

SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE ADVISING FAQs

This FAQ sheet is a compilation of the most-commonly asked questions about the Spanish major and minor and current answers. It is an ongoing project.

200-LEVEL LANGUAGE COURSES

Q: May I count SPAN 205 and SPAN 206 towards the Major in Spanish?

A: Only one of the following two courses -- SPAN 205 or SPAN 206 -- may count towards the Major in Spanish, as an elective only.

Q: May I count SPAN 205 and SPAN 206 towards the Minor in Spanish?

A: Only one of the following two courses -- SPAN 205 or SPAN 206 -- may count towards the Minor in Spanish.

200-LEVEL LITERATURE COURSES

Q: May I take SPAN 250 (or SPAN 251, 260, or 261) concurrently with 310-395 courses?

A: If you have already completed SPAN 220, you may register for one of the following 200-level literature courses -- SPAN 250, 251, 260, or 261-- concurrently with one 300-level literature course (310, 320, 321, 323, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, or 395). [Note: The prerequisites for 301, 360, 361, and 380 differ significantly from the prerequisites for 300-level literature courses listed here. See prerequisites as stated in the Catalog.]

300-LEVEL LANGUAGE COURSES

SPAN 301

Q: I have taken two SPAN 301 courses on different topics. May I apply both toward Major or Minor requirements?

A: Departmental advisors have generally accepted more than one SPAN 301 for Major or Minor credit, provided the topics for each course differ significantly. For instance, one 301 might deal with sociolinguistics, another with advanced grammar and translation.

300-LEVEL LITERATURE COURSES

Q: I want to take an Independent Study, SPAN 399. May I?

A: WCAS rules limit 399s to juniors and seniors with high GPAs. In addition, Department of Spanish and Portuguese regulations require that a student seeking to register for SPAN 399 submit to the Director of Undergraduate Studies a petition with a description of the project, a substantial bibliography, and the endorsement of the supervising faculty member at the end of the quarter preceding the requested enrollment in a 399. Students interested in pursuing a subject should first take a relevant 300-level course, consult with faculty members in the field, and only then submit a petition. Independent Study 399 petitions may be obtained from the Spanish and Portuguese [web site](#) and from the Department office, Crowe 3-107. Submit the petition to the [Director of Undergraduate Studies](#) by the deadline noted on the petition.

COURSES OFFERED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE IN ENGLISH

Q: May I count a course on Latin American or Spanish literature or culture taught in English translation in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese toward satisfaction of major requirements?

A: One course on Latin American or Spanish literature or culture taught in English in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the 200 or 300 level (SPAN 223, 225, 230, 231, 232, 397) may be counted toward the core courses in the Major in Spanish.

Q: May I count a course taught on Latin American or Spanish literature or culture taught in English translation in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese toward satisfaction of minor requirements?

A: One course on Latin American or Spanish literature or culture in English translation offered in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the 200 or 300 level (Span 223, 225, 230, 231, 232, 397) may be counted toward the Minor in Spanish.

COMPARATIVE LITERARY STUDIES (CLS) COURSES

Q: May I count a course in CLS toward satisfaction of major requirements?

A: With an advisor's approval, a maximum of TWO 300-level CLS courses that include an important component of Latin American, Iberian or US Latino literatures or Cultures, may be used to fulfill the 300-level course requirements toward the major

Q: May I count a course in CLS toward satisfaction of minor requirements?

A: No CLS courses may count toward the minor.

STUDENT-ORGANIZED SEMINARS (SOS)

Q: I wish to apply a Student-Organized Seminar toward my Major (or Minor) requirements. Will the Department accept an SOS credit?

A: Student Organized Seminars are not eligible for Major or Minor credit.

AP CREDIT

Q: I have scores of 5 in both AP Spanish Language and AP Spanish Literature exams and have therefore been awarded two credits by NU. Is the fifteen-course requirement for my Spanish major reduced to thirteen courses? Is the eight-course requirement for my Spanish minor reduced to six courses?

