

Romance Languages and Literatures

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Degree Requirements

Students in the Hispanic Studies PhD program take a required seminar in language teaching methodology in addition to the requirements specified below. Students in French complete a language teaching practicum. Optional pedagogical or interdisciplinary study can be acquired by means of one of the graduate certificate programs in Arts & Sciences.

PhD in French Language and Literature

Students in the PhD in French Language and Literature program take courses in all areas of French and Francophone studies, as well as a number of courses in a related secondary field of their choice, for a total of 60 credits at the graduate level. During their third semester, students take the AM exam. During the semester after they finish their courses, students take the PhD exam, for which they submit proposed syllabi for a two-semester sequence of undergraduate literature courses and two qualifying papers (potentially publishable articles of 25 pages, revised from seminar papers in two different periods). An oral exam by the entire faculty, based on these submissions, will follow. Students further defend their dissertation prospectuses before their thesis committees of three faculty members. They then have approximately two years to complete the research and writing of their dissertations, which they defend during the last semester of their programs.

PhD in Hispanic Studies

Students in the PhD in Hispanic Studies program take courses in all areas of Latin American and Iberian studies. During the fifth semester, students take comprehensive exams from among the three options offered them. After passing their comprehensive exams, students submit and defend a dissertation prospectus. Students then research, write, defend, and submit their doctoral dissertation. Details of the program stages and requirements are available on the Hispanic Studies Graduate Programs page (<https://rll.wustl.edu/hispanic-studies-graduate-programs/>) of the Romance Languages and Literatures website.

Graduate Certificate in Language Instruction

To provide our graduate students with additional qualifications and formal development that will make them strongly prepared for a range of demanding academic positions, the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures offers the Graduate Certificate in Language Instruction for students enrolled in PhD programs at Washington University.

The Graduate Certificate in Language Instruction is an interdisciplinary certificate related to the fields of applied linguistics, second-language acquisition, psychology, neuroscience and other disciplines that have important implications for the way that foreign languages are taught. Study within these different fields provides a fascinating examination of how second languages are learned and how the second language is generated by learners. An understanding of second-language acquisition processes both enriches our knowledge of how the mind works and serves to better inform the ways that foreign-language teachers design and implement curricular approaches for different levels and skills.

PhD students must apply to be considered for the certificate program at the beginning of their doctoral courses. Applications will be evaluated by a faculty committee twice a year, in October and March. The certificate consists of five courses: three required courses and two electives.

The goal of the five-course sequence is to provide certificate students with a solid base in the theoretical and instructional implications of research on language acquisition across different linguistic subsystems (i.e., phonology, lexis, syntax and pragmatics) and different linguistic modalities (i.e., spoken and written). This formation will also prepare students to be involved in language program design and curricular development.

For more information, visit the Graduate Certificate in Language Instruction page (<https://rll.wustl.edu/graduate-certificate-language-instruction/>), contact Professor Joe Barcroft (<https://rll.wustl.edu/people/joe-barcroft/>), or call 314-935-5175.