

The logo features a large blue oval with the text "Latin American Studies" in white. The oval is set against a background of several thin, concentric, light gray circles, some of which are dashed. A thick, black, curved shape is positioned behind the blue oval, partially overlapping it from the left and bottom. The overall design is clean and modern.

Latin American Studies

Education

Higher Education

- Teaching
- Research
- Student affairs administration (e.g., international student services, study abroad, multicultural programming)
- Student support services
- Information/Library science

Primary and secondary education

Language services

- Private tutoring
- Interpreting
- Translating

Community education:

- Literacy
- English as a second language
- GED preparation

Education Employers

Universities and colleges

International schools

Overseas dependent schools

Third party study abroad providers

Campus cultural centers

Support programs (e.g., Educational Advancement Program, Upward Bound)

School and community libraries

K-12 schools, public and private

Federal government agencies

Head Start programs

Nonprofit organizations including those promoting literacy (e.g., VISTA)

Adult education programs (e.g., those focusing on GED preparation)

Libraries (for Latino Studies, museums)

Education Strategies

Earn a Ph.D. in order to teach and research at four-year institutions. The interdisciplinary nature of Latin American Studies makes it good preparation for advanced education in a variety of fields.

Obtain a master's degree in student affairs or library/information science to prepare for those fields.

If interested in K-12 teaching, fulfill requirements for certification. This may involve a double major or a minor. Research alternative paths to certification such as Teach for America and other similar programs.

Research certification options for teaching English (TESOL, CELTA, TEFL)

Get involved in leadership roles on campus such as peer mentor, resident advisor, or orientation leader.

Join related professional associations as a student member.

Interact with students from Latin America. Participate in international programming on campus.

Plan to study, work, or volunteer in Latin American countries.

Develop strong communication and public speaking skills, particularly in Spanish or Portuguese.

Volunteer with community organizations that serve the Latino population. For example, tutor nonnative English speakers.

Secure strong recommendations from faculty, and maintain a high grade point average.

Assist a professor with research or take an independent study class to develop research skills.

Advocacy

Domestic and international advocacy

Humanitarian services

Development:

- Economic
- Community
- Housing

Disaster/Disease relief

HIV/AIDS advocacy

Policy development

Policy analysis

Program administration

Education

Volunteer coordination

Grant writing

Program management and development

Fundraising/Development

Research

Community education and outreach

Public relations and marketing

Advocacy Employers

Community action agencies

Labor unions

Nonprofit organizations (e.g., Amigos de las Americas, Centro Hispano)

Social service agencies

Private voluntary organizations

Private foundations (e.g., The Boston Foundation, Lumina Foundation)

Faith based organizations (FBO's) and churches (e.g., Catholic Relief Services)

Hospitals, medical centers and clinics (especially those in areas with high Latino population)

International aid and relief organizations

Non-governmental Organizations (NGO's) (e.g., International Red Cross)

Federal government agencies with an international focus (e.g., Peace Corps, USAID, etc.) or a focus on community assistance (e.g., Americorps)

State and local government agencies

Special interest groups

Cultural heritage organizations

Research organizations (e.g., Pew Hispanic Center)

Advocacy Strategies

Volunteer at local social service agencies that work with Latino communities to gain experience, demonstrate interest, and build contacts in the field.

Participate in an international service learning experience or church-led mission trip to Latin America.

Learn to speak Spanish or Portuguese, focusing on relevant technical vocabulary for your chosen field.

Pursue scholarship opportunities to study relevant languages, teach English, or conduct research abroad (e.g. Fulbright).

Get involved with cultural and international events or organizations on campus.

Take additional courses in social work, global studies, or other relevant areas.

Develop excellent research, writing, communication, and organizational skills, particularly in Spanish or Portuguese.

Learn how to motivate individuals and groups.

Plan to move to geographic regions where the Latino population is growing.

Learn how to write grants and gain an understanding of budgeting and fiscal management.

Investigate term of service or service corps positions as a way to gain entry into the field.

Research organizations' values to find a good fit with yours.

Consider earning a graduate degree for more job opportunities and advancement.

Human Services

Healthcare advocacy

Counseling

Psychotherapy

Mental health services

Case management

Social work

Vocational/Career counseling

Grant writing

Program management and development

Community relations

Fundraising/Development

Administration

Human Services Employers

Mental health institutions

Hospitals and clinics

Residential treatment facilities

Private and group practice

Correctional institutions

Department of Human Services

Organizations that aid immigrants and refugees or focus on cultural issues

Youth organizations and camps (e.g., YMCA, Boys and Girls Club)

Nonprofit and social services organizations (e.g., United Way, Goodwill Industries, Salvation Army)

Faith-based programs

Human Services Strategies

Gain essential practical experience through part time or summer jobs and internships.