A: NO is the answer to both questions. If you scored 4 or better on the AP Spanish Language exam, you have satisfied the [Weinberg Foreign Language Proficiency Requirement](#). But you must still take fifteen courses to complete the Major or eight courses to complete the Minor.

AP credits do not reduce the number of courses required to complete the Major or the Minor in Spanish.

DECLARATION OF SPANISH MAJOR

Q: I have just signed the WCAS Declaration of Major form. Will I get preference for pre-registration, which begins tomorrow?

A: No, it ordinarily takes two weeks for your declaration to be processed. Therefore, if you want to be eligible to pre-register for courses, you should submit the signed Declaration of Major form at least two weeks before the beginning of pre-registration for the following quarter. In order to do that please make an online appointment with one of the [advisors](#).

Q: I want to switch from a Spanish major to a Spanish minor or vice versa. How do I do that?

A: Make an appointment with a departmental advisor based on their availability listed here.

STUDY ABROAD

Q: Next year I will study abroad. How will my Study Abroad credits satisfy

my Spanish major or minor requirements?

A: The Department of Spanish and Portuguese strongly encourages students to study abroad. After you return to the Northwestern campus, the Spanish and Portuguese Department will evaluate your Study Abroad credits in language, literature, and culture and, as appropriate, award credit toward your major or minor requirements. This evaluation will be conducted as follows: 1) Make an appointment with a departmental adviser to obtain approval for any courses that you want to apply toward Spanish major or minor requirements. 2) Have the following items ready for the appointment: your NU advising transcript; your transcript from your Study Abroad program; Study Abroad course descriptions, course syllabi, papers, and examinations (if returned); and the Petition for Credit for Courses Taken Abroad, which may be found on the Weinberg College website
: <https://www.weinberg.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/enrichment-opportunities/study-abroad/transferring-credit-from-abroad.html>

ELECTIVE COURSES FOR THE MAJOR IN SPANISH

Q: What is an Elective Course for the Spanish Major?

A: An elective course for the major in Spanish is any course taught in Spanish or in English at the 200 or 300 level that focuses on Hispanic and/or Luso-Brazilian traditions—literature, culture, history, society, art, etc—whether taken in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese or in another department. Students should consult an advisor about elective courses in which they plan to enroll.

PETITION TO GRADUATE AND MAJOR/MINOR WORKSHEET

Q: My school of record is not WCAS (that is, Spanish is my second major; my school of record is Medill [or Communication or McCormick School or Bienen Music or SESP]). Must I fulfill the Spanish Elective Courses requirement?

A: Yes, you must complete the Elective Courses as delineated on the major worksheet, that is, you must complete all the *Spanish* major requirements.

Q: My school of record is not WCAS (that is, Spanish is my second major; my school of record is Medill [or Communication or McCormick School or Bienen Music or SESP]). Must I complete all of the WCAS language and distribution requirements if I have a second major or minor in Spanish?

A: No. You do NOT need to complete the WCAS language and distribution requirements. Check the regulations for Medill [or Communication or McCormick School or Bienen Music or SESP] regarding the school's language and distribution requirements.

Q: My school of record is SESP. May I double count a course for both my SESP concentration and my second major or minor in WCAS?

A: Yes, according to the following guidelines: If you wish to double count a course between your SESP concentration/core and a second major or minor within WCAS, you may double count three courses towards a second major in WCAS and two courses towards a minor or adjunct major in WCAS. For SESP, up to three concentration classes may be double counted toward a second major and another two courses (separate courses) may be double counted toward a minor or adjunct second major.

Q: May I double-count Elective Courses for the Major in Spanish toward Related Courses in my second major in WCAS?

A: No, you may not double-count Elective Courses in the Spanish major toward Related Courses in your second major

If you find yourself in the situation of needing to double-count Elective Courses for your Major in Spanish toward Related Courses in your second major, please make an appointment with a departmental advisor.