**New Graduate Program (Majors, Sequences, Certificates) Proposal  
Illinois State University - Graduate Curriculum Committee**

**Program Department**   Anthropology

**Submission Date**  Friday, February 28, 2025

**Initiator**   Natalie Schaad

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**Initiator Department**   Anthropology

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**Version**   2   **ID**   243

**Title of New Program**   Graduate Certificate in Latin American and Latino Studies

**Proposed Starting Catalog Year**   2026-2027

**1.**

**Proposed Action**

New Major

New Sequence

✓

New Certificate

More than 50% of courses in this program are Distance Education

**2.**

**Provide *Graduate Catalog* copy for new program.**

**Graduate Certificate in Latin American and Latino Studies**

**12 Hours Required:**

**Required Course: 3 units:**

Soc 468 (Chicana and Latina Feminisms)

**Electives: 9 units from any of the following classes:**

\*A student can count 6 hours (two courses) from home program.

ANT 452, ANT 403, ANT 496, ANT 402

ANT 400, ANT 498

SPA 411, SPA 426, SPA 427, SPA 431, SPA 434, SPA 436, SPA 482

(Students not enrolled in the Spanish MA must provide evidence of sufficient language proficiency to succeed in courses taught in Spanish.)

SPA 400 - Independent Study in Spanish (with Latin American or Latino Studies Topic)

LAN 405, LAN 490\* (with permission when topic covers Latin American/Latino literatures/cultures)

**3.**

**Provide a description for the proposed program.**

The graduate certificate we are proposing offers rigorous training in the field of Latin American and Latino Studies by exposing students to the vast and important research done at the intersection of Latin American and Latino studies. As Latina/os have become a central category of analysis across many fields (in literature there is a growing body of US Latino writers and in sociology there is the sociology of Latinos), this graduate certificate strengthens students’ formal credentials and offers a versatile area of specialization.

**4.**

**Provide a rationale of proposed program.**

**Rationale**

The July 2024 report of the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) offers demographic projections that matter for educators across the state. Currently, the Latino population is one of the least represented in higher education. Further, they anticipate a demographic decline in the proportion of White and African American student population while the Latino populations is projected to grow by 60% by 2050 (ACE 2022).

What are the implications of this growth for educational institutions? The implications are many and at many levels. At the broadest level it means that research about Latino populations will be needed to shed light on the processes of educational attainment and community building to name a few. At our institutional level, it means that we will confront demographic shifts and an influx of students who previously did not have access to such resource rich high schools, AP courses, and teachers from their own demographic. The certificate we are proposing will help with the recruitment of this population of current and potential students as they move into spaces previously inaccessible to them. Further, we know that many of our undergraduate Latino students stay at ISU to pursue graduate education.

As we prepare college students to become the workforce of the future, programs like ISU’s Latin American and Latino Studies (LALS) have played and will continue to play a significant role in the educational journeys of all Illinoisans. Currently, we are the third largest minor in the university, with an enrollment of 59 students at the undergraduate level. We have achieved that status by offering students the opportunity to minor in a field that builds on their existing knowledges and engages with cultural diversity. Most of our students are enrolled in programs in the College of Arts and Sciences, many majoring in the social sciences (Sociology and Anthropology, Political Science and other related fields) and the humanities (Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, and History).

We know the student interest in the College of Education and College of Business is growing.

At the graduate level, we have always had students who have studied the US Latino communities or social problems and conditions in Latin America and the Caribbean, yet to date we have not offered a concentration in this field of expertise. We now have a rather robust number of classes and faculty that focus on U.S. Latinos and Latin American and Caribbean populations. The strong programming and faculty areas of research in our program offer graduate students the opportunity to pursue similar interests and work more closely with faculty. Appendix A includes current student graduate student testimonios of their interest in the certificate.

This proposal seeks to bring together a diverse group of classes to offer graduate students the opportunity to study and do research in Latin American and Latino Studies. It provides both a rationale and a description of the financial implications of a Graduate Level Certificate program affiliated with two existing graduate programs; the MS in Anthropology and the MA in Spanish.

