

SPANISH - DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD)

Unique among other departments in the country, the Spanish and Portuguese Department at CU Boulder offers two distinct tracks to our PhD students:

- Medieval and early modern Hispanic literatures
- Peninsular and Latin American literatures

Both PhD programs offer students a rigorous yet flexible plan of studies designed to deepen their knowledge of Peninsular and Latin American literatures and cultures.

Our faculty is actively engaged in research and publication in a variety of topics covering the whole range of peninsular and Latin American literatures and cultures, from the role of women's leadership in the Peninsular Middle Ages to cultural histories of banditry in Latin America, from Cervantes to the work of contemporary authors like Roberto Bolaño.

Students work closely with CU Boulder faculty members and are encouraged to pursue their own research interests.

Students wishing to pursue graduate work in Spanish leading to candidacy for advanced degree should carefully read the PhD Degree Requirements (<https://www.colorado.edu/spanish/graduate-programs/graduate-student-resources/graduate-manual/doctor-philosophy/>) website.

Requirements

Residence Requirement

PhD students must complete a minimum of one academic year in residence on the Boulder campus (excluding summer) within the four years immediately preceding the date on which they present themselves for the PhD comprehensive examination.

Areas of Concentration

The PhD in Spanish is offered in three literary periods of concentration:

- Medieval/Early Modern/Colonial Literature
- Modern and Contemporary Peninsular Literature
- Modern and Contemporary Spanish-American Literature

For further information on these options, contact the department.

Course Requirements

Prior to taking the PhD comprehensive exams, students must complete a minimum of 36 credit hours in graduate seminars in Spanish and/or related fields numbered 5000 or above. Students can take as many as 9 graduate credit hours outside the department. The student's advisor and the Associate Chair of Graduate Studies, in consultation with the Chair of the department, must approve credit hours in excess of 9, provided that the student formally requests it and gives a compelling reason for the standard limit to be overridden. Approval of the MA degree must also be presented for the PhD. Each advisor, in consultation with the student, will determine which courses will be acceptable.

All PhD students must take at least 30 credit hours of graduate coursework at CU Boulder. PhD students may transfer to the department a maximum of 6 hours of acceptable graduate-level credit. Transfer of

credits will be considered only at the moment of admission into the program, not later on. Students may take no more than 3 credit hours of independent study courses. Additional independent study has to be approved by the graduate committee, which makes a recommendation to the Associate Chair of Graduate Studies or the Chair of the department. Under no circumstances can independent study coursework exceed 25 percent of the coursework required for the PhD degree.

Doctoral students can only take up to 12 credits in course load that are not regular graduate seminars in the Spanish and Portuguese Department. These 12 credits are a combination of credits taken outside of the Spanish and Portuguese Department and independent studies offered by a faculty member of the Spanish and Portuguese Department. If a student decides to take one independent study with their advisor, then the student is allowed to take 9 credits outside the department; this is the recommended situation. If a student takes two independent studies, then they can only take 6 credits outside the department, and so on. No more than 9 credit hours can be used in independent studies, and no more than 9 credit hours can be taken outside the department.

PhD students who did not take a teaching methodology seminar, a literary theory seminar, or a Hispanic linguistics seminar as part of their MA program must do so as part of their PhD program. Those students who did not take a minimum of 3 graduate credit hours in each of the seven subject areas as part of their MA program, must make up coursework in these areas as part of the PhD program. The Associate Chair of Graduate Studies makes the decision regarding this additional work during the student's first semester in the program. If this additional work is not completed the semester prior to the PhD exam, students will not be able to take their comprehensive exams.

Language Requirement

Students must demonstrate, as early as possible before taking the PhD Comprehensive Examination, communication knowledge in Portuguese and one other modern language (subject to the approval of the student's PhD Supervisory Committee). English and Spanish are not part of this language requirement. Communication knowledge is defined as the achievement of the current minimal acceptable score of the Graduate School Foreign Language Test or completion of a fourth-semester college-level course with a grade of B or higher. A fourth-semester college level of Latin (with a grade of B or higher) will also fulfill part of this requirement. Successful completion of PORT 2350 with a B or higher will satisfy the language requirement in Portuguese.

Learning Outcomes

By the completion of the program, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate proficiency in Spanish and/or Portuguese sufficient to conduct academic research, teach language and culture courses and engage in professional communication in these languages.
- Exhibit an in-depth understanding of key theoretical frameworks and methodologies in Hispanic and Lusophone literary and cultural studies, with the ability to critically analyze texts and media across different genres, periods and regions.
- Produce original, publishable research that contributes significantly to the field of Spanish and/or Portuguese studies, showcasing the ability to identify, design and execute complex research projects that advance scholarship in their areas of expertise.
- Demonstrate effective teaching skills, including the ability to design syllabi, conduct classes, assess student learning and adapt their pedagogy to various educational settings and levels, from

introductory to advanced coursework in Spanish and/or Portuguese language and culture.

- Integrate interdisciplinary approaches, drawing from related fields such as history, linguistics, anthropology and film studies, to enhance their research and teaching and to address complex cultural and social phenomena within the Hispanic and Lusophone worlds.
- Develop a professional identity, adhering to ethical research and teaching practices.
- Effectively engage with academic and non-academic audiences.
- Meet the qualifications to succeed in academia or on career paths, such as teaching grades 1-12, publishing, translation and working for or with international organizations.