

Tulane University  
Department of Spanish and Portuguese

## Frequently Asked Questions about Graduate Admissions

### *Does the Department offer the terminal M.A. degree or only the Ph.D.?*

The Department offers the M.A. degree but considers only applicants who wish ultimately to obtain the Ph.D. degree. Students admitted to the program obtain the M.A. degree at Tulane “en route” to the Ph.D. after satisfactory completion of course work, language requirements, and the M.A. comprehensive exam. (The 4+1 terminal M.A. program is restricted to applicants who obtained the B.A. at Tulane.)

### *To which degree program should I apply?*

All candidates (with the exception of 4+1 M.A. candidates) should apply to the Ph.D. program. After admission, students who hold only the B.A. will undertake two years of M.A. course work and other requirements before petitioning to advance to the Ph.D. component of the program. Students who have already received the M.A. in Spanish, Portuguese, or another closely related field will discuss with the DGS the timing of their M.A. exam – which may be taken in the first year in the program; these students may request after enrollment to receive transfer credit for M.A. work completed elsewhere.

### *Can I apply with a degree in another discipline?*

The Department welcomes applications from students with degrees in disciplines outside literary studies. However, a strong background in the Humanities and native or near-native proficiency in Spanish or Portuguese are required.

### *Can I obtain the Ph.D. degree in Linguistics?*

The Department offers degree programs in literature and cultural studies. Applicants seeking to pursue graduate degrees in Linguistics should contact Tulane’s Linguistics program: <https://liberalarts.tulane.edu/programs/linguistics>

### *What types of graduate courses are offered?*

For a complete description of the graduate courses offered by the Department, please check the 6000 and 7000 level courses at: <https://liberalarts.tulane.edu/departments/spanish-portuguese/courses>

### *May I submit with my application personal copies of my academic transcripts?*

Scanned copies of academic transcripts may be submitted if official transcripts are pending. However, official transcripts must be submitted after the offer of admission is made.

### *How important are TOEFL scores?*

TOEFL scores are required by the School of Liberal Arts for all applicants with degrees from non-US or English-language universities. They are one of many aspects considered in the admissions process. Tulane requires a minimum of 88-92 points in the TOEFL- Internet Based score scale. However, such benchmarks are not definitive and the Department is aware that test taking is a linguistically- and culturally-determined skill.

*N.B. - As of fall 2020, the Department of Spanish and Portuguese is not requiring GRE scores, nor using them as a criterium for admission.*

### *What type of writing sample should I submit?*

The writing sample (15–25 double-spaced pages with bibliography) should be written in Spanish or Portuguese and show evidence of aptitude in academic research, textual analysis, and/or critical approaches. It may be a final paper written for an undergraduate or graduate course or a chapter of an undergraduate or M.A. thesis. Writing samples may be sent by email attachment to the Graduate Program Administrator.

### *Does my petition for financial support require a separate application?*

No. All students admitted to the graduate program receive a full tuition waiver and a combined Fellowship and Teaching Assistantship. Financial support is renewed yearly based on academic and teaching performance. See also the additional financial information provided by the School of Liberal Arts:

<https://liberalarts.tulane.edu/academics/graduate-studies/incoming-students>

### *Does Tulane provide financial support during the summer months?*

Tulane's School of Liberal Arts and Stone Center for Latin American Studies offer competitive funding to graduate students each year for summer research and language study. Ph.D. candidates with strong teaching records are often also eligible for language instructorships during the summer term at Tulane.

Applicants are encouraged to contact the Graduate Program Administrator or Director of Graduate Studies for any questions that are not answered on the website, the Graduate Student Handbook, or FAQs page.