

EARNING SPANISH OR PORTUGUESE DEPARTMENTAL HONORS AT UNM

Spanish and Portuguese majors and second majors are eligible to earn the honors designations cum laude, magna cum laude, and summa cum laude by participating in Departmental Honors. Departmental Honors allows a student to work more closely with individual faculty members, enrich their academic experience, and pursue individual interests in depth, building better preparation for graduate or professional school. Earning departmental honors will take between one and two semesters and culminates in a Research Paper (or equivalent project) during a student's senior year.

The Honors application must be turned in to the Undergraduate Advisor for the student to be officially considered a candidate for Departmental Honors and before signing up for Honors courses 498 or 499.

A. To be eligible for Honors in Spanish or Portuguese, *you must have*:

1. An overall GPA of at least 3.2 (including transfer credits) and a GPA of 3.5 or better in Spanish or Portuguese courses taken at UNM;
2. Completed 75 hours of college credit that includes a minimum of 9 hours of credit in Spanish or Portuguese courses taken at UNM at or above the 300 level.

B. To earn departmental honors, students complete the following components:

1. Field Work or Professional Experience - Examples of this may include: teaching with a faculty mentor, field research with a faculty mentor, work or service in a Spanish or Portuguese speaking community, service learning experience, specialized study abroad tasks/experiences.
2. Research Paper - A research paper of 5500 – 6500 words (approximately 20 – 25 pages) written in Spanish or Portuguese following either MLA, LSA, or APA style (per the faculty mentor's advisement). The research paper will be based on the student's field work or professional experience or on a proposed academic topic appropriate to literary, cultural, or linguistic studies within the Luso-Hispanic world.

C. Getting started:

1. Before applying to the program - students should consider what topics they wish to focus on, obtain a faculty mentor who will advise them on their research paper, and review options for where to complete the Field Work or Professional Experience.
2. Apply for Departmental Honors by completing the honors application in its entirety.
3. Turn in the completed application, with required signatures, to the Undergraduate Advisor. Be sure to attach your transcripts with the Spanish and/or Portuguese courses highlighted.

D. Completing the Requirements:

1. Students must enroll in Portuguese or Spanish 498 – Reading and Research for honors:

This course will consist of either professional experience or fieldwork. It will be graded on a Pass / No Pass basis, and must be supervised by a faculty mentor of the student's choosing. Prior to beginning SPAN/PORT 498, students should fill out the Honors application form (attached) with their faculty mentor and turn it into the Undergraduate Advisor. Credit for the course cannot be given *post facto*, i.e. while research abroad may count, it must be monitored and approved by a faculty mentor while it is occurring. Items to be established include: where the field work or professional experience will take place; what activities or tasks are to be accomplished, and what their relevance is to the honors project and; how the tasks/activities will be evaluated.

A Report is due to the mentoring professor within 2 weeks of completing a project. The length and scope of the report will be agreed upon by the student and mentoring professor. Students may petition to the Undergraduate Advisor/Committee to complete this requirement without registering for Spanish 498. *Any alterations to honors requirements must be notated on the application.*

2. Students must enroll in Portuguese or Spanish 499 – Honors Essay:

A Research Paper Proposal should have a title, a 750-1500 word description, and a preliminary bibliography identifying primary and secondary sources. The proposal should be submitted to the mentoring professor for approval to begin the paper, before the semester in which the student will enroll in Spanish 499. Writing should take place the semester of or the semester before the student's anticipated graduation.

The research paper is primarily a piece of original work, presenting the student's own approach to the chosen topic, demonstrating critical engagement with multiple primary and secondary sources. The paper should be 5500 – 6500 words long (approximately 20 – 25 pages), written in Spanish or Portuguese following either MLA, LSA, or APA style, plus have a bibliography, * Petitions for alternative creative projects, supported by the mentoring professor, may be submitted to the Undergraduate Committee for review.* *Any alterations to honors requirements must be notated on the application.*

Course enrollment – Students writing their paper in a single semester will register for SPAN / PORT 499 with the mentoring professor the semester they are writing the paper. The student and mentoring professor will select a second faculty reader.

The Completed Paper must be submitted to the mentoring professor and to a second faculty reader no later than the 14th week of the semester of enrollment in SPAN / PORT 499. The mentoring professor and the second reader will evaluate the student's work and inform the Administrative Undergraduate Advisor of the level of honors to be awarded to the student.



APPLICATION FOR DEPARTMENTAL HONORS IN SPANISH OR PORTUGUESE

The application must be turned in to the Undergraduate Advisor for the student to be officially considered a candidate for Departmental Honors.

Name _____ Student # _____

Street Address _____ Phone _____

City / State _____ Zip Code _____ E-mail _____

Students major _____ Second major _____ Minor _____

Degree hours earned _____ Overall GPA _____ Major GPA _____ Expected graduation date _____

☛ Attach a copy of your Unofficial Transcript and **HIGHLIGHT** all Spanish courses 300 and above - *OR* - all Portuguese courses 276 and above. Answer the following questions and obtain all required signatures.

1. Field Work/Professional Experience (Spanish or Portuguese 498):

Faculty Mentor (Printed): _____ Semester to be completed: _____

Faculty (Signature & Date): _____

Location of professional experience: _____

List all agreed upon tasks/activities: _____

How will the professional experience be evaluated (e.g., reflective journal, weekly reports, oral interview, etc.):

2. Research Paper: (Spanish or Portuguese 499):

Faculty Mentor (Printed): _____ Semester to be completed: _____

Faculty (Signature & Date): _____

2nd Reader (Signature & Date): _____

Explain how the professional experience will be incorporated into your research paper: _____
