MASTER OF ARTS IN 
LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES
- SOCIAL SCIENCES

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Please see the entry for Center for Latin American Studies (collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/graduate/centerforlatinamericanstudies) for the list of the Latin American Studies faculty, also available at o (http://clas.uchicago.edu/page/people) on the CLAS website (http://maclas.uchicago.edu).

The Center for Latin American Studies administers a Master of Arts degree program in Latin American Studies. The Master of Arts program is a one year program of graduate studies that provides students with a thorough knowledge of the cultures, history, politics, and languages of the region. Students benefit from various resources that put the University of Chicago at the forefront of research and scholarship on Latin America, including world renowned faculty, top quality library resources, graduate workshops, and field research grant opportunities. Please see the Center for Latin American Studies entry in the Graduate Announcements for full details on Center resources. The Center also administers a Bachelor of Arts (major and minor) in Latin American Studies, and a BA to MA degree program (for details please see t (http://clas.uchicago.edu/page/degree-programs)he CLAS degree programs webpages (https://clas.uchicago.edu/page/degree-programs)).

The master’s program attracts students who will benefit from interdisciplinary training in a highly individualized and flexible program. Each student works closely with faculty and the program advisor to design a customized curriculum, define an area of scholarly research, and write a master’s paper. Students take advantage of the program’s flexibility to advance their academic and/or career objectives before making a major professional or educational commitment. Some students approach a research interest from a multidisciplinary perspective. Others strengthen their training in a single discipline as it relates to Latin American Studies, or explore new fields.

Through the M.A. Proseminar, the required common core of the master’s program, students gain a critical understanding of the major theoretical approaches, principal research methods, and current trends in Latin American Studies. During the autumn and winter quarters of the Proseminar students develop the proposal for their master’s paper. The master’s paper is meant to demonstrate the student’s ability to apply formal training in Latin American Studies toward a specific and original
research problem. Primary Latin Americanist faculty at the University of Chicago serve as guest lecturers in the Proseminar to introduce students to their research.

The master’s program provides students with the opportunity to develop and enhance skills and knowledge appropriate for careers related to Latin America or as preparation for further graduate work or professional training. Graduates of the program enter or return to careers for which the master’s degree is increasingly an entry-level requirement, including secondary and higher education, government, business, and various cultural organizations and non-profit agencies. Others enter doctoral and professional degree programs with support and advice from Latin American Studies staff and faculty.

**Admission to the Master’s Program**

Prospective students to the Master of Arts program in Latin American Studies may apply to the program through the Division of the Social Sciences or through the Division of the Humanities and will receive the degree from the division through which they have been admitted.

**Information on How to Apply**

The application process for admission and financial aid for all graduate programs in the University of Chicago is administered through the divisional Office of the Dean of Students. The Application for Admission and Financial Aid, with instructions, deadlines and department specific information is available online:

- Division of the Humanities (http://humanities.uchicago.edu/students/admissions/apply-now)
- Social Sciences Division (https://apply-ssd.uchicago.edu/apply)

Foreign students must provide evidence of English proficiency by submitting scores from either the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). Current minimum scores, etc., are provided with the application.

Students who wish to earn a Ph.D. degree should apply to a degree program in one of the graduate departments or committees in the Division of the Humanities or the Division of the Social Sciences. Foreign students should be advised that in the United States completion of a master’s degree program is generally not a prerequisite to entering a Ph.D. program.

**Program Requirements**

Upon entering the program, students will work under academic direction of the CLAS Student Affairs Coordinator and the CLAS Postdoctoral Lecturer to develop a specific program of study, cultivate their research interests, and identify a faculty
advisor for their master’s paper. The basic components of the master’s program are described below.

**LANGUAGES**

A fundamental requirement of the program is proficiency in one of the spoken languages (other than English) of Latin America and the Caribbean. This requirement normally will be met in Spanish or Portuguese. However, substitution of an Amerindian language (such as Aymara, K’iche’ Maya, or Yucatec Maya) or a language spoken in the Caribbean (such as Hatian Kreyol) is permissible with the approval of the program advisor. Petitions for substitution will be evaluated in light of the student’s prior competency and curricular program and the adequacy of instructional resources in the substitute language. Advanced Proficiency Examinations will be administered to evaluate the entering student’s language skills. Students usually meet the language requirement through the Advanced Proficiency Examination in Spanish or Portuguese.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

The standard course requirement is nine quarter courses, to be met as follows: the M.A. Proseminar in Latin American Studies; five courses in Latin American and Caribbean Studies; and three disciplinary elective courses. Students are expected to fulfill the language requirement through proficiency examination, and complete the master’s program in three quarters of course work.

