The globally interdependent nature of today’s world makes second language proficiency and cross-cultural understanding valuable assets for students in any field. Students in the Latin American Studies program (LAS) can develop a high proficiency in Spanish through the LAS core language courses and study abroad requirements. Students also gain in-depth knowledge and understanding of Latin America and Latinos/Hispanics in the United States through an array of courses from multiple disciplines.

Scroll down this page to find degree plans and advising sheets.

Majors

- Latin American Studies - Culture, Language and Society
- Latin American Studies - Language

Comprehensive majors (no minor required)

- Latin American Studies - Liberal Arts
- Latin American Studies - Teaching

Minor

- Latin American Studies - Liberal Arts

Certificate

- Latin American Studies

Where you'll find our grads

- Non-profit Organization Project Manager, Mayflower Medical Outreach, Jinotega, Nicaragua

Contact Info:
Latin American Studies
Hibbard Humanities Hall 352
124 Garfield Avenue
715-836-2390 | fernanm@uwec.edu

"I loved studying abroad so much that while I was in Costa Rica, I applied to study abroad again in Spain. I also did an internship over the summer in Peru. My majors allowed me to study abroad three times while taking classes that all counted towards my degree.”
— LAS graduate survey, ’16

Prepared for Success

The significant Latino/Hispanic population in the United States and the increasing social, cultural and economic interconnectedness between the countries and peoples of the hemisphere will increase the demand for professionals who are both proficient in the Spanish language and prepared to work with Latinos/Hispanics and the people of Latin America. The unique Spanish language requirement in the LAS program provides students with the skills necessary to effectively communicate with Spanish speakers. Students must spend a minimum of six weeks of language immersion either abroad in an approved program in Latin America or participate in an approved alternative intercultural experience. UW-Eau Claire offers a Spanish Living Learning Community to introduce students and the Eau Claire community to the various aspects of the Spanish-speaking world.

Latin American Studies graduates work in a spectrum of fields including language interpretation and

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Latin American Studies (continued)

translation, international business, domestic and international non-profit organizations, K-12 Spanish and bilingual education, government agencies, and/ or further their education through a master's or doctoral degree.

Why UW-Eau Claire

Rankings / Reputation / Well-funded programs

Since the 2007-2008 academic year, four students in the Latin American Studies program have received the prestigious Fulbright U.S. Student award. Fulbright recipients represent the United States as cultural ambassadors overseas.

Research Opportunities

Our faculty offer top notch advising and include students in a variety of research opportunities. For example, students may engage in faculty/ student research collaborations, international or domestic internships, diversity mentoring projects, the International Fellows Program and student-designed independent studies.

Course Work / Pre-Professional Courses

The interdisciplinary Latin American Studies major and minor programs include extensive coursework in Spanish to provide students with the proficiency necessary to communicate effectively with Spanish speakers. Students are also required to take LAS 150 – Introduction to Latin American Studies, along with relevant courses in art, anthropology/geography, history, economics, political science and other disciplines. Students majoring or minoring in LAS also cover most many of their liberal education requirements through the LAS core curriculum and electives. Many students find completing an LAS and Spanish major/minor combination to be a logical combination very complementary, though LAS students also major or minor in Social Work, Chemistry, Political Science and much more.

Special Admission Guidelines

Students are strongly advised to enroll in Spanish courses during their first semester or year at the university so as to not lose practice in the language and continue developing their proficiency. They are also encouraged to start thinking early on about when and where they will do their study abroad or other immersion experience in a Latin American country.