Graduating with Honors

Departmental honors are awarded in recognition of exceptional performance in the major. For Latin American & Caribbean Studies majors, the following requirements must be met for departmental honors:

- An overall grade point average of at least 3.25 (including work outside of KU) and a grade point average of at least 3.5 in the major.
- Completion of a study abroad or service-learning experience related to Latin American & Caribbean Studies
- Study of a second foreign language relevant to the region. For honors students must attain competency equivalent to the fourth-semester level in a European language or the second-semester level in an indigenous language.

If you are interested in graduating with honors you will need to consult with the Undergraduate Advisor to declare your intention and complete a form declaring your intent.

Indigenous Languages

The Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies offers the opportunity to study Kaqchikel Maya, which is spoken in Guatemala, and Quichua (Runa Ximi) which is spoken in Ecuador. Haitian Creole, a French-based Creole language spoken in Haiti and other islands in the Caribbean, is also available, as is Miskitu, a language spoken on the Atlantic Coast of Central America. KU is the only university in the state that offers these languages.

Students on the summer 2012 Language & Culture in Nicaragua Program proudly display their KU gear in front of the Laguna de Apoyo in Masaya, Nicaragua.
Bachelor of Arts in Latin American & Caribbean Studies

A Bachelor of Arts in Latin American & Caribbean Studies can open up a world of opportunities. If you are curious about the southern neighbors of the United States and value cultural diversity and flexibility, this major is for you. The Undergraduate program provides a broad background on the languages, geography, history, politics, societies and cultures of Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. Most majors study abroad in the region, and such experience is encouraged. The Latin American & Caribbean Studies degree is perfect for students wishing to work in international business, nongovernmental organizations, government service, history, anthropology, geography and a variety of other academic disciplines. Many students go on to pursue advanced degrees in academic fields, law, business, social work, and education. Please write (latamst@ku.edu) or call the Center (785-864-4213) with any additional questions.

How do I get into the program?

Once you’re enrolled in the College of Liberal Arts, you can take courses in Latin American & Caribbean Area Studies. You become a major when you fill out a major declaration form in the program office. Contact the program early for advising, particularly if you plan to double major. Students who double major are advised each semester in both departments.

Major Requirements:

Students interested in a major in Latin American & Caribbean Studies must:

• Fill out a major declaration form with the Undergraduate Advisor.
• Take 4 semesters of foreign language relevant to the region (Spanish, Portuguese, Quichua, Kaqchikel Maya or Haitian Creole).
• Complete 9 credits of LAA core classes (LAA 100, 300, 450).
• Complete 12 credits in courses approved for the Culture, Literature and the Arts area (300 level or higher).
• Complete 12 credits in courses approved for the Society, Politics and Economics area (300 level or higher).

Minor Requirements:

Students interested in a minor in Latin American & Caribbean Studies must:

• Fill out a minor declaration form with the Undergraduate Advisor.
• Complete 6 credits of LAA core classes (LAA 100 & 332).
• 12 credits in courses approved for the Latin American & Caribbean Studies major (300 level or higher).
• Only one of the four courses for the minor may also count toward the student’s major.

Undergraduate Advising

Current and prospective Latin American & Caribbean Studies majors and minors should see the undergraduate advisor to plan their course of study and research funding and study abroad opportunities.

Peter Haney, Assistant Director & Undergraduate Advisor

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