Romance Languages Major, B.A. – Portuguese

Contact Information

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Portuguese is the seventh most spoken language in the world, with over 250 million speakers. It is the language of Portugal, Brazil, and parts of Africa and Asia. Brazil, with a population of 185 million, is the largest country in South America and has the ninth largest economy in the world.

The program in Portuguese combines the study of the language, culture, and literatures of Brazil and Portugal. Emphasis is placed on the language as it is currently spoken and its historical development. Students study the literatures of Brazil and Portugal in terms of their historical development and analyze specific texts from different genres and literary periods. Students interested in Portuguese should consult the Portuguese language advisor.

Portuguese as a second language would open multiple job opportunities in various countries with expanding economies and a promising future. It would also provide a vehicle to the rich cultural traditions of Portugal and Brazil, including literature, art, and music.

Department Programs

Majors

• Romance Languages Major, B.A. – French and Francophone Studies (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/romance-languages-major-ba-french-francophone-studies)
• Romance Languages Major, B.A. – Italian (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/romance-languages-major-ba-italian)
• Romance Languages Major, B.A. – Portuguese (p. 1)
• Romance Languages Major, B.A. – Hispanic Literatures and Cultures (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/romance-languages-major-ba-hispanic-literatures-cultures)
• Romance Languages Major, B.A. – Hispanic Linguistics (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/romance-languages-major-ba-hispanic-linguistics)

Minors

• French Minor (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/french-minor)
• Italian Minor (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/italian-minor)
• Portuguese Minor (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/portuguese-minor)
• Hispanic Studies Minor (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/hispanic-studies-minor)
• Spanish Minor for the Professions (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/spanish-professions-minor)

Graduate Programs

• M.A. in Romance Languages and Literatures (http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/romance-studies)
• Ph.D. in Romance Languages and Literatures (http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/romance-studies)

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will acquire competence in the practice and analysis of Romance languages together with a critical knowledge of the written, oral, and visual traditions of their origin and diaspora. Our faculty promotes interdisciplinary connections and incorporates the study of literature, culture, theory, and history across the curriculum. Through coursework that emphasizes language acquisition, rhetoric, composition, and written and oral expression, our majors receive sustained personalized training in critical thinking and close reading. Upon completion of the program in Romance languages, students should be able to:

• Participate in conversations on concrete, social, academic, and professional topics
• Speak in detail about experiences and events in a variety of time frames and moods
• Represent points of view in discussions, both oral and written
• Deliver well-organized presentations on concrete, academic and professional topics
• Write on a wide variety of general interest, professional, and academic topics
• Follow narrative, informational, and descriptive speech on concrete, academic and professional topics
• Understand and discuss texts representing a variety of topics and genres

Requirements

In addition to the program requirements listed below, students must

• attain a final cumulative GPA of at least 2.0
• complete a minimum of 45 academic credit hours earned from UNC–Chapel Hill courses
• take at least half of their major course requirements (courses and credit hours) at UNC–Chapel Hill
• earn a minimum of 18 hours of C or better in the major core requirements (some majors require 21 hours).

For more information, please consult the degree requirements section of the catalog (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/general-education-curriculum-degree-requirements/#degreerequirementstext).

Core Requirements

Eight courses chosen from among the following: 24

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tr>
<td>PORT 310</td>
<td>Intensive Oral Communication in Portuguese</td>
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<tr>
<td>PORT 323</td>
<td>Cultures of Brazil, Portugal, and Portuguese Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>PORT 382</td>
<td>Women Writers: Brazil and Beyond</td>
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</table>
PORT 385  Lusophone Africa in Literature: Discovery to the Present
PORT 388  Portuguese, Brazilian, and African Identity in Film
PORT 396  Independent Study in Portuguese
PORT 398  Undergraduate Seminar in Portuguese
PORT 420  Portuguese Language and Culture for the Professions
PORT 501  Survey of Portuguese Literature I
PORT 526  History of the Portuguese Language
PORT 535  Brazilian Drama
PORT 540  Cultural Topics from the Lusophone World

Total Hours 24

With the approval of the undergraduate advisor for Portuguese, students majoring in Romance languages with an emphasis in Portuguese may count up to nine hours in related areas in such departments, programs, and curricula as history, art, music, cultural studies, and women’s and gender studies.

Because few entering students have completed coursework in Portuguese prior to enrolling in the University, it is essential that interested students start the language as early as the first year. Completion of PORT 204 is considered a prerequisite for the major.

