2020—2021

Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Student Handbook
LACS and your Career

LACS graduates from the College of Charleston may pursue a variety of careers in the non-profit sector, education, major corporations, national government, international agencies, or many other related occupations.

Non-Profit and Private Organizations

- Advertising Agencies
- American Schools Abroad
- Book Publishing
- Civic Organizations
- Colleges Universities
- Cultural Organizations
- Historic Sites
- Int’l Exchange Programs
- Law Firms
- Libraries
- Museums
- Pan-American Health Organization
- Project Hope
- Red Cross International
- School Systems
- Social Services
- United Nations
- World Health Organization

Related Occupations

- Admissions Counselor
- Archivist
- Attorney
- Business Manager
- Conflict Resolution Specialist
- Cultural Affairs Officer
- Editor/Writer
- Foreign Service Officer
- Government Agency Admin
- International Banker
- International Consultant
- International diplomat
- International Relations Specialist
- Librarian
- Politician
- Non-Profit Administrator
- Researcher
- Teacher
- Translator
- Photojournalist/Filmmaker

National/International Agencies

- Agency for International Development
- Bureau of Export Administration
- CIA/FBI
- Civil Rights Commission
- Immigration/Naturalization Service
- Library of Congress
- National Endowment for the Humanities
- Office of Int’l Affairs
- Office of Int’l Coop. & Development
- Peace Corps
- Smithsonian Institute
- State Commission on Int’l Trade
- State Department
- US Customs Service
- US State Department
- US Information Agency

Advising

All LACS majors and minors must choose an advisor from among the LACS faculty or one will be assigned to you. It is important for you to see your advisor at least once every semester to make sure you are on track for graduation. Advisors can also help in directing you to internship and study abroad opportunities.
Welcome to the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program (LACS) at the College of Charleston. Housed in the School of Languages, Cultures and World Affairs, the LACS Program promotes cultural exchange and interdisciplinary research in a key region of today's globalized communities and economies. The program offers the students the opportunity to immerse themselves in the study of the languages, literature, history, politics, art, and cultures of this region. The program provides our Majors with full linguistic and cultural immersion by requiring them to spend a semester or a summer abroad as well as to complete three years of foreign language study or the equivalent. The LACS Program is also committed to assisting its Majors with their post-graduation job searches by tailoring an internship opportunity according to their areas of interest and needs.

The LACS Program will prepare you to actively engage in a region of growing importance to our state and country, culturally, economically and politically.
Special Opportunities in LACS

Internships for Academic Credit

The LACS program is committed to assisting its students with their post-graduation job searches by tailoring an internship opportunity according to each student's area of interest and needs. An internship will enable you to achieve one of the primary goals of our curriculum—the ability to apply what has been learned at the College of Charleston. An internship will help reinforce theories and concepts with concrete experiences and apply perspectives of the discipline in a work setting. Internships are experience and applied knowledge blended with course and research work. Additionally, internships can help you in both the job market and with graduate school admission. Internships are available through LACS and the individual departments contributing to LACS.

Other Internships

Any LACS student that would like the opportunity of participating in non-credit internships or volunteer work are encouraged to contact the College of Charleston’s Career Services. Career Services has a large number of internship listings, both national and local. It is possible to have non-credit internships listed on your transcript.

Independent Study and Research

All LACS students may complete a portion of their studies through independent course or research work. The student must identify an area of interest, develop a plan for the project, and find a faculty member willing to supervise the project. All require individual enrollment, the permission of the sponsoring faculty, and the permission of the program or department chair. Students planning to undertake independent research are encouraged to consult with their faculty supervisor about applying for competitive research grants set aside for undergraduates. There are three grants that may be applied for: Academic Year Research Award (AYRA), Summer Undergraduate Research with Faculty grants (SURF), and Research Travel Grants (RTG). Please consult the Undergraduate Research web page for more information.

Bachelor’s Essay

Students may do an interdisciplinary Bachelor’s Essay in LACS or may get credit for one that is specifically on Latin America or the Caribbean within a discipline. This is usually a year-long project.
Study Abroad Opportunities

Summer in Brazil
The intensive two and a half week program will examine the way in which Brazil’s historical background has contributed to the rich regional diversity of Brazilian people and society. Guided study tours to museums, cultural centers, historical sites and natural parks will be part of the two courses. Among other places, students may travel to the marvelous city of Rio de Janeiro, Capoeira City of Salvador, and to ecological paradises.

