Spanish Studies/Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures/ Minor Assessment
Academic Year 2025-2026

PROGRAM: Spanish Studies
DEGREE TYPE: Minor
FACULTY COORDINATOR: Pedro Lange-Churión

MISSION STATEMENT (Major):

The Spanish Studies Major was discontinued in Fall 2024 by the administration

No changes have been made with the mission statement for the major since the last report.

MISSION STATEMENT (Minor):

The Spanish Studies program inculcates both linguistic proficiency in Spanish and cultural literacy about the Spanish-speaking world that our students can deploy in their future academic and professional endeavors, and in their service to the greater good.

No changes have been made with the mission statement for the minor since the last report.

PLOs (Major):

1. Express information and opinions verbally in consistent, effective and clear Spanish.
2. Write in Spanish using the disciplinary conventions and methodologies of literary and cultural analysis.
3. Analyze the main ideas of various cultural phenomena, such as literature, art, music, film and popular media.
4. Identify major artistic and cultural figures of the Spanish-speaking world in the context of their historical, cultural, and/or aesthetic traditions.
5. Appreciate the linguistic, ethnic, racial, religious, cultural and social diversity of Latin America, Spain and Latina/o and Hispanic communities within the US.

No changes have been made with the PLOs for the major since the last report.

PLOs (Minor):

1. Express information and opinions verbally in consistent, effective and clear Spanish.
2. Write in Spanish using the disciplinary conventions and methodologies of literary and cultural analysis.
3. Analyze the main ideas of various cultural phenomena, such as literature, art, music, film and popular media.

No changes have been made with the PLOS for the minor since the last report.

CURRICULAR MAP:

No changes have been made with the curricular map since the last report.

ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE BETWEEN APRs

- **2015-2016: PLO 1 -** Demonstrate the ability to express information and opinions verbally in a consistent, effective and clear Spanish.
- **2016-2017: PLO 1 -** Demonstrate the ability to express information and opinions verbally in a consistent, effective and clear Spanish (*repeated due to small sample size the previous year*).
- **2017-2018: PLO 2 -** Write in Spanish using the disciplinary conventions and methodologies of literary and cultural analysis.
- **2018-2019: PLO 3 -** Comprehend oral discourse produced by native speakers of Spanish/
- **2019-2020:** Reflection on remote/distance learning. (*Please note: This PLO has been eliminated from our curriculum*).
- **2020-2021: PLO 3 (revised in 2019) -** Analyze the main ideas of various cultural phenomena, such as literature, art, music, film and popular media.
- **2021-2022: PLO 5 -** Appreciate the linguistic, ethnic, racial, religious, cultural and social diversity of Latin America, Spain and Latina/o and Hispanic communities within the US.
- **2023-2024: PLO 1** - Demonstrate the ability to express information and opinions verbally in a consistent, effective and clear Spanish.

METHODOLOGY

For this assessment, we evaluated one written assignment from Spanish 336 ("Feminist Theory and Discourse") taught by Prof. Nadina Olmedo that corresponded to PLO 2. In order to have a large enough sampling, there were 6 graduating seniors. 5 faculty members read each written.

In order to assess the written assignments, we used a rubric based on PLO 2: **Write in Spanish using the disciplinary conventions and methodologies of literary and cultural analysis**

RESULTS

Based on the total of 30 evaluations (6 samples × 5 evaluators), the overall distribution of ratings is as follows:

Achievement Level	Number of Ratings	Percentage
Very Good	15	**50%**
Average	12	**40%**
Very Poor	3	**10%**

Breakdown by Sample (in Percentages)

This table shows what percentage of evaluators placed each sample into each achievement level.

Sample #	% Very Good	% Average	% Very Poor
1	**100%**	0%	0%
2	0%	**40%**	**60%**
3	0%	**100%**	0%
4	**100%**	0%	0%
5	**20%**	**80%**	0%
6	**80%**	**20%**	0%

Conclusion: The majority of the writing samples (Samples 1, 4, 5, and 6) were rated as "Average" or better by most evaluators. Sample 3 was consistently rated as "Average," while Sample 2 was the only one predominantly rated as "Very Poor." Overall, half of all evaluations were in the "Very Good" category.

MINORS

All students were Minors since the Major was discontinued by the administration

FACULTY RESPONSE TO RESULTS

The results were circulated among the Spanish Studies full-time faculty, as well as the individual observations and recommendations. After discussing the results, we are in agreement that the majority of our students are achieving the desired outcome. In order to improve our overall level of student success, we have suggested the following:

- create a list of writing objectives and accompanying rubrics that comply with the program's PLOs to enable better communication among faculty and articulate common goals
- include additional instruction and practice on writing techniques, styles and registers in all courses
- try new collaborations between courses, peer reviewers, readers, as we already do with the Jesuit COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) courses

DISCUSSION OF FEEDBACK FROM THE PREVIOUS REPORT

- **For the Assessment report for the 2023-2024, we chose to evaluate PLO:**

Demonstrate the ability to express information and opinions verbally in a consistent, effective and clear Spanish

Despite the arbitrary discontinuation of our major program and the elimination of the language requirement for transfer students, the Spanish Studies Program remains committed to providing an excellent education. However, with looming budgetary cuts at USF positioning the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (LLC) as "low-hanging fruit," we are now in a fight to stay alive. The Assessment Committee has previously commended our high standards and accessible, student-centered approach. To continue serving our students and upholding this recognized quality, the Spanish Studies Program, along with all other programs within LLC, must secure the institutional support necessary to preserve the foundational language and cultural instruction that is vital to a comprehensive university education.