Special Opportunities in Romance Studies

Honors

The departmental honors program is open to any qualified major with a cumulative grade point average of 3.3 or higher and 3.5 or higher in their major courses. Eligible honors candidates will formulate a topic and select an appropriate faculty member to supervise the writing of an honors thesis. Specific coursework for the major with honors consists of enrollment in the honors thesis courses in the language of the major emphasis.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FREN 691H</td>
<td>Honors Thesis in French and Honors Thesis in French</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>&amp; FREN 692H</td>
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<tr>
<td>ITAL 691H</td>
<td>Honors Thesis and Honors Thesis in Italian</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>&amp; ITAL 692H</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PORT 691H</td>
<td>Honors Thesis and Honors Thesis in Portuguese</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>&amp; PORT 692H</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPAN 691H</td>
<td>Honors Thesis and Honors Thesis in Spanish</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>&amp; SPAN 692H</td>
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</table>

691H is taken in the fall semester of the senior year and 692H is taken in the spring semester. FREN, ITAL, PORT, SPAN 398 Undergraduate Seminar may be substituted for the research course if the subject of the seminar is central to the research project chosen. In the 692H course the thesis will be completed and the student examined by the supervisor and two additional faculty members, to be agreed upon by the student and supervisor. The director of honors, in consultation with the examiners, will recommend that the student who has defended the thesis graduate with honors, highest honors, or with course credit. Courses numbered 691H or 398 may count toward the eight courses for the major, but 692H may not. Students who intend to graduate in December should adjust the scheduling of these courses in order to allow for completion of the honors project in December. Students meeting the required grade point averages should contact the undergraduate advisor for their language.

For detailed information on the B.A. with honors, visit the department’s Web site (http://romancestudies.unc.edu/undergraduate/overview).

Out-of-Class Language Experience

Students may enrich their cultural and language experience by applying to the Spanish House, a section of Craige North residence hall. Equipped with a lounge and a kitchen, the house has space for eight male and 16 female students. Students make an effort to speak only Spanish while in residence.

The department offers credit-bearing service-learning opportunities (http://ccps.unc.edu/apples) through SPAN 293. This course satisfies the experiential education (EE) General Education requirement and is always connected to a specific course.

Students also find opportunities to speak Spanish and meet native Spanish speakers in an informal weekly Tertulia. Additional activities such as lectures, receptions, and films are organized by the department and student organizations such as CHispA (Carolina Hispanic Association). Numerous volunteer opportunities using Spanish are available in the local community through CHispA, Campus Y, UNC Hospitals, and other organizations.

For further opportunities to speak French, students are encouraged to participate in the weekly meeting of the Table Française and become members of the French club, les Francophiles. Departmental lectures and film series are also offered.

Students wishing to speak Italian may participate in a weekly conversation table, La Tavola Italiana. They may also attend departmental lectures and film series and participate in the Italian Literary Contest.

Students who wish to practice Portuguese can meet weekly for the “bate-papo” (chat).

Study Abroad

The Study Abroad Office sponsors many year-long, semester-long, and summer programs appropriate for students of the Romance languages and has special arrangements with the Department of Romance Studies for the UNC in Montpellier, UNC in Seville, and Florence programs. Students from UNC–Chapel Hill and from other institutions may earn up to 30 semester hours of undergraduate credit in these programs, which are open to qualified undergraduates regardless of academic major. Students may satisfy up to 50 percent of their major or minor coursework abroad.

General inquiries concerning any of these programs should be addressed to the Study Abroad Office, CB# 3130, FedEx Global Education Center, (919) 962-7002.

Undergraduate Awards

French

Students have the opportunity to be inducted into Pi Delta Phi, the national French honor society. Those with outstanding records in French are recommended as candidates for the Jacques Hardré Award, which is given to the best graduating senior in French; it includes a cash award.

Italian

Students are nominated for membership in Gamma Kappa Alpha, the Italian honor society, by undergraduate instructors. The society recognizes “outstanding scholastic performance in the fields of Italian language and literature” and encourages students “to acquire a greater
interest in, and a deeper understanding of, Italian culture.” The Kimberly Kyser Award for Excellence in Italian is awarded to the most outstanding student in Italian and includes a cash prize.

**Portuguese**
Each year the department awards the Camões Prize to the outstanding student in Portuguese during that year. The prize carries a monetary award made possible by a donation from the Gulbenkian Foundation.

**Spanish**
Students have the opportunity to be inducted into Sigma Delta Pi, the national Spanish honor society. Those with outstanding records in Spanish are recommended as candidates for the Stoudemire Award, which is given to the best graduating senior in Spanish and includes a cash prize. The Thomas Henry Wilson, Sr. Award provides an undergraduate with a major or minor in Spanish support to conduct research during the summer in a Spanish-speaking country.