

Latin American Studies

The MA in Latin American Studies is a two-year program that allows students to pursue a diverse curriculum in Latin American Studies spanning a wide range of departments and professional schools, including the schools of Natural Resources, Public Health, Public Policy, Social Welfare, Journalism, Law, Education, and Environmental Design.

Students begin by taking courses that offer a broad overview of the field of Latin American Studies and introduce them to the Latin Americanist research at Berkeley. Students then work closely with individual faculty to define their particular areas of interest and research.

The MA program provides an opportunity for collective learning and collaboration as students develop research skills and specialized knowledge in the field. Students are encouraged to draw on the considerable resources of the Center for Latin American Studies.

Admission to the University

Uniform minimum requirements for admission

The following minimum requirements apply to all programs and will be verified by the Graduate Division:

1. A bachelor's degree or recognized equivalent from an accredited institution;
2. A minimum grade-point average of B or better (3.0);
3. If the applicant comes from a country or political entity (e.g. Quebec) where English is not the official language, adequate proficiency in English to do graduate work, as evidenced by a TOEFL score of at least 570 on the paper-and-pencil test, 230 on the computer-based test, 90 on the iBT test, or an IELTS Band score of at least 7 (note that individual programs may set higher levels for any of these); and
4. Enough undergraduate training to do graduate work in the given field.

Applicants who already hold a graduate degree

The Graduate Council views academic degrees as evidence of broad research training, not as vocational training certificates; therefore, applicants who already have academic graduate degrees should be able to take up new subject matter on a serious level without undertaking a graduate program, unless the fields are completely dissimilar.

Programs may consider students for an additional academic master's or professional master's degree if the additional degree is in a distinctly different field.

Applicants admitted to a doctoral program that requires a master's degree to be earned at Berkeley as a prerequisite (even though the applicant already has a master's degree from another institution in the same or a closely allied field of study) will be permitted to undertake the second master's degree, despite the overlap in field.

The Graduate Division will admit students for a second doctoral degree only if they meet the following guidelines:

1. Applicants with doctoral degrees may be admitted for an additional doctoral degree only if that degree program is in a general area of knowledge distinctly different from the field in which they earned

their original degree. For example, a physics PhD could be admitted to a doctoral degree program in music or history; however, a student with a doctoral degree in mathematics would not be permitted to add a PhD in statistics.

2. Applicants who hold the PhD degree may be admitted to a professional doctorate or professional master's degree program if there is no duplication of training involved.

Applicants may only apply to one single degree program or one concurrent degree program per admission cycle.

Any applicant who was previously registered at Berkeley as a graduate student, no matter how briefly, must apply for readmission, not admission, even if the new application is to a different program.

Required documents for admissions applications

1. **Transcripts:** Upload unofficial transcripts with the application for the departmental initial review. Official transcripts of all college-level work will be required **if admitted**. Official transcripts must be in sealed envelopes as issued by the school(s) you have attended. Request a current transcript from every post-secondary school that you have attended, including community colleges, summer sessions, and extension programs. If you have attended Berkeley, upload unofficial transcript with the application for the departmental initial review. Official transcript with evidence of degree conferral **will not** be required if admitted.
2. **Letters of recommendation:** Applicants can request online letters of recommendation through the online application system. Hard copies of recommendation letters must be sent directly to the program, not the Graduate Division.
3. **Evidence of English language proficiency:** All applicants from countries in which the official language is not English are required to submit official evidence of English language proficiency. This requirement applies to applicants from Bangladesh, Burma, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Latin America, the Middle East, the People's Republic of China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, Southeast Asia, and most European countries. However, applicants who, at the time of application, have already completed at least one year of full-time academic course work with grades of B or better at a U.S. university may submit an official transcript from the U.S. university to fulfill this requirement. The following courses will not fulfill this requirement: 1) courses in English as a Second Language, 2) courses conducted in a language other than English, 3) courses that will be completed after the application is submitted, and 4) courses of a non-academic nature. If applicants have previously been denied admission to Berkeley on the basis of their English language proficiency, they must submit new test scores that meet the current minimum from one of the standardized tests.

Curriculum

LATAMST 200	Latin American Studies Seminar	1
LATAMST 250	Selected Topics in Latin American Studies	4
Graduate elective in Methods		
Minimum of 20-24 units of electives, as per approved study list, concentrated in 2-3 disciplines		20-24

Foreign Language

Students must demonstrate a high level of proficiency in their chosen primary language (either Spanish or Portuguese) and must demonstrate strong reading and speaking skills in their secondary language.

Latin American Studies

LATAMST 200 Latin American Studies Seminar 1 Unit
Mandatory for Latin American Studies graduate students. Seminars by faculty and advanced graduate students on their current research on Latin America.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Latin American Studies/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

LATAMST 230 Cross-Listed Topics 1 - 4 Units
This course is designed to accommodate cross-listed courses offered through other departments, the content of which is applicable to the graduate program in Latin American Studies. Content varies from course to course.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Latin American Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

LATAMST 250 Selected Topics in Latin American Studies 4 Units
Seminar will take a multidisciplinary approach to specific geographical areas with appropriate comparative material included. Topics change each semester.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with consent of instructor. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Latin American Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

LATAMST 292 Directed Study and Research 1 - 4 Units
Directed study and research for graduate students in Latin American Studies. Primarily for graduate students engaged in an interdisciplinary exploration of Latin America-related topics in subject matter not covered in available course offerings. The course will involve directed readings and writing of a report.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 2.5-10 hours of seminar per week

8 weeks - 1.5-7.5 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Latin American Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

LATAMST 298 Directed Graduate Group Study 1 - 4 Units
Topics vary from semester to semester.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor and graduate-level standing

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Latin American Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

LATAMST 299 Individual Study 1 - 4 Units

Individual study for graduate students in Latin American Studies.
Intended to provide directed reading and supervision for thesis development or special study in Latin American area.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Latin American Studies/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.