

**Academic Assessment Plan**  
**(Dependent Major & Minor/Latin American & Latino Studies)**  
**(May 28, 2025)**

**Program Goals:**

1. The program in Latin American & Latino Studies is committed to promoting knowledge of and public engagement with the many peoples that comprise Latin America, the Caribbean, and the U.S. Latina/o community.
2. The program cultivates a vibrant intellectual environment that stimulates collaborative and interdisciplinary research, provides comprehensive education appropriate for all university students at the University of Arkansas, and generates comparative knowledge of the many populations listed above and their varied experiences.
3. The program will endeavor to conduct all necessary on and off campus outreach in pursuit of these stated goals.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

1. By the end of this program, students will have the ability to write clear, correct, and effective prose, crafted to achieve a range of purposes and address a variety of audiences both written and verbal, incorporating and citing sources gathered from primary and/or secondary research.
2. By the end of this program, students will be able to search out quantitative and/or qualitative information, reflect upon it, and formulate decisions and problem solving based on critical reasoning and analysis.
3. By the end of this program, students will be able to apply recognized principles of critical thinking or ethical reasoning to analyze, evaluate, and respond to rational and moral argumentation presented orally and/or in writing.
4. By the end of this program, students will develop a working interdisciplinary knowledge of how scholars and artists think and act in fundamental areas of study.
5. By the end of this program, students will have acquired expanded diversity awareness, intercultural competency, and global learning.
6. By the end of this program, students will gain the ability to synthesize, integrate, and apply knowledge developed throughout their undergraduate years to produce a significant written paper, as defined by his or her major, or an equivalent project, incorporating the student learning outcomes described above.
7. By the end of this program, students will acquire a degree of language competence. The student must complete SPAN 20203: Intermediate Spanish II or PORT 20203: Intermediate Portuguese II (or equivalents). Provisions are available for recognition of language skills gained by other means than formal course work taken at the University of Arkansas. Further functional work in Spanish or Portuguese as well as study and residence in a Latin American nation can serve to strengthen language competence and are encouraged.

**Process for Assessing each Student Learning Outcome**

1. Pre-existing student surveys for the program's colloquia (LALS 40003), Introductory course (LALS 20103) and Special Topics course (LALS 30103) will be modified to reflect the program goals and student learning outcomes discussed above. A similar

modification will be applied toward an exit survey of graduating dependent majors and minors and an assessment rubric of students enrolled in the colloquia conducted by the instructor of record. These surveys will be overseen by the program director and the program's instructor towards the end of each fall and spring semester via online and/or paper format for both online and face-to-face courses. The resulting data will be collated by the program director and used as needed to convey program information.

2. A combination of capstone experiences, ratings of student skills by professors and other supervisors, course grades, Honors theses, student awards and scholarships, admission into graduate programs, and student ratings of their knowledge, skills, and reflections will be utilized as a means of assessment.
3. Resulting data and other pertinent information will be reported annually to the Fulbright Deans Office via the annual Academic Program Assessment Report and through other outlets as deemed necessary (i.e., annual program reports, academic reviews, etc.).