Reasons to choose our programs...

The Western Michigan University Department of Spanish provides students with a broad humanistic foundation in Hispanic studies, and prepares them to be critical thinkers who can make meaningful contributions to society throughout their entire lives as multilingual, multicultural citizens of an ever-changing world.

The Master of Arts in Hispanic Studies (M.A.) fosters critical thinking and an understanding of the Spanish-speaking world in all its complexities, including cultural, linguistic, demographic, historical and social. It transcends traditional fields of study through a cross-disciplinary approach.

Our students have the unique opportunity to pursue coursework with every member of the graduate faculty. They have the flexibility to design, in consultation with the graduate advisor, a personalized program of study incorporating, as they see fit, any combination of courses offered by the department in the diverse areas of Hispanic studies.

The Master of Arts in Hispanic Studies Accelerated (M.A.) is a unique program that allows WMU juniors and seniors to accumulate credits toward the completion of a master's degree while still enrolled as an undergraduate. Up to 12 credit hours of designated coursework may be used to satisfy both the bachelor's degree and the master's degree. Students are charged the undergraduate tuition rate.

The Doctor of Philosophy in Spanish (Ph.D.) trains students to be both specialists and generalists, language experts and literature scholars, teachers and active intellectuals. We see our doctoral students as professors of the future. From the moment students enter the program they are encouraged to develop a broad foundation in Hispanic studies, while at the same time enabling an individualized course of learning centered around specific fields of expertise. In addition, Ph.D. students receive training as teachers in classrooms, as study abroad graduate coordinators and as research assistants, often working closely with faculty on research projects.
Teaching, Research and Program Focus Areas

- Iberian medieval studies
- Early modern Spanish literature and social history
- The work of Miguel de Cervantes
- Colonial Spanish America
- Modern and postmodern Peninsular literature and culture
- Modern and postmodern Spanish American literature and culture
- Caribbean and Central American studies
- U.S. Latino literature and culture
- Spanish phonetics and phonology
- Spanish morphology and syntax
- Spanish historical linguistics and dialectology
- Contact Spanish and language documentation
- Latin American linguistic anthropology
- The sociology and pragmatics of Spanish
- The acquisition of Spanish as a second language

Industry Highlights
Many of the M.A. graduates continue their academic work toward a doctoral program at WMU or elsewhere. Others become college instructors and high school teachers, or they pursue careers in the publishing industry as writers, editors, and proofreaders, and in translation and interpretation for multinational NGOs, private companies, and the public sector. Job placement of Ph.D. graduates as university professors is 100 percent.

Funding
The department offers teaching assistantships to qualified master's and doctoral students. A stipend is provided, which is normally sufficient to support tuition, room and board, health insurance, transportation, administration fees, etc. Renewal or continuation of assistantships depends upon satisfactory performance in both teaching and graduate studies, as well as availability of University resources.

Students wishing to apply for a teaching assistantship position must submit their complete application no later than February 15. Additional aid is available from the Graduate College and the Office of Student Financial Aid.

Admission
Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis, allowing students to begin coursework in the fall, spring, and summer semesters. Apply online at wnic.edu/apply/graduate. More information is available at wnic.edu/spanish/academics/graduate/admission.

Western Michigan University est. 1903
Offering over 100 world class advanced degree programs and holding Carnegie Foundation classification as a higher research doctoral university, the institution has consistently appeared in the U.S. News & World Report as one of America’s best national universities. Graduate students make up 21 percent of the total student body and have been awarded nearly $52 million in financial assistance. WMU enjoys a rich 60+ year history of graduate education.

Kalamazoo, Michigan
The community offers a vibrant cultural atmosphere mixed with a variety of outdoor recreational activities. The city of Kalamazoo is located midway between Detroit and Chicago and is in close proximity to the shoreline of Lake Michigan.