

# Center for Latin American Studies

VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY

## Graduate Certificate Program in Latin American Studies

The Center for Latin American Studies' Graduate Certificate seeks to equip students with a broad, interdisciplinary view of Latin America. The program allows students enrolled in a postbaccalaureate degree program to document their specialization in Latin America and their language proficiency as well as to extend their studies beyond their disciplinary specialization.

Students completing the certificate must fulfill the following requirements:

1. take at least 12 credit hours of interrelated graduate-level coursework on Latin America, with at least 6 credit hours coming from outside the student's home discipline. No more than 6 credit hours of specifically-named courses required for the primary degree may be applied toward the Certificate. Graduate courses successfully completed at Vanderbilt prior to admission to the program may be counted toward the certificate requirements, and an undergraduate course may be substituted for a graduate course, with the approval of the director of the program and the Graduate School. All courses must be approved by the Assistant Director of the Latin American Studies program and form an intellectually cohesive whole.
2. demonstrate conversational or reading proficiency in Spanish, Portuguese, or an indigenous Latin American language. Proficiency will be demonstrated by an oral examination administered by a Vanderbilt Professor or Lecturer (not a graduate student) following ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) guidelines and resulting in a rating of at least "intermediate-mid."
3. participate in a minimum of five extracurricular activities sponsored by CLAS. A short paper reflecting on the insights gained from participating has to be submitted to the Assistant Director of CLAS.

Students wishing to enroll must complete an "Intent to Enroll" form, which must be signed by the student, the director of the LAS Certificate Program, and the Director of the Graduate Program (DGS) for the degree program in which the student is enrolled. A signed copy of the form has to be submitted to the Graduate School and to the University Registrar's Office.

For more information, contact:

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**[www.vanderbilt.edu/clas](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/clas)**