# LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

## What can I do with this major?

### AREAS

**EDUCATION**
- Higher Education:
  - Teaching
  - Research
- Student Affairs Administration Including:
  - 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

### 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, etc.)

### 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 non-native 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREAS</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
<th>STRATEGIES</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADVOCACY/NONPROFIT</td>
<td>Community action agencies</td>
<td>Volunteer at local social service agencies that work with Latino communities to gain experience, demonstrate interest, and build contacts in the field.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic and International Advocacy</td>
<td>Labor unions</td>
<td>Participate in an international service learning experience or church-led mission trip to Latin America.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humanitarian Services</td>
<td>Nonprofit organizations, e.g. Amigos de las Americas, Centro Hispano</td>
<td>Learn to speak Spanish or Portuguese, focusing on relevant technical vocabulary for your chosen field.</td>
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<td>Development:</td>
<td>Social service agencies</td>
<td>Pursue scholarship opportunities to study relevant languages, teach English, or conduct research abroad (e.g. Fulbright).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic</td>
<td>Private voluntary organizations</td>
<td>Get involved with cultural and international events or organizations on campus.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>Private foundations, e.g. The Boston Foundation, Lumina Foundation</td>
<td>Take additional courses in social work, global studies, or other relevant areas.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>Faith based organizations (FBO's) and churches, e.g. Catholic Relief Services</td>
<td>Develop excellent research, writing, communication, and organizational skills, particularly in Spanish or Portuguese.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disaster/Disease Relief</td>
<td>Hospitals, medical centers and clinics (especially those in areas of high Latino population)</td>
<td>Learn how to motivate individuals and groups.</td>
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<td>HIV/AIDS Advocacy</td>
<td>International aid and relief organizations</td>
<td>Plan to move to geographic regions where the Latino population is growing.</td>
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<td>Policy Development</td>
<td>Non-governmental Organizations (NGO's), e.g. International Red Cross</td>
<td>Learn how to write grants and gain an understanding of budgeting and fiscal management.</td>
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<td>Policy Analysis</td>
<td>Federal government agencies with an international focus (e.g. Peace Corps, USAID, etc.) or a focus on community assistance (e.g. Americorps)</td>
<td>Investigate term of service or service corps positions as a way to gain entry into the field.</td>
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<td>Program Administration</td>
<td>State and local government agencies</td>
<td>Research organizations’ values to find a good fit with yours.</td>
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<td>Education</td>
<td>Special interest groups</td>
<td>Consider earning a graduate degree for more job opportunities and advancement.</td>
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<td>Volunteer Coordination</td>
<td>Cultural heritage organizations</td>
<td>Supplement curriculum with courses in psychology, social work, or child and family studies.</td>
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<td>Grant Writing</td>
<td>Research organizations, e.g. Pew Hispanic Center</td>
<td>Obtain a graduate degree in psychology, counseling, or social work for increased counseling opportunities or advancement into administrative work.</td>
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<td>Program Management and Development</td>
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<td>Obtain a graduate degree in public health for increased opportunities in areas of healthcare access and advocacy.</td>
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<td>Fundraising/Development</td>
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<td>Research</td>
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<td>Community Education &amp; Outreach</td>
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<td>Public Relations and Marketing</td>
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<tr>
<td>HUMAN SERVICES</td>
<td>Mental health institutions</td>
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<td>Healthcare Advocacy</td>
<td>Hospitals and clinics</td>
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<td>Counseling</td>
<td>Residential treatment facilities</td>
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<td>Psychotherapy</td>
<td>Private and group practice</td>
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<td>Mental Health Services</td>
<td>Correctional institutions</td>
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<td>Case Management</td>
<td>Federal, state, or local government, including:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Work</td>
<td>Department of Human Services</td>
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<td>Vocational/Career Counseling</td>
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<td>Programming</td>
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### HUMAN SERVICES CONTINUED

**Areas**
- Community Relations
- Fundraising/Development
- Administration

**Employers**
- Organizations that aid immigrants, migrant workers, and refugees or focus on cultural issues
- Youth organizations and camps including: YMCA's, Boys and Girls Clubs
- Nonprofit and social services organizations including: United Way, Goodwill Industries, Salvation Army, etc.
- Faith-based programs

**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

**Areas**
- 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
- Agricultural Economics

**Employers**
- Public and private corporations in various industries including:
  - Banks and financial institutions
  - Insurance companies
  - Retail stores
  - Hotels and restaurants
  - Consumer goods manufacturers
  - Businesses targeting Latinos
  - Staffing agencies
  - Consulting firms
  - Market research firms specializing in Latinos
  - Public relations agencies
  - Latin American firms operating in the U.S.
  - U.S. firms with operations in Latin America
  - International real estate, marketing, or trade firms
  - Hispanic chambers of commerce
  - Minority business development centers
  - Latino trade associations, e.g. Latin Business Association
  - Travel agencies and tour operators

**Strategies**
- Double major or minor in Business or Language & World Business (MFLL).
- 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."
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### BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY CONTINUED

**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 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

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

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### STRATEGIES

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.

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<td>MEDIA AND THE ARTS</td>
<td>Newspapers</td>
<td>Pair an interest in Latin American Studies with communication skills and/or language skills to write about Latinos, write on topics of interest to minorities, or for publications targeting a Latino audience.</td>
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<td>Magazines, e.g. Hispanic, Latina</td>
<td>Study a second field such as journalism, English, or broadcasting to prepare for a career in media.</td>
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<td>Broadcast media companies including the television and movie industry</td>
<td>For positions in the arts, consider a minor in art history or music history. Plan to pursue a relevant graduate degree such as Museum Studies.</td>
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<td>Radio stations</td>
<td>Write for campus publications such as college newspapers, magazines, or department/program newsletters. Work at campus radio or television stations.</td>
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<td>Foreign news agencies</td>
<td>Intern with a publishing house, magazine, radio or television station depending upon area of interest.</td>
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<td>Trade, professional, or consumer publications</td>
<td>Create a portfolio of writing samples, especially those that have been published. For other areas, create a website or digital portfolio to promote skills to potential employers.</td>
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<td>Internet sites marketed toward Latinos</td>
<td>Seek opportunities for recognition and networking through writing contests and freelance writing submissions.</td>
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<td>Advertising agencies</td>
<td>Become familiar with the proposal and submission process involved in freelance writing.</td>
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<td>Publishing houses</td>
<td>When job searching, research media outlets to find those that target Latinos.</td>
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<td>Large corporations</td>
<td>Volunteer in local museums or galleries.</td>
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<td>Freelance</td>
<td>Travel to Latin American countries and visit local museums and cultural attractions.</td>
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<td>Museums</td>
<td>Learn to speak Spanish or Portuguese and develop relevant writing and communication skills in the language.</td>
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<td>Galleries</td>
<td>Organizations and centers dedicated to promoting Hispanic visual and performing arts, e.g. Latino Arts Inc., National Association of Latino Arts and Culture</td>
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<td>Smithsonian Latino Center</td>
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GENERAL 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, as well as Latinos in the United States.
- 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 (e.g. Florida, Texas, California, New York, Chicago) or growing (e.g. Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee).
- Read and stay abreast of politics and current events in regions of interest.