

SPANISH EXAMS- DETAILED INFORMATION (REVISED IN JULY 2023)

This document covers the Language, Literature and Culture portion of both the MA-LLC and MA-LLCP degrees. MA-LLCP students will consult the Foreign Language Pedagogy list for their required pedagogy-related readings.

The comprehensive examination for the MA degree in Languages, Literatures and Cultures (MA-LLC and MA-LLCP) is designed to test the student's mastery of the works of Hispanic literature and culture. The exam will test the student's ability to analyze a wide range of literary texts beyond their basic content (plot, setting, characters, etc.) in addition to relevant topics, movements, authors, historical contexts, and critical theories. Students should have a grasp both of the cultural and historical context in which these works arose. It is essential to demonstrate an understanding of the material and engage critically with it.

ELIGIBILITY AND PREPARATION

- After completing the required coursework and other prerequisites, students are eligible to take the comprehensive examination. The exam is administered twice a year, in the fall semester (November/December) and in the spring semester (April/May).

READING LIST

- Graduate coursework (SPAN 875 and 600-level courses) serves as the basis for the comprehensive examination. For MA-LLC students, eight courses (24 credits) in literature and/or culture in Spanish; for MA-LLCP students, five courses (15 credits) in literature and/or culture in Spanish.
- Each student in the program compiles a reading list based on the coursework they have completed or are in the process of completing, including the semester in which the exam is taken.
- Students must submit their finalized reading lists to their Graduate Studies representative by the last day of September (fall exams) or the last day of February (spring exams).

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION FORMAT

The exam consists of both written and oral components. Both portions of the exam are conducted entirely in Spanish.

A. Written Exam

MA-LLC students:

As noted above, the content of the written exam is derived from the coursework (eight courses in literature/culture in Spanish) and will include the following format:

1. Six short essays/identifications (60-75 minutes).
2. One longer, focused essay (60-90 minutes).
3. Textual Analysis: an organized critical analysis of a text (60-75 minutes).

Four hours will be allotted for the examination; the time limit will be strictly observed.

MA-LLCP students:

As noted above, the content of the written exam is derived from the coursework (five courses in literature/culture in Spanish) and will include the following format:

1. Four short essays/ identifications (60-75 minutes)
2. Textual Analysis: an organized critical analysis of a text (60-75 minutes)

Three hours will be allotted for this examination; the time limit will be strictly observed.

B. Oral Exam

The oral exam for both MA-LLC and MA-LLCP students will focus on coursework completed by the student as well as questions arising from the written examination. 30 minutes will be allotted for this portion of the examination.

Notes:

1. The examination will include coursework from all four SPAN875 courses. The student will select from courses at the 6xx-level to reach the minimum requirements for admission to the comprehensive examination (students must take a minimum of 5 courses to complete the MA-LLCP and 8 to complete the MA-LLC).
2. After the written exam, students are encouraged to contact their Graduate Studies representative for general feedback during the time period that precedes the oral exam.
3. In cases where the written exam is a clear failure that cannot be redeemed by a strong oral exam, students will be informed that they may not take the oral. Students who fail all or part of the MA comprehensive exams may retake the exam (or part thereof) only once.

