

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES, BALAS

for the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts & Sciences Major in Latin American Studies

A major in Latin American Studies, which is administered by the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, provides an integrated exploration of a major world area. Depending upon the student's interests and career aspirations, individual programs of study are designed in close consultation with the Associate Director of the Center, who also serves as the academic adviser. Consultation revolves around the career goals of the student. The undergraduate program reflects an integrative, cross-disciplinary approach, and courses must be taken from these categories:

1. LAST 170 (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/search/?P=LAST%20170>)- Introduction to Latin American Studies;
2. Approved courses with content focused on Latin America;
3. Approved courses with content focused on Latin America in a global context;
4. LAST 490 (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/search/?P=LAST%20490>) - Independent Study, or approved Study Abroad course, or approved service-learning course.

Courses for the major must be selected in consultation with the Associate Director of the Center.

Students are also expected to demonstrate a substantial command of a Latin American language (Spanish, Portuguese, Quechua or other Native American language indigenous to MesoAmerica or South America), either by passing a proficiency examination or through advanced courses of Latin American language(s) beyond the general Liberal Arts and Sciences language requirement.

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Each student's course of study is devised in consultation with the Associate Director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies and is subject to the Associate Director's approval.

A Major Plan of Study Form must be completed and submitted to the LAS Student Affairs Office before the end of the fifth semester (60-75 hours). Please see your adviser.

Departmental distinction: To be eligible, a student must achieve at least a 3.5 grade point average in the major, complete a senior thesis, and receive the approval of the center's research committee.

General education: Students must complete the Campus General Education (<https://courses.illinois.edu/gened/DEFAULT/DEFAULT/>) requirements including the campus general education language requirement.

Minimum required major and supporting course work: Normally equates to 33 hours. Twelve hours of 300- and 400-level in the major must be taken on this campus.

Minimum hours required for graduation: 120 hours.

Code	Title	Hours
LAST 170	Que Pasa in Latin America? Cultures, Histories and Politics South of the Rio Grande ¹	3
Approved courses with primary focus on Latin America.		12
Approved courses with primary focus on Latin America in a global context.		12
LAST 490	Individual Study (or an approved study abroad course or an approved service-learning course.) ²	3
Advanced language course in a Latin American language (Spanish, Portuguese, Quechua, or other Native American language indigenous to Mexico, Central, or South America) beyond the level specified by the LAS language requirement, or the equivalent as demonstrated by special examination. At the end of their language study, all students are urged to take an oral proficiency test based on ACTFL guidelines.		3
Total Hours		33

¹ Normally taken in the freshman or sophomore year.

² Normally taken in the senior year.

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Sample Sequence

This sample sequence is intended to be used only as a guide for degree completion. All students should work individually with their academic advisors to decide the actual course selection and sequence that works best for them based on their academic preparation and goals. Enrichment programming such as study abroad, minors, internships, and so on may impact the structure of this four-year plan. Course availability is not guaranteed during the semester indicated in the sample sequence.

Students must fulfill their Language Other Than English requirement by successfully completing a fourth level of a language other than English. See the corresponding section on the Degree and General Education Requirements page (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/general-information/degree-general-education-requirements/>).

First Year		
First Semester	Hours Second Semester	Hours
Free elective course	1 Free elective course	3

Language Other than English (3rd level)	4 Language Other than English (4th level)	4
Composition I or General Education course	4 General Education course or Composition 1	3
LAST 170	3 General Education Course	3
General Education Course	3 General Education Course	3
15		16

Second Year

First Semester	Hours Second Semester	Hours
Latin America course	3 Latin America course	3
General Education course	3 General Education Course	3
General Education Course	3 General Education Course	3
Free elective course	3 Free elective course	3
Free elective course	3 Free elective course	3
15		15

Third Year

First Semester	Hours Second Semester	Hours
Latin America course	3 Latin America in a Global Context course	3
Latin America in a Global Context course	3 Latin America in a Global Context course	3
General Education Course	3 Latin America level course	3
General Education Course	3 Free elective course	3
Free elective course	3 Free elective course	3
15		15

Fourth Year

First Semester	Hours Second Semester	Hours
LAST 490	3 Latin America Advanced Language course	3
Latin America in a Global Context course	3 Free elective course	3
Free elective course	3 Free elective course	3
Free elective course	3 Free elective course	3
Free elective course	3 Free elective course	2
15		14

Total Hours 120

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1. Strong Declarative Knowledge Base on Latin American Culture and its position in the broader global world

- Students should understand the diversity and complexity of Latin American cultures and languages and their historical, cultural, political, and economic development.
- Students should develop appropriate expertise on a sub-region or culture of Latin America and/or a thematic topic related to Latin America
- Students should also be able to place their knowledge of Latin American in a broader global context.

2. Critical Thinking

- Students should be able to critically and reasonably evaluate and formulate claims about social, cultural, political, historic, and economic issues related to Latin America in both academic and popular media.
- Students should be able to critically and reasonably evaluate and apply their knowledge to real world problems.

3. Effective Written Communication

- Students should be able to identify research problems, approach these problems with appropriate methodologies and effectively communicate the results. They should be able to apply their knowledge to real world situations.
- Students should be able to effectively communicate their knowledge of Latin American culture and language to a broad non-specialist audience.

4. Advanced Proficiency in Spanish or Portuguese OR Intermediate – High proficiency in an Indigenous Latin American Language - This will be assessed through completion of appropriate level course work and through OPI or equivalent testing.

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Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies website (<https://clacs.illinois.edu/academics/clacs-undergraduate-programs/>)
 Latin American Studies faculty (<https://clacs.illinois.edu/directory/faculty/>)
 Latin American Studies email (szremski@illinois.edu)

Overview of College Admissions & Requirements: Liberal Arts & Sciences (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/schools/las/academic-units/>)
 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences website (<https://las.illinois.edu/>)