Why a MA in Spanish degree?

BGSU’s Master of Arts in Spanish is a great choice for people with busy lives who are still motivated to pursue a graduate degree as their schedule allows. Working professionals—such as Spanish teachers with an undergraduate degree in Spanish or Spanish Education—will find the program’s flexible structure, including online and on-ground courses, especially appealing.

The hybrid program option includes an experiential component for individuals who wish to develop their Spanish language skills beyond the traditional classroom setting and to expand their knowledge of the Spanish-speaking world. These exciting, credit-bearing opportunities include summer coursework in Spain and/or domestic internships with a Spanish-speaking population.

The program offers many benefits to diverse individuals with varying needs:

- Gives K-12 Spanish teachers greater job security and pay grade
- Allows unlicensed teachers to work at private and charter schools
- Qualifies individuals to teach Spanish in a community college or university setting
- Provides native Spanish speakers added marketability and a great way to leverage their fluency with the added support of academic credentials

Why a Spanish MA at Bowling Green State University?

BGSU’s unique Spanish MA program combines mastery of the language and content knowledge with practical, real-life experiences in immersion settings. This combination allows our students to become well-prepared as global citizens and well-equipped to succeed in a wide variety of careers that require sophisticated communication, cultural understanding and critical thinking skills.

Learning outcomes

Students will be able to discuss critically and analytically a variety of topics related to the Spanish language, as well as Spanish-speaking cultures and literatures—both orally and in writing. Students will demonstrate advanced competence in the Spanish language and familiarity with the theoretical issues and research tools in the broad fields of literature, culture and linguistics from Spain and Latin America.

The experiential components of the program will give students the intercultural communicative competence necessary for global citizenship and workplace skills.

Program strength and uniqueness

- Experiential learning opportunities in Spain or in a domestic internship with a Spanish-speaking population.
- Half-century-old program in Alcalá de Henares, Spain, featuring an on-site director and July-term coursework tailored to BGSU’s part-time graduate students.
- Four-week summer abroad option will meet employers’ academic expectations and satisfy cultural and linguistic immersion goals.
- Up to six hours of internship credit permitted to take full advantage of cultural and linguistic immersion environments in the U.S.
- Online coursework and two-part capstone help students to address and overcome individual challenges to completing the program.
- Courses taught by diverse faculty offering personalized attention.

“I couldn’t be more pleased with the individual attention from the professors, small class sizes, and class times that fit my schedule, and the rigor that helps me accomplish the professional improvement goals that I have set for myself.”

— Tina Bils, High School Spanish Teacher, Ohio

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Amy Robinson, at ma-spanish@bgsu.edu or call 419-372-2168.
Admission requirements

The program strongly recommends that applicants have a minimum of a 3.0/4.0 undergraduate grade point average (GPA). Applicants are required to submit an official transcript from all colleges and universities attended. They are also required to submit official scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).

All applicants must submit a writing sample that should be an academic paper written in Spanish that reflects the candidate's potential for graduate-level study. Three (3) letters of recommendation are also required, and at least one should directly address the candidate's Spanish proficiency level.

International applicants are also required to submit scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS).

What is the cost of tuition?

Currently, the cost per graduate credit hour for tuition/fees is $502 for Ohio residents and $807 for non-residents and international students. Please refer to www.bgsu.edu/offices/bursar for the most recent information on tuition and fees.

Financial aid

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is used to calculate domestic student contribution and financial need. You may complete the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

How to apply

Visit the BGSU Graduate College website at www.bgsu.edu/graduate/admissions.

Application deadline, summer term: June 1
Application deadline, fall term: August 15

Curriculum

A total of 36 credit hours of coursework at the graduate level are required, 19 of which must be taken on the BGSU campus or from BGSU graduate faculty abroad. There are no specific SPAN courses required. Courses may be selected from those offered online and in the summer abroad and/or internship opportunities.

Sample Course Offerings (3 credit hours each)

- SPAN 6010: Teaching College Spanish
- SPAN 6210: Contemporary Latin American Cultural Discourses
- SPAN 6230: Issues in Andean Culture Studies
- SPAN 6260: Issues in Contemporary Mexican Literature and Culture
- SPAN 6270: Spanish American Cinema
- SPAN 6290: Latin American and Caribbean Music, Art, and Literature
- SPAN 6350: History & Identity in Spanish American Literature & Film
- SPAN 6360: Spanish American Women Writers
- SPAN 6410: Spanish Medieval Epic and Romancero
- SPAN 6550: Hispanic Linguistics
- SPAN 6800: Postcolonial Latin America
- SPAN 6800: Heritage Language Pedagogy
- SPAN 6800: Second Language Acquisition

Some transfer credits and coursework outside SPAN courses are allowed. Up to six hours of internship credit may apply.

Two-Part Comprehensive Exam

Part I: After having completed approximately half of the program requirements (18 of 36 credits), students will submit a series of essays called a Qualifying Examination to demonstrate their knowledge in three fields: Spanish literature and culture; Latin American literature and culture; and Spanish linguistics. Students are able to consult with departmental faculty to overcome individual challenges and achieve expectations regarding content knowledge and writing skills.

Part II: All graduate students on the part-time track will write a “final project” as the program’s capstone experience. Note that the M.A. thesis is not an option except in extraordinary circumstances. This polished writing assignment will be realized with the guidance of one faculty member director, and will include an oral presentation to a review committee at the culmination of the program.