The proposed graduate certificate in Latin American and Latino Studies will not require additional budgetary allocations or staffing changes within the Departments of Sociology and Anthropology or Languages, Literatures and Cultures. The courses comprising the certificate have been part of the graduate catalogs of these departments for several years and are currently taught by existing tenure-line graduate faculty. By leveraging existing resources and expertise, the university can offer a valuable interdisciplinary program without incurring additional financial burdens. Moreover, as other graduate programs develop curricula in Latin American and Latino Studies, they can contribute courses to the certificate, further enhancing its breadth and depth without necessitating additional departmental resources.

Are there other universities in the State of Illinois that have offered a graduate certificate or graduate minors in the field? Indeed, there are several. The table below describes three educational institutions with programs like the one we are proposing.

**5.**

**Describe the expected effects of the proposed program on existing campus programs (if applicable).**

This program will incorporate courses that are already being offered within the graduate programs at ISU, so there in no anticipated additional resource drain. The only expectation would be that it will encourage interdisciplinary registration, which will serve to benefit low enrolled graduate level courses.

**6.**

**Describe the expected curricular changes required, including new courses. If proposals for new courses that will be or have been submitted, please reference those related proposals here:**

There are no anticipated curricular changes at this time.

**7.**

**Anticipated funding needs and source of funds.**

No additional funding will be needed to support this graduate certificate option.

**8.**

**No**

**Does this program count for teacher education?**

**9.**

**The following questions must be answered.**

**Yes**

Have letter(s) of concurrence from affected departments/schools been obtained?  
*A departments/school is affected if it has a program with significant overlap or if it teaches a required or elective course in the program.*

*If new window does not appear after clicking the View Support button,  
please disable the "pop-up blocker" feature of your internet browser.*

**Financial Implications Form**

*If new window does not appear after clicking the View Financial Implications button,  
please disable the "pop-up blocker" feature of your internet browser.*

**10.**

**Routing and action summary for New Graduate Program:**

[**Proposal Routing**](https://registrarforms.illinoisstate.edu/CurriculumForms/Support/Routing.aspx)

**1. Anthropology Department Curriculum Committee Chair**

*Livia Stone (website)*

Livia Stone

1/17/2025 2:11:48 PM

Signature

Print

Date

**2. Anthropology Department Chair/School Director**

*Joan Brehm (website)*

Joan Brehm

1/17/2025 4:30:12 PM

Signature

Print

Date

**3. College of Arts & Science College Curriculum Committee Chair**

*Todd Stewart (website)*

Todd Stewart

3/3/2025 3:06:42 PM

Signature

Print

Date

**4. College of Arts & Science College Dean**

*Rocio Rivadeneyra (website)*

Rocio Rivadeneyra

3/4/2025 10:08:07 AM

Signature

Print

Date

**5. Graduate Curriculum Committee Chair**

*Elizabeth Thompson (website)*

Elizabeth Thompson

3/26/2025 3:54:15 PM

Signature

Print

Date

**6. Director of Graduate School**

*Stephen Weiser (website)*

Stephen Weiser

3/28/2025 2:09:34 PM

Signature

Print

Date

All new graduate programs (majors, sequences, certificates) are routed by the G.C.C. to the Academic Senate

**Comments**

**Comments from Version 1 from Todd Stewart ( College Curriculum Committee Chair):**  
Hi. We voted to approve this proposal pending some updates. So, while I'm hitting the revise button now to allow changes in the system, I am empowered to approve a suitably updated proposal without seeking another vote. The issues we identified are:  
  
(1) We need letters of concurrence/non-objection from both LAN and POL saying that they do not object to their classes being included in this certificate. An email from the Chairs of these departments saying something like this would be fine, added as a supporting document (although: I think the system still only accepts a single supporting document, so you might have to put these emails into a single file).  
  
(2) Add the title of the title of the certificate (Graduate Certificate in Latin American and Latino Studies) at the start of the catalog copy.  
  
(3) In the header, the title of the certificate is slightly wrong. You have: Graduate Certificate in the Latin American and Latino Studie... (the final 's' is chopped due to a length restriction, we think). But delete "the" and then you should be able to spell "Studies" in full.  
  
THanks, Todd Stewart, Chair, CAS CC