- **The MA Proseminar in Latin American Studies**

  Through the MA Proseminar, the required common core of the master’s program, students gain an introduction to the variety of disciplinary approaches, discourses, and foci that fall under the large rubric of Latin American Studies. The Proseminar introduces students to specialists in the field at the University of Chicago and to the research and investigation in which they are involved. Led by the Postdoctoral Lecturer in Latin American Studies, the Proseminar meets during the Autumn and Winter quarters.

- **5 Latin American Content Courses**

  Each quarter CLAS compiles a list of University-wide courses with Latin American content. Courses which focus on disciplinary, methodological or comparative topics (such as *International Relations Theory* or *Indigeneity*) may also be counted toward this requirement, provided the student completes a paper or other major project treating a Latin American theme. Students choose their content courses in consultation with the Program Advisor and the CLAS Postdoctoral Lecturer.
• **3 Disciplinary Elective Courses**

These courses may have Latin American content, but they are often taken in order to gain a specific disciplinary grounding, to explore a particular theoretical framework, or to develop skills in a particular research methodology. Non-degree graduate level courses taken and completed at the University prior to admission to the master’s program may be used in fulfillment of elective requirements, upon approval of the Program Advisor. Students choose their elective courses in consultation with the Program Advisor and the CLAS Postdoctoral Lecturer.

Credits towards the Master of Arts in Latin American Studies must be taken at the graduate level (courses designated as 30000 or above). However, certain lower level courses may be accepted, at the discretion of the program advisor. All course requirements can be met in three academic quarters.

**Courses**

Courses pertinent to the Latin American area are offered through the individual departments and committees of the Divisions of the Social Sciences and the Humanities, and through the University’s professional schools. Please refer to the listings in these Announcements and in the quarterly Time Schedules for specific offerings. Additionally, special courses are offered by senior visiting Latin Americanist faculty through the Center’s Tinker Visiting Professorship. Each quarter the Center compiles a comprehensive list of Latin American and Caribbean courses to be offered at the University available on the CLAS webpage (http://clas.uchicago.edu/page/courses) or through classes.uchicago.edu.

**The Master’s Paper**

In addition to the course requirements outlined above, every master’s degree candidate is required to submit a master’s paper. This paper is meant to demonstrate the student’s ability to apply formal training in Latin American and Caribbean studies toward a specific research problem developed over the course of the program. The research and writing of this paper will be conducted under the guidance of a faculty advisor and the CLAS Postdoctoral Lecturer. A student may register for the course LACS 40300 Master’s Paper Preparation, which is arranged on an individual basis with the faculty advisor for the project. This course, while optional, may be counted as one of the five required Latin American Studies core courses.

For additional information about the Master of Arts in Latin American Studies program, please see visit the CLAS website (http://clas.uchicago.edu/page/about) or call CLAS Student Affairs Coordinator Jamie Gentry at (773) 702-8420.
LACS 16100. Introduction to Latin American Civilization I. 100 Units.
Autumn Quarter examines the origins of civilizations in Latin America with a focus on the political, social, and cultural features of the major pre-Columbian civilizations of the Maya, Inca, and Aztec. The quarter concludes with an analysis of the Spanish and Portuguese conquest, and the construction of colonial societies in Latin America.
Instructor(s): E. Kourí Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): ANTH 23101,CRES 16101,HIST 16101,HIST 36101,LACS 34600,SOSC 26100

LACS 16200. Introduction to Latin American Civilization II. 100 Units.
Winter Quarter addresses the evolution of colonial societies, the wars of independence, and the emergence of Latin American nation-states in the changing international context of the nineteenth century.
Instructor(s): M. Tenorio Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): ANTH 23102,CRES 16102,HIST 16102,HIST 36102,LACS 34700,SOSC 26200

LACS 16300. Introduction to Latin American Civilization III. 100 Units.
Spring Quarter focuses on the twentieth century, with special emphasis on the challenges of economic, political, and social development in the region.
Instructor(s): B. Fischer Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): ANTH 23103,CRES 16103,HIST 16103,HIST 36103,LACS 34800,SOSC 26300

LACS 22501-22502-22503. Elementary Haitian Kreyol I-II-III.
This three-course sequence will provide students with an in-depth study of the Haitian Kreyol language in its modern context, with emphasis on developing students’ proficiency in speaking and writing, and in listening and reading comprehension. The course will also provide necessary cultural and historical context.

