

SPECIAL REPORT
of the
ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL
concerning
REVISION OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.)
PROGRAM IN SPANISH
IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES, LITERATURES AND CULTURES

Presented at the
769th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
May 4, 2017

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The Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures is proposing to revise the requirements for its BA program in Spanish. The program currently requires three prerequisite courses. There is a major core requirement of four courses, and an upper-level elective requirement of four courses that must include two courses in Spanish at the 400-level or above. In the revised curriculum, students can choose the three prerequisite courses from a list of five courses. The major core and upper-level requirements are merged into a single requirement for eight courses at the 32x level or above, with at least three of the courses in Spanish at the 400-level or above. The proposal notes that the increased flexibility provided by the new requirements will make it easier for students to complete the degree in a timely manner, and may encourage more students to pursue the major instead of just a minor.

At its meeting on April 12, 2017, the Academic Matters Council voted unanimously to recommend Faculty Senate approval of the proposal. It was submitted as Proposal #3255 in the Course and Curriculum Management System.

MOTION: 31-17 That the Faculty Senate approve the Revision of the Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Program in Spanish in the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 17-074.

Please describe your proposal

This is a minor change request that will help the program in terms of recruitment and retention, and will have a positive impact on our class schedule.

We request the replacement of the strict requirement for SPANISH 311 (Advanced Grammar), SPANISH 312 (Oral and Written Expression) and SPANISH 378 (Spanish Phonetics) with three elective courses to be chosen among SPANISH 301 (Spanish Conversation), SPANISH 306 (Spanish Pronunciation - currently under evaluation), SPANISH 310 (Continuing Spanish), SPANISH 311(Advanced Grammar) and SPANISH 312 (Oral and Written Expression).

We also request the merge of "major core" and "upper-level courses." Please see the attached documents.

Please describe the existing program requirements, listing all required courses and available electives, as well as any additional requirements, and continuation or admissions policies.

- Prerequisites: SPANISH 311 (Advanced Grammar, SPANISH 312 (Oral and Written Expression) and SPANISH 378 (Spanish Phonetics)

- Major Core: 1) Two literature courses; 2) One culture course; 3) One linguistic course

- Four Upper-Level Courses

[Please see the attached document.]

Please describe the requirements that you are proposing, listing course requirements, elective options, as well as any additional requirements, and continuation or admissions policies.

- Prerequisites: Take three of the following classes:

SPANISH 301 Conversation

SPANISH 306 Spanish Pronunciation

SPANISH 310 Continuing Spanish

SPANISH 311 Advanced Grammar

SPANISH 312 Oral and Written Expression

- Major Core & Upper-Level Courses: Take eight classes about 320. Two of them may be taken in English in areas related to the major—History, Anthropology, Art, Political Science, etc.—with the advisor's approval) and at least 3 courses must be in Spanish at the 400 level.

Please provide the rationale for these revisions.

The proposed changes respond to suggestions made by the ad-hoc curriculum committee of the Spanish Program that after conducting extensive surveys and focus groups identified the following issues in the current major structure:

- The rigid sequence of our classes impedes many students willing to pursue a major in Spanish from finishing all the requirements in a timely manner.
- 73% of the minor students in Spanish expressed his/her intentions to become a major if the structure of the program were more flexible.
- The SPANISH 301 class (Spanish Conversation) is a popular course whose goal is to help students improve their oral skills and speaking fluency. However, this course does not count toward the major. This discrepancy creates a problem in our scheduling since we need to teach a course that does not currently count toward the major or minor.

- We have identified a substantially large population of Spanish heritage speakers who are interested in improving their language skills and pursuing a major. However, because of the current curriculum, these students only pursue a minor in their language.

In summary, we believe these changes will help the program in terms of recruitment and retention, and will have a positive impact on our class schedule.

Academic Requirements Review

Requirement: V. In addition to the Gen Ed, Diversity and College requirements, you must complete the following Major requirements: (rg72)

Rule: I. Advanced Language Preparation (r151)

Line: **No grades below C in major**

Line: 1. Take SPANISH 311. (r151,ln10)

Line: 2. Take SPANISH 312. (r151,ln20)

Line: 3. Take SPANISH 378. (r151,ln30)

Rule: II. Take 12 credits of Major Core courses (r171)

Line: 1. Take two Literature courses. (r171,ln10)

Line: 2. Take one Hispanic Linguistics course. (r171,ln20)

Line: 3. Take one Culture & Civilization course. (r171,ln30)

Rule: III. Upper Level Requirements

Line: 1. Take the Junior Year Writing course (r172,ln10)

Line: 2. Take two upper level courses numbered 400 and above in consultation with the Departmental Advisor. [SPANISH 465 does not apply to this requirement.] (r172,ln20)

Line: 3. Take two upper-level courses numbered above 323 in consultation with the Departmental Advisor. (r172,ln30)

Line: Only satisfactorily completed courses count toward the following requirements (i.e., in progress courses will not count, only courses that have been completed with a grade of C or higher).