Walter Fuentes Fall Semester Program in Chile
This program will offer the opportunity to study one semester in Santiago, Chile, and earn 12-15 hours of credit through the College of Charleston. The rich cultural heritage, the magnificent features of its geography, the dynamic urban setting of Santiago, the well-known hospitality of its inhabitants, and the stability and safety of the country, make Chile a natural choice for students looking for a first-hand experience with the people, language, culture and contemporary issues of the Spanish American world. Students will take classes at the Universidad de Santiago de Chile and live with Chilean families, who are carefully selected to provide an enriching cultural and family environment. The semester will coincide with the spring months in the southern hemisphere, an ideal season to do traveling, and to enjoy a period of intense cultural activity. The program includes several days of excursions through the coast of Chile. As classes will be conducted from Monday through Thursdays, students will have additional travel opportunities during the long weekends. Traveling to neighboring South American countries will be possible either during or after the semester.

Spring Semester Program in Argentina
This program will offer the opportunity to study one semester in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and earn 12-15 hours of credit through the College of Charleston. Buenos Aires is well known as the “Paris” of Latin America. Known as a dynamic urban cosmopolitan center of culture, business and modern life, Buenos Aires is the perfect setting for students desiring to hone their language skills and at the same time immerse themselves in the business and political culture of South America. Argentina has one of the most diverse geographies in Latin America – from the pampas of Buenos Aires Province, to the high Andes, and the desert of Patagonia. Students will live with Argentine families, who are carefully selected to provide an enriching cultural and family environment.
The semester will coincide with the summer and fall months in the southern hemisphere, an ideal season to do traveling, and to enjoy a period of intense cultural activity. The program includes several days of excursions through the Western Argentina and sometimes Brazil. As classes will be conducted from Monday through Thursdays, students will have additional travel opportunities during the long weekends. Traveling to neighboring South American countries will be possible either during or after the semester. Classes will be held at the Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina’s finest institution of higher learning, and taught by faculty of the College of Charleston and the Universidad de Buenos Aires.

**Spring Semester Program in Cuba**

A unique opportunity to study on-site in Cuba, one of our nearest, most significant and exotic neighbors. Cuba blends the experience of cultures -- African, European, American -- which creates a unique environment that students will be able to experience by enrolling in courses taught by College of Charleston faculty as well as Cuban scholars. This program will offer one semester in Cuba where students can earn 12-15 hours of credit through the College of Charleston. Students will live with carefully selected Cuban families to provide an enriching cultural and social experience. Students will be exposed to an array of cultural activities and study trips designed to encourage direct interaction with the Cuban people. The program is designed to allow students to further their Spanish language skills as well as learn about the rich heritage of Cuba as reflected in its culture, economy, political and social history, art, music, and rich natural environment. Classes are conducted Monday through Thursday, allowing weekends to explore the island. Several study-visits and day trips, including a longer excursion to other parts of the large Island, with cultural activities and lectures will be an integral part of the student experience while in Cuba. This program is designed for students who are Latin American and Caribbean Studies and/or Political Science majors or minors, students who major or minor in Spanish, or students interested in developing fluency in Spanish.

**Exchange Program**

**Brazil — Universidade Federal do Sul de Santa Catarina**

Students pay College of Charleston tuition and fees and study for a semester or the academic year. Semesters Available: Fall (July - December); Spring (February - June); or Academic Year (July - June). Subjects Offered: Portuguese language, Business, others classes may be available upon request.
Latin American and Caribbean Studies Major

Credit hours: 33

The curriculum in Latin American and Caribbean Studies is divided into two sequences. Category A: History - Politics - Society and Category B: Literature - Culture - Languages. To ensure depth and breadth, students must take 15 credit hours in one category and 12 credit hours in the other with no more than 12 credit hours in any one discipline (except LACS); and no more than 15 credit hours at the 200-level or below (except LACS). All students must take the LACS 101 Introduction to Latin American and Caribbean Studies (3) and the LACS 495 Latin American and Caribbean Studies Capstone (3).

All students are required to take an additional year of foreign language beyond the College general education foreign language requirement. Students must fulfill their language requirement in Spanish, Portuguese or French. The language requirement may be fulfilled by 6 semesters (or the equivalent) in one language or four semesters in one language and two semesters in another (or equivalent).

All majors are required to spend one semester or summer in a study or internship abroad program and earn a minimum of 6 credit hours (which may be part of the 33 credit hour major). Abroad program must be arranged with the Director of the Program and with the provision for an alternative or exemption on the basis of special circumstances.

The courses listed below may be supplemented by Special Topics, Tutorials, Independent Studies, Internships, Study Abroad Courses, and Bachelor's Essays that focus on Latin America and/or the Caribbean in the various disciplines.

