

Guidelines for the M.A. Candidate in Portuguese

Department of Spanish and Portuguese

The course of studies leading to the Master of Arts degree in Portuguese in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is a flexible one designed to introduce the candidate to Portuguese and Brazilian literatures, literary criticism, and linguistics. The program is for students who terminate their academic career at the M.A. as well as for those who decide to pursue the Ph.D. Its general, non-specialized approach is beneficial to both types. To the M.A. student it affords the breadth of knowledge required for teaching Portuguese in secondary schools and community and junior colleges. To the potential doctoral candidate, it provides the general foundation necessary for subsequent specialization. The Master's program offers a panorama of selected works, a general view of literary and linguistic currents, and an introduction to literary and linguistic research.

I. Admission and Advising

1. Applicants with a B.A. in Portuguese or Spanish must have an undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, and a GPA in Portuguese or Spanish courses of at least 3.25. Exceptions to these requirements may be made by the Admissions Committee.
2. During the registration period, the student will be asked to supply supplementary information regarding courses taken previously, experience abroad, scope of readings in Portuguese and Brazilian literatures, and preparation in linguistics.
3. All candidates will take an examination for written proficiency. An unsatisfactory performance, as determined by the examiners, on the written examination will require the student to take Portuguese 311 (Fourth-Year Composition and Conversation). Any student who receives a grade of less than A in Portuguese 311 will be required to take Portuguese 312. Candidates who are not native speakers of Portuguese will take an examination for oral proficiency. Any student achieving a grade-point average of less than 3.0 in the first semester in residence will be placed on probation. If after the second semester of studies the cumulative grade-point average is not 3.0, the student is not eligible to continue in the program.
4. Each candidate will confer with the general adviser. The student and the adviser will plan a program that takes into account the candidate's interests, strengths and deficiencies. If, for example, the student has a strong undergraduate background in a particular period of literature, the adviser will not recommend further exposure to the same field. Likewise, a student with extensive experience abroad and/or undergraduate preparation in composition or conversation may not need further study in these areas.

5. Candidates who expect to go on to the Doctorate are urged to acquire the basic reading knowledge of a second foreign language before taking the M.A. examination. It should be another Romance Language, Latin, or German. Other languages may be considered, with the approval of the department.

II. Course Requirements

The M.A. course work in Portuguese consists of a minimum of 31 credits. Related course work in another department of the University of Wisconsin-Madison can be counted toward the minimum 31-credit requirement if it has been approved by the Chair in consultation with the departmental Committee.

The Master's Degree program in Portuguese in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese is based on a series of core courses designed to give the student a broad knowledge of Portuguese, Brazilian and Lusophone African literary currents. Specific course requirements are as follows:

1. A one-credit proseminar (Port 707) must be taken by beginning graduate students during the fall semester of their first year. The proseminar emphasizes research methods, bibliography, special problems in dealing with the literature of the various historical periods, the theory and practice of literary criticism, etc.
2. Fifteen credits, in the form of 5 three-credit core courses. The following are core courses, designed especially for beginning graduate students:

Port 411: Portuguese Literature from 1140 to 1825; Port 412: Brazilian Literature from 1500 to 1890; Port 467: Portuguese Literature since 1825; Port 468: Brazilian Literature since 1890; Port 451: Lusophone African Literature; Port 361: Portuguese Civilization; Port 362: Brazilian Civilization; Port 330: History of the Portuguese Language

3. Fifteen credits of electives are required. Six of these elective credits must be taken as seminars. Port 899 (Directed Study) may only satisfy elective credits. Students are strongly advised not to take a seminar in an area in which they have no previous preparation. Exceptions by consent of instructor.
4. All graduate students who are candidates for an M.A. degree in this department must take a minimum of two graduate-level courses in Spanish and/or Portuguese for credit each semester, exclusive of Independent Reading courses and audited courses. A student who is not in compliance with this requirement is not making good progress toward the degree, and will therefore be deemed not in good academic standing. Advisers should be aware that only the Departmental Committee, on the favorable recommendation of the Graduate Studies Committee, may grant exemptions.