Line: 4. At least 15 units counted toward the major must be earned at the University or in programs abroad sponsored by the University. (Contact your advisor about having UMass/Amherst Exchange courses directed to this requirement. (r172,ln40)

Recall: GUS

Recall: GUS

Recall: RES

Line: 5. Take a minimum of 36 units of Spanish courses. (r172,ln50)

Recall: USE

Rule: **Additional Spanish Courses (r10316)

Line: Other Courses

Recall: USD

Recall: ITC

Rule: *Courses Not used for Degree/Major/Minor Requirements*** (r10317)**

Recall: PAS

Recall: USD

Recall: ITC

If this proposal requires no additional resources, say so and briefly explain why. If this proposal requires additional resources, explain how they will be paid for. For proposals involving instruction, indicate how many new enrollments are expected and whether the courses have room to accommodate them.

This proposal does not involve any additional resources.

To: Heidi Scott, Chair of the CHFA Curriculum Committee
From: Patricia Gubitosi, Undergraduate Studies Director, Spanish and Portuguese (LLC)
Re: Minor change in Spanish Major Requirements
Date: September 2, 2016

Following the Curriculum Revision Action Plan and after careful consideration of the Spanish current major contents, the Spanish Program of the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures requests minor changes to its major, in order to optimize its classes and provide more flexibility to its students. These changes we believe will have favorable effects in terms of recruiting.

The changes we request are the following (see attached documents of current and revised major comparison, Appendix A and Appendix B):

• Prerequisites

- Replace the strict requirement for SPANISH 311 (Advanced Grammar¹), SPANISH 312 (Oral and Written Expression) and SPANISH 378 (Spanish Phonetics) with three elective courses to be chosen among SPANISH 301 (Spanish Conversation), SPANISH 306 (Spanish Pronunciation - currently under evaluation), SPANISH 310 (Continuing Spanish), SPANISH 311(Advanced Grammar) and SPANISH 312 (Oral and Written Expression).

Note: SPANISH 378, which is a more theoretical course on Spanish phonetics, is replaced by SPANISH 306, a pronunciation course with more practical applications.

• Major core and upper-level courses

- Merge both requisites in only one, maintaining the number of credits and the same number of classes. The new requisite will be as follow: “Take eight classes above 320. Two of them may be taken in English in areas related to the major—History, Anthropology, Art, Political Science, etc. – with the advisor’s approval, and at least 3 courses must be in Spanish at the 400 level.

Justification: The proposed changes respond to suggestions made by the ad-hoc curriculum committee of the Spanish Program that after conducting extensive surveys and focus groups identified the following issues in the current major structure:

- The rigid sequence of our classes impedes many students willing to pursue a major in Spanish from finishing all the requirements in a timely manner.
- 73% of the minor students in Spanish expressed his/her intentions to become a major if the structure of the program were more flexible.
- The SPANISH 301 class (Spanish Conversation) is a popular course, whose goal is to help students to improve their oral skills and speaking fluency. However, this course does not count toward the major. This discrepancy creates a problem in our scheduling since we need to teach a course that does not currently count toward the major or minor.
- We have identified a substantially large population of Spanish heritage speakers who are interested in improving their language skills and pursuing a major. However, because of the current curriculum these students only pursue a minor in their language.

In summary, we believe these changes will help the program in terms of recruitment and retention, and will have a positive impact on our class schedule.

¹This class can be replaced for Spanish for native speakers (SPANISH 354). This option will continue for students who have grown up in a Spanish-speaking environment.

Appendix A: Summary of the proposal for a new list of requirements of the Spanish major

I. Prerequisites

Take three courses from the following list:

- a. SPANISH 301 – Spanish Conversation
- b. SPANISH 306 – Spanish Pronunciation
- c. SPANISH 310 – Continuing Spanish
- d. SPANISH 311 – Advance Spanish Grammar
- e. SPANISH 312 – Oral and written expression

II. Major Core Take eight classes about 320. Two of them may be taken in English in areas related to the major—History, Anthropology, Art, Political Science, etc.—with the advisor’s approval, and at least 3 courses must be in Spanish at the 400 level.

III. Junior year writing. Only for primary majors
SPANISH 313

IV. Integrative experience. Only for primary majors. You must take:
SPANISH 394
SPANISH 494

Appendix B: Comparison table between the current and the new proposed major

Current Major	New Proposed Major
Prerequisites	New Prerequisite
Take the following classes:	Take three of the following classes:
SPANISH 311 Advanced Grammar	SPANISH 301 Conversion
SPANISH 312 Oral and Written Expression	SPANISH 306 Spanish Pronunciation
SPANISH 378 Spanish Phonetics*	SPANISH 310 Continuing Spanish
	SPANISH 311 Advanced Grammar
	SPANISH 312 Oral and Written Expression
Major Core	
a. Two literature courses	
SPANISH 32x	Major Core & Upper-Level Courses
SPANISH 32x	
b. One culture course	
SPANISH 41x	
c. One linguistic course	Take eight classes about 320. Two of them may be taken in English in areas related to the major – History, Anthropology, Art, Political Science, etc. – with the advisor’s approval) and at least 3 courses must be in Spanish at the 400 level.
SPANISH 470	
Four Upper-Level Courses	
a. Two of these courses must be Spanish classes at 400-level or above.	
b. The two remaining courses may be taken either in Spanish or in English in areas related to the major.	
Integrative Experience	Integrative Experience
SPANISH 394	SPANISH 394
SPANISH 494	SPANISH 494
Junior Writing	Junior Writing
SPANISH 313	SPANISH 313

*Spanish Phonetics will remain as a major core elective requisite, but not as a mandatory requirement.