLC MA program oriented to building professional language skills.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

All PCIs moved to 2023-2024 cycle following MA Listening Tour and appointment of program director to INTG director. We are working with junior faculty to develop our program and are working with currently enrolled students to expedite graduation.

- 1) Continue direct recruitment in Houston-area schools and at campus events to increase enrollment
- 2) Continue to survey school districts, teachers, and current/future MA students to tailor curriculum and program development.
- 3) Revise current Spanish MA program to be a fully online WOLC MA program oriented to building professional language skills.

New Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

Closing Summary:

- 1) Revise current Spanish MA program to be a fully online WOLC MA program oriented to building professional language skills.
- 2) Continue to survey school districts, teachers, and current/future MA students to tailor curriculum and program development.
- 3) Continue direct recruitment in Houston-area schools and at campus events to increase enrollment