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LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM (LASP) | MA Requirements

Latin American Studies Program Goals and Objectives ^[44]

Entering Class 2015-2016

All MA students must take the equivalent of 16 non-language courses (64 credits). Those MA students who are approved for dual degree or advanced standing may only need to take 12 courses (48 credits) or 14 courses (56 credits) as approved by Academic Affairs.

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES CONCENTRATION

All MA students concentrating in Latin American Studies must take the LASP Foundation course (*Understanding Modern Latin American Politics*, SA.810.700) and at least five courses within their chosen LASP track. In addition, all LASP MA students must pass the Latin American history exam. Students choose one of the following specialized tracks of study:

- Latin American Political Economy
- Emerging Markets/International Finance
- Energy, Resources & Environment
- International Development Policy & Institutions
- Foreign/Public Policy & Security Challenges

For an overview, click [HERE](#) ^[45].

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

Students must complete the following four international economics courses:

- Microeconomics
- Macroeconomics (prerequisite or concurrent Microeconomics)
- International Trade Theory (prerequisite Microeconomics)
- International Monetary Theory (prerequisite Macroeconomics)

Eligible students who pass the waiver exams in these subjects or who pass Micro and/or Macro in Pre-Term must replace those courses with alternate economics courses. Many students choose to pursue an International Economics Specialization ^[46] in one of four areas of economics and therefore take electives to meet these requirements. Students may also choose to specialize in Emerging Markets ^[47].

Students must receive a 2.67 average in the 4 required economics courses or they must retake a course(s) until a 2.67 average is obtained. If any of the 4 courses are achieved by passing a waiver exam or during Pre-Term, the student must substitute an economics elective course(s) in place of the waived course(s) in order to fulfill the economics requirement above. In this case, the school will use the highest economics program elective course grade(s) to compute this average if a student is replacing one or more of the 4 required courses of Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, International Trade Theory or International Monetary Theory.

QUANTITATIVE REASONING

Students must complete one quantitative reasoning course as specified in their chosen LASP track or, when not specified, any course from the list below:

- Statistical Methods for Business & Economics
- Econometrics (prerequisite Statistical Methods for Business & Economics)
- Applied Econometrics (prerequisite Econometrics)
- Macro Econometrics (prerequisite Econometrics)
- Risk Analysis and Modeling
- Corporate Finance (prerequisite or concurrent Microeconomics)
- Quantitative Methods in International Relations (prerequisite Statistical Methods for Business & Economics)

Students may not double-count a Quantitative Reasoning requirement as one of the four required International Economics courses and vice-versa. Eligible students who pass the statistics waiver exam or pass the statistics course in Pre-Term are still required to take an alternate Quantitative Reasoning course from the list above.

CORE COURSES/EXAMS

All students must pass 2 core exams and/or courses in addition to their concentration requirements. If the

core courses/exams are not completed by the start of the final semester, a student must enroll for credit in the core course(s).

- American Foreign Policy Since World War II
- Comparative National Systems
- Evolution of the International Systems
- Theories of International Relations

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

LASP MA candidates must pass the language exams to demonstrate proficiency in either Spanish or Portuguese. Those who successfully complete the oral and written exams in one language are encouraged to enroll for study in the other language. All non-native English speakers are required to pass an English placement exam upon entering the school. Native speakers of Spanish or Portuguese must demonstrate proficiency in a second language, which can include English.

CAPSTONE

Latin American Studies concentrators must complete ONE of the following capstone requirements:

1. Internship and Report: An academic or professional internship relevant to program course work—all internships completed through the LASP Summer Internship Program satisfy this requirement.* Students must subsequently submit a report on the experience.**
2. LASP Oral Exam: Students who are unable to complete an internship will be required to pass a 30–45 minute oral exam with LASP faculty at the end of their final semester.
3. MA Oral Exam (to compete for honors—if eligible)

* If unable to participate in the LASP Summer Internship Program, students may secure their own internships to be completed during the summer or during their second year at SAIS. These internships must be no less than eight weeks in duration and are subject to departmental approval.

** The internship written report should be three double-spaced pages in length and will be due by the beginning of the student's last semester at the school. The report is intended to help students articulate what was gained through the experience in the context of a future job interview--it should thus delve into a thematic component of the internship rather than highlight duties/responsibilities.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS BY ACADEMIC YEAR

Entering Class 2014-2015 ^[48]

Entering Class 2013-2014 (see 2012-2013 requirements)

Entering Class 2012-2013 ^[49]

Entering Class 2011-2012 ^[50]

Entering Class 2010-2011 ^[51]

Entering Class 2009-2010 ^[52]

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