LACS 22501. Elementary Haitian Kreyol I. 100 Units.
Instructor(s): Lecturer Terms Offered: Autumn 2015
Equivalent Course(s): LACS 32501

LACS 22502. Elementary Haitian Kreyol II. 100 Units.
Instructor(s): Lecturer Terms Offered: Winter 2016
Equivalent Course(s): LACS 32502

LACS 22503. Elementary Haitian Kreyol III. 100 Units.
No description available.
Instructor(s): Lecturer Terms Offered: Spring 2015 (tentative)
Equivalent Course(s): LACS 32503

LACS 22502-22503. Elementary Haitian Kreyol II-III.
LACS 22502. Elementary Haitian Kreyol II. 100 Units.
Instructor(s): Lecturer Terms Offered: Winter 2016
Equivalent Course(s): LACS 32502

LACS 22503. Elementary Haitian Kreyol III. 100 Units.
No description available.
Instructor(s): Lecturer Terms Offered: Spring 2015 (tentative)
Equivalent Course(s): LACS 32503

LACS 22503. Elementary Haitian Kreyol III. 100 Units.
No description available.
Instructor(s): Lecturer Terms Offered: Spring 2015 (tentative)
Equivalent Course(s): LACS 32503

LACS 24512-24513-24514. Intermediate Haitian Kreyol I-II-III.
This three-course sequence will enhance students’ understanding of Haitian Kreyol with continued study of the language in its modern context, with emphasis on developing students’ proficiency in speaking, writing, listening, and reading comprehension at an intermediate level.

LACS 24512. Intermediate Haitian Kreyol I. 100 Units.
Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): LACS 34512

LACS 24513. Intermediate Haitian Kreyol II. 100 Units.
No description available.
Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): LACS 34513

LACS 24514. Intermediate Haitian Kreyol III. 100 Units.
No description available.
Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): LACS 34514

LACS 24513. Intermediate Haitian Kreyol II. 100 Units.
No description available.
Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): LACS 34513

LACS 24514. Intermediate Haitian Kreyol III. 100 Units.
No description available.
Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): LACS 34514

LACS 29700. Reading and Research in Latin American Studies. 100 Units.
No description available.
Terms Offered: Autumn, Winter, Spring, Summer
Prerequisite(s): Consent of faculty supervisor and program adviser
Note(s): Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Typically taken for a quality grade.
Equivalent Course(s): LACS 40100
LACS 29801. BA Colloquium. 100 Units.
This colloquium, which is led by the preceptor and BA adviser, assists students in formulating approaches to the BA essay and developing their research and writing skills, while providing a forum for group discussion and critiques. Graduating students present their BA essays in a public session of the colloquium during the Spring Quarter.
Terms Offered: Autumn, Winter, Spring
Note(s): Required of students who are majoring in Latin American Studies. Students must participate in all three quarters but register only in Autumn Quarter.

LACS 29900. Preparation of the BA Essay. 100 Units.
No description available.
Terms Offered: Autumn, Winter, Spring, Summer
Prerequisite(s): Consent of faculty supervisor and program adviser. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form.
Note(s): Typically taken for a quality grade.

LACS 40100. Reading and Research in Latin American Studies. 100 Units.
Terms Offered: Autumn, Winter, Spring, Summer
Prerequisite(s): Consent of faculty supervisor and program adviser
Note(s): Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Typically taken for a quality grade.
Equivalent Course(s): LACS 29700

LACS 40300. MA Paper Pre: Latin American Studies. 100 Units.
No description available.
Terms Offered: Autumn, Winter, Spring, Summer
Prerequisite(s): Instructor Consent required

LACS 40501. MA Proseminar. 100 Units.
Required course for the master’s in Latin American Studies degree program. Students will gain an introduction to the variety of disciplinary approaches, discourses, and foci that fall under the large rubric of Latin American Studies. The proseminar introduces students to specialists in the field at the University of Chicago and to the research and investigation in which they are involved. Open only to program students.
Terms Offered: Autumn