Latin American and Caribbean Studies major are encouraged to double major or minor in other fields. Double majors and minors gain extra skills and knowledge. Though it is not recommended, students who choose to double major in LACS as well as in International Studies with a concentration on Latin America and the Caribbean may count of a maximum of four 100-level courses in LACS towards both majors. No 200, 300, or 400-level course from either major may count towards the other.
Portfolio Graduation Requirement

Students will assemble and complete an academic student portfolio. This portfolio will contain hard copies of graded written work from courses in the major. Every portfolio must have at least one example of graded written work from a course at the introductory 100 level, at least one example of graded written work at the intermediate 200 level, at least one example of graded written work at the advanced 300 level, and a clean hard copy of the completed research paper or other major project from the capstone course, LACS 495.

During the final semester of their undergraduate career students must write a 1500-2000 word ungraded “Reflective Essay” which assesses their academic development from the beginning to the end of their major as well as their assessment of the program. Students must turn in this completed student portfolio in hard copy to the LACS Office (with hard copies of at least 4 examples of graded written work) in order to graduate. The “Reflective Essay” will be submitted in hard copy to the instructor of record in their LACS 495 capstone course.

Required Courses

LACS 101 Introduction to Latin American and Caribbean Studies
LACS 495 Latin American and Caribbean Studies Capstone

Complete 27 credit hours

Select four-five courses from the courses totaling 12-15 listed in Category A; select four-five courses totaling 12-15 credit hours for 27 credit hours between both categories.

Any LACS courses will count for either Category A or B.

Latin American and Caribbean Studies Courses

FYSE 125 FYS Seminar in Latin America and/or Caribbean
LACS 103 Introduction to Contemporary Cuba
LACS 104 Introduction to Contemporary Chile
LACS 105 Introduction to Contemporary Brazil
LACS 106 Introduction to Contemporary Argentina
LACS 200 Special Topics in Latin American and Caribbean Studies
LACS 300 Special Topics in Latin American and Caribbean Studies
LACS 310 Race, Gender, and Ethnicity in Latin America and the Caribbean
LACS 320 Human Rights and Social Movements in Latin America and the Caribbean
LACS 330 Colonial and Postcolonial Studies: Latin America and the Caribbean
LACS 332 Latin American Politics and Society in Film
LACS 340 Afro-Caribbean and Afro-Latin Studies
LACS 350 Globalization and Mass Media in Latin America and the Caribbean
LACS 360 Latina/o Identities: Constructions, Contestations, and Expressions
LACS 400 Independent Study in Latin American and Caribbean Studies
LACS 401 Latin American and Caribbean Studies Internship (1 to 6 credit hours)
LACS 499 Bachelor's Essay (6 credit hours)

**Category A: History - Politics - Civilization**

ANTH 325 Peoples and Cultures of Latin America
ANTH 327 Peoples and Cultures of the Caribbean
ANTH 328 Aztecs, Maya, and Their Ancestors
FREN 336 Cultural Panorama of the Francophone World
HIST 261 Special Topics: Modern Asia, Africa, or Latin America *
HIST 262 Colonial Latin America
HIST 263 Latin America since Independence
HIST 361 Special Topics in Modern Asia, Africa, or Latin America *
HIST 364 Sugar and Slaves in Colonial Brazil
HIST 365 Modern Brazil
HIST 366 Comparative Slavery in the Americas
POLI 245 Cuban Revolution
POLI 268 Model Organization of American States
POLI 340 Politics of Latin America
POLI 347 International Development: Theories and Practices
POLI 351 Politics of Contemporary Brazil
SPAN 333 Topics in Hispanic Cultures *

**Note:**

*These courses must have at least 1/3 content in Latin America and the Caribbean to count toward the major. Permission of the program director must be granted for these courses to count toward the major.*
Category B: Literature - Culture - Languages

ENGL 233 Survey of Non-Western Twentieth Century Literature
ENGL 234 Survey of Third-World Masterpieces
ENGL 358 Colonial and Postcolonial British Literature
FREN 334 Interpreting Francophone Literature and Film
HONS 381 Interdisciplinary Special Topics in the Humanities *
LING 260 Indigenous Languages of the Americas
LING 290 Special Topics in Linguistics*
LTFR 250 Francophone Literature in Translation
LTPO 150 Portuguese Literature in (English) Translation
LTPO 250 Portuguese Literature in (English) Translation: A Foreign Literature
LTPO 270 Studies in Brazilian Film
LTPO 280 Studies in Brazilian Civilization and Culture Through Literature
LTPO 350 Portuguese Literature in (English) Translation: a Foreign Author
LTPO 450 Portuguese Literature in (English) Translation: Comparative Literature
LTSP 252 Society, History and Culture in Spanish American Literature
LTSP 350 Literature in (English) Translation: A Foreign Author
MUSC 222 Special Topics for Non-Majors *
MUSC 234 Music in Latin America
PORT 291 Portuguese for Spanish Speakers
PORT 390 Special Topics in Portuguese *
SPAN 315 Special Assignment Abroad
SPAN 328 Spanish Language Study Abroad
SPAN 366 Select Readings in Spanish America
SPAN 400 Service Learning *
SPAN 401 Internship*
SPAN 447 Spanish Dialectology
SPAN 490 Seminar: Special Topics in Hispanic Literature *
SPAN 491 Special Topics in Language Studies *
SPAN 492 Seminar in Hispanic Studies *
SPAN 494 Seminar in Spanish American Literature