Volunteer with organizations that assist people of diverse backgrounds, particularly the Latino population.

Participate in training opportunities (e.g., suicide prevention or crisis hotline response).

Gain a firm understanding of various Latino cultures and how culture impacts individuals and families.

Become bilingual in Spanish or Portuguese in order to better assist some clients, emphasizing acquisition of relevant technical vocabulary.

Acquire knowledge of government and community resources available for those in need.

Research state licensure requirement in fields such as counseling, social work, and psychology

Business and Industry

International business

International development

Importing/Exporting

Logistics

Banking and finance

Management

Customer service

Sales

Marketing

Advertising

Public relations

Labor relations

Training and development

Human resources

Equity and diversity functions

Travel and tourism

Real Estate

Consulting

Agriculture economics

Business and Industry Employers

Public and private corporations in various industries:

- Banks and financial institutions
- Insurance companies
- Retail stores
- Hotels and restaurants
- Consumer goods manufacturers
- Businesses targeting Hispanics

Staffing agencies

Consulting firms

Market research firms specializing in Latinos

Public relations agencies

U.S. firms with operations in Latin America

Hispanic chambers of commerce

Minority Business Development Centers

Hispanic trade associations (e.g. Latin Business Association)

Travel agencies and tour operators

Convention and visitors' bureaus

Organizations for research on and advancement of Latino's in business (e.g., Stanford Latino Entrepreneurship Initiative (SLEI))

Business and Industry Strategies

Double major or minor in Business or Language & World Business (MFL).

Gain business experience through internships or part-time and summer jobs.

Through research, identify corporations that have a reputation for reaching out to Latino populations.

Become bilingual in Spanish or Portuguese, emphasizing acquisition of relevant technical vocabulary.

Gain leadership experience through campus organizations or professional societies.

Understand the skills employers desire and be prepared to demonstrate them, such as communication (oral and written), computer, interpersonal, leadership, and teamwork.

Conduct informational interviews with professionals to learn more about career fields.

When job searching, seek employers interested in hiring "any major."

Learn how to sell your Latin American Studies major to companies that value cultural diversity.

For international assignments, plan to start in U.S. based positions and gain experience with the company/industry. Usually more seasoned employees are given international assignments.

Earn an MBA or a graduate degree in another area of interest such as accounting or finance for more advanced opportunities.

Law and Politics

Law:

- Corporate practice
- Public interest law
- Civil law
- International
- Immigration law

Lobbying

Government relations

Elected or appointed leadership

Public policy

Research

Intelligence

Campaign management

Special interest advocacy

Program administration

Immigration Services

Law and Politics Employers

Law firms

Corporate legal departments

Public defenders offices

District attorneys

Public interest groups (e.g., The Center for Justice and International Law)

Civil rights organizations (e.g., National Council of LaRaza)

Legal aid

Sole practitioner

Government agencies (e.g., Department of State, foreign service)

Lobbying groups

Law and Politics Strategies

Obtain a law degree (J.D.) for law positions or an advanced degree in public administration, public policy, or international relations for government positions.

Supplement curriculum with relevant courses to prepare for law school (research and writing skills).

Participate in activities that develop strong debate and public speaking skills such as mock trials.

Run for office in student government or work on a political campaign.

Get involved with the pre-law society on campus.

Gain relevant experience through jobs or internships with law firms, government agencies, or mediation centers.

Maintain a high grade point average and secure strong faculty recommendations.

Prepare for and take the Law School Admission Test (LSAT).

Study abroad in a Latin American country.

Learn Spanish or Portuguese, specifically the relevant technical vocabulary.

General Latin American Studies Information

Latin American Studies provides an interdisciplinary background that helps students develop analytical, critical thinking, and writing skills while gaining knowledge about the cultures, histories, and languages of Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean.

When paired with a major in another field, Latin American Studies can enhance the employability of a student because of a deeper understanding of the Latino experience which many organizations will value. Training in this field can lead to a better appreciation of certain customers or clients.

Some students may choose to pursue Latin American Studies because they enjoy the subject but wish to pursue careers requiring "any major." In this scenario, it is critical to develop skills relevant to targeted field through internships, part-time or summer jobs, or volunteer experiences.

Latin American Studies majors are excellent candidates for a number of graduate school options because of their broad liberal arts background as well as specific interests that may set them apart from other students. For those wishing to pursue graduate education, maintain a high GPA, establish relationships with faculty to secure strong recommendations, and gain experience through volunteer, work, or research opportunities.

Travel as much as possible to Latin America to experience it first-hand. Complete at least one study abroad experience. In the U.S., look for ways to interact with people from Latin America who are living in or visiting the States.

More job opportunities may exist in parts of the United States where the Latino population is the largest or growing such as Florida, Texas, and California.

Read and stay abreast of politics and current events in regions of interest.