III. Reading List

The M.A. Reading List will constitute a basic corpus of primary works to be viewed as an integral part of the M.A. course work. The five curriculum areas are constituted in the following fashion:

- a. Portuguese Literature from its origins to Eça de Queirós
- b. Portuguese Literature of the 20th and 21st centuries
- c. Brazilian Literature to 1900
- d. Brazilian Literature from 1900
- e. African Literature in Portuguese

IV. M.A./Ph.D. Qualifying Examination

1. The M.A.-Ph.D. Qualifying Examination covers the five curriculum areas, of which the candidate must take four. The student is required to have taken a course (i.e., not necessarily a survey course) in the fifth area. Each of the four areas is tested by a 1.5-hour exam, consisting of some combination of the following: short questions (definitions, terminology, key concepts, etc.), specific questions on key works and/or general essay questions (dealing with textual analysis, literary history, contrastive studies, etc.). These examinations are scheduled for the third weeks of November and April. They will be given in 4 segments over 7 days: Tuesday, two areas; Thursday, two areas; Saturday, two areas; the following Tuesday, two areas. The student must indicate in writing to the Chair of the Examination Committee at least one week prior to the final examination which of the five areas he/she wishes to omit from the Portuguese M.A.-Ph.D. Qualifying Examination. At least one part of each area of the M.A.-Ph.D. Qualifying Examination must be written in Portuguese.
2. Each area of the M.A.-Ph.D. Qualifying Examination has three possible grades:
 - a. Pass with recommendation: M.A. granted and candidate admitted to doctoral program.
 - b. Pass: M.A. granted but the candidate is not admitted to the doctoral program.
 - c. Fail: The candidate is deemed to be admitted to the doctoral program if a minimum of two passes with recommendation are obtained, with no failures. The M.A. may be granted if there is only one failure.

The candidate is deemed to have passed the Qualifier and is admitted to the doctoral program if there are at least two grades of Pass with Recommendation and no Fails the first time the examination is taken. Exam results which include three or four Passes with Recommendation and no fails are designated Outstanding.

3. M.A.-Ph.D. Qualifying Process: In the event a student does not meet the requirements set forth in the M.A. Guidelines document with respect to the Ph.D. Qualifying process,

there will be a thorough discussion and subsequent ratification of the case by the Departmental Committee. If the candidate has no fails on any section of the exam and two professors are willing to defend the candidate and state that they support his/her entrance into the Ph.D. program, either professor being willing to direct his/her dissertation, the candidate shall be admitted into the Departments doctoral program. If the candidate has two high passes but fails in a maximum of one area, and is supported by two faculty members, that candidate will be admitted into the Ph.D. program on probation and must repeat and pass the failed area of the exam within one semester. In either case, the student will complete his/her dissertation under the supervision of one of the two professors who defended the candidate at the Departmental meeting. The student should be aware of the possibility that the two professors may work in different fields. Any student who is not admitted to the Ph.D. program through successful completion of the exam or through either of the above-mentioned processes will not be eligible for admission to the Ph.D.

4. Any student who does not pass the M.A. examination will be allowed to retake only those areas in which he/she failed as long as he/she received only two fails and he/she takes both area examinations in the next scheduled M.A. examination (i.e. November for failed April exam; April for failed November exam). In order to complete the M.A. successfully, he/she must pass both areas; those who fail three or more areas must retake the whole M.A. examination at the next scheduled time and must pass all areas in order to receive the M.A. degree. No candidate will be permitted to take any areas of the M.A. exam for a third time. Admission to the Ph.D. program will be considered by the Department on the basis of the first examination only. Students on academic probation will not be allowed to take the M.A.-Ph.D. Qualifying Examination.

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These are some general guidelines about what is expected for a Pass and a High Pass on the MA exams:

For a Pass on the MA exam we look for evidence that the candidate has read the material on the list in that field and that the information can be given in a manner that is well-organized and clearly presented. The answer should be formally correct in its representation, and include pertinent data, define terms, and respond to the question asked. The response should be analytical rather than summarize plot (in literature) and show that the candidate can do more than repeat memorized facts in every area. In Linguistics, the existence of clear lacunae in the description of the major historical processes or synchronic analysis of the language is an indication that the coverage of the material is not sufficient.

For a High Pass (a.k.a. Pass with Recommendation), we look particularly, but not exclusively, at the longer sections because it is there that the candidates can offer insights and demonstrate more clearly how the data or problem may be approached from an analytical perspective. In general, we

consider the student's ability to develop a persuasive argument and evidence of some original thought. Candidates also might show the ability to exemplify theoretical statements while demonstrating their familiarity with pertinent data. Linguists expect to see that diachronic synchronic analysis is not just a series of piecemeal phenomena, but that there exists some relationship between processes studied, and that the candidate's analytic talent is of Ph.D. caliber.

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