*These courses must have at least 1/3 content in Latin America and the Caribbean to count toward the major. Permission of the program director must be granted for these courses to count toward the major.
Latin American and Caribbean Studies Minor

Credit hours: 18

Not more than 9 of the required credit hours may be in any one discipline (excluding LACS).

Note: Students are encouraged to fulfill their language requirement in Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese, or French. Students are encouraged to spend one summer or semester in a study abroad program in Latin America or the Caribbean.

Required course:
LACS 101 Introduction to Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Select five courses totaling 15 credit hours from the following:

ANTH 325 Peoples and Cultures of Latin America
ANTH 327 Peoples and Cultures of the Caribbean
ANTH 328 Aztecs, Maya, and Their Ancestors
ENGL 233 Survey of Non-Western Twentieth Century Literature
ENGL 234 Survey of Third-World Masterpieces
ENGL 358 Colonial and Postcolonial British Literature
FREN 334 Interpreting Francophone Literature and Film
FREN 336 Cultural Panorama of the Francophone World
FYSE 125 FYS Seminar in Latin America and/or Caribbean
HIST 261 Special Topics: Modern Asia, Africa, or Latin America *
HIST 262 Colonial Latin America
HIST 263 Latin America since Independence
HIST 361 Special Topics in Modern Asia, Africa, or Latin America *
HIST 364 Sugar and Slaves in Colonial Brazil
HIST 365 Modern Brazil
HIST 366 Comparative Slavery in the Americas
HONS 381 Interdisciplinary Special Topics in the Humanities *
LACS 103 Introduction to Contemporary Cuba
LACS 104 Introduction to Contemporary Chile
LACS 105 Introduction to Contemporary Brazil
LACS 106 Introduction to Contemporary Argentina
LACS 200 Special Topics in Latin American and Caribbean Studies
LACS 300 Special Topics in Latin American and Caribbean Studies
LACS 310 Race, Gender, and Ethnicity in Latin America and the Caribbean
LACS 320 Human Rights and Social Movements in Latin America and the Caribbean
LACS 330 Colonial and Postcolonial Studies: Latin America and the Caribbean
LACS 332 Latin American Politics and Society in Film
LACS 340 Afro-Caribbean and Afro-Latin Studies
LACS 350 Globalization and Mass Media in Latin America and the Caribbean
LACS 360 Latina/o Identities: Constructions, Contestations, and Expressions
LACS 400 Independent Study in Latin American and Caribbean Studies
LING 260 Indigenous Languages of the Americas
LING 290 Special Topics in Linguistics *
LTFR 250 Francophone Literature in Translation
LTPO 150 Portuguese Literature in (English) Translation
LTPO 250 Portuguese Literature in (English) Translation: A Foreign Literature
LTPO 270 Studies in Brazilian Film
LTPO 280 Studies in Brazilian Civilization and Culture Through Literature
LTPO 350 Portuguese Literature in (English) Translation: a Foreign Author
LTPO 450 Portuguese Literature in (English) Translation: Comparative Literature
LTSP 252 Society, History and Culture in Spanish American Literature
MUSC 222 Special Topics for Non-Majors *
MUSC 234 Music in Latin America
POLI 245 Cuban Revolution
POLI 268 Model Organization of American States
POLI 340 Politics of Latin America
POLI 347 International Development: Theories and Practices
POLI 351 Politics of Contemporary Brazil
PORT 291 Portuguese for Spanish Speakers
PORT 390 Special Topics in Portuguese *
SPAN 315 Special Assignment Abroad
SPAN 328 Spanish Language Study Abroad
SPAN 333 Topics in Hispanic Cultures *
SPAN 366 Select Readings in Spanish America
SPAN 400 Service Learning *
SPAN 401 Internship *
SPAN 447 Spanish Dialectology
SPAN 490 Seminar: Special Topics in Hispanic Literature *
SPAN 491 Special Topics in Language Studies (3) *
SPAN 492 Seminar in Hispanic Studies *
SPAN 494 Seminar in Spanish American Literature

Note:

Departmental Special Topics, Tutorials, Independent Studies, and Internships as appropriate.

* These courses must have at least 1/3 content in Latin America and the Caribbean to count toward the minor. Permission of the program director must be granted for these courses to count toward the minor.
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