

EP.08.24  
(Rev. 11/27/07)

**Title of the proposed minor:** Graduate Minor in Latina/Latino Studies

**Sponsoring unit(s):** Latina/Latino Studies Program

**Date:** May 2007

**Description of program of study:**

The graduate minor offers a comprehensive program of study in Latina/Latino Studies research, theories and methodologies to graduate students who wish to incorporate Latina/Latino Studies into their degree work. As U.S. Latina/os have become a central category of analysis in theories of ethnicity and race in many disciplines and fields, the graduate minor strengthens students' formal credentials and offers a versatile area of specialization. The graduate minor provides students with a theoretical and methodological foundation and a firm background in the history and culture of Latinas and Latinos in the United States from the perspective of the humanities, the social sciences, and other fields. The program will allow students to assess how historical and cultural processes affect Latina/os in contemporary society. Furthermore, the interdisciplinary nature of the program will provide students, whether or not they focus their graduate studies on Latina/o Studies, with the breadth of research and approaches taken by scholars in the field.

**Requirements:**

Hours

4      LLS 577: Perspectives in LLS

8      Two graduate courses from an approved list of Latina/Latino Studies courses at either the 400 or 500 level.

4      LLS 597: Capstone Seminar in LLS

16     TOTAL

LLS 577 and LLS 597 will be offered once a year in alternating semesters. Only 4 hours of course credit can be cross-listed with the students' disciplinary unit.

**Prerequisites for the minor:**

Demonstrated background in Latina/Latino Studies by having taken one course in Latina/Latino Studies at the undergraduate or graduate level.

**Expected enrollment in the minor:**

We anticipate that within three years the program will enroll approximately 40 minors.

**Admission to the minor:**

Applicants must be in good academic standing in a graduate or professional program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and demonstrate an interest in Latina/Latino Studies. Applicants must submit a written statement discussing why they wish to minor in Latina/Latino Studies, demonstrate successful completion of the course prerequisite, and provide written approval to pursue the minor from their graduate advisor and Director of Graduate Studies.

**Minor advisor:**

The student will declare an advisor with coordination by the Associate Director and Director of the Latina/Latino Studies Program. In the future, a Director of Graduate Studies will serve as the minor advisor.

**Certification of successful completion:**

Progress of the graduate minor will be monitored by Latina/Latino Studies in conjunction with the Records Office of the Graduate College.

**Budgetary and staff implications:**

1. In the short term, there will not be need of additional staff or dollars. However, as Latina/Latino Studies expands, there will be a need to develop a Director of Graduate Programs who will receive course release to complete duties.
2. This will require a commitment from Latina/Latino Studies to offer LLS 577 and LLS 597 every year and five to six graduate level courses a year. This should not be a problem given that we already offer a consistent number of graduate level courses taught each semester and have a growing faculty. Currently, the program has one 100 % and four 50 % faculty and many faculty affiliates. We anticipate that by the beginning of AY 2007-08, the total number of faculty in our unit with 25% or more appointments will rise to a total of eleven. Both the percent-time faculty and faculty affiliates consistently offer graduate levels courses each semester.
3. The related units/fields of study at the University that would be complimented by a graduate minor in Latina/Latino Studies include: Afro-American Studies, American Indian Studies, Anthropology, Asian American Studies, Communications Research, Community Health, Comparative Literature, Curriculum and Instruction, Educational Policy Studies, Educational Psychology, English, Gender and Women's Studies, History, Human and Community Development, Law, Leisure Studies, Library and Information Science, Medicine, Political Science, Psychology, Social Work, Sociology, Spanish, and Speech Communication. We are in the process of compiling letters of support from these units. By formalizing the field, the minor will enhance interdisciplinary contact and help in solidifying the field.
4. There will be no significant impact on library and computer use.

**CLEARANCES:**

Adlene Torres 5/18/07  
Head/chair of the sponsoring department or unit Date

Randy Meeks 9/21/07  
Dean of the college of the sponsoring department or unit Date

Kelly Appando 11/5/07  
Dean of the Graduate College Date

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Chair, Senate Educational Policy Committee Date

**Statement for the catalog:** The Latina/Latino Studies Program offers a graduate minor in Latina/Latino Studies that is interdisciplinary in nature. The graduate minor is designed to complement the graduate work of the students' area of concentration. Students must be in good academic standing in a graduate or professional program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and demonstrate an interest in Latina/Latino Studies. Those wishing to apply to the minor must submit a written statement indicating why they wish to pursue the minor, demonstrate completion of one course in Latina/Latino Studies at the undergraduate or graduate level, and provide written approval to pursue the minor from their graduate advisor and graduate program director. Students accepted to the minor will be required to complete 16 hours of course work, including LLS 577, 597, and 8 hours of graduate courses selected from an approved list of Latina/Latino Studies courses. Only 4 hours of course credit can be cross-listed with the students' disciplinary unit.