



SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY
THE AMERICAN JESUIT UNIVERSITY IN SPAIN

Madrid

LANGUAGES & LITERATURE DIVISION

M.A. in Spanish Program

WRITTEN AND ORAL EXAMINATION PROCEDURES

1. Students who are at the examination stage (during or after their final semester of course work) should enroll in SPAN-595-M01 *Special Study for Exams*.
2. Early in the semester (check the Calendar of Deadlines at <http://www.slu.edu/graduate/>) submit the Application for Degree and Exit Questionnaire forms. You will then be sent the Candidacy Form.
3. In consultation with a graduate student advisor, students should set up their exam committees (for both the written and oral exams) several months prior to the examinations. Exam committees consist of three (3) faculty members.
4. A student's Written Exam Committee does not have to be the same as his /her Oral Exam committee.

WRITTEN EXAM PROCEDURES

Committee:

The committee will meet a few days before the examination in order to discuss the questions to be presented to the student.

Content:

The subject matter of the exam comes from the reading list. For the basic reading list, the exam committee submits 2 questions from each area, Spanish Literature, Latin American Literature, and Linguistics/Methodology, and the student must choose ONE question from EACH area. For the specialty list, from the genre chosen by the student (poetry, prose or drama), the exam committee submits 2 questions from each area, Spanish Literature and Latin American Literature, and the student must choose 1 question from each area. A copy of the current reading list may be obtained from the Spanish Graduate Program Director.

Note: The MA Written examines the student's knowledge of the style and themes of a particular poet. The student is free to use any examples (poems) he/she chooses to demonstrate his/her knowledge of the poet's work. Guidelines for written examination question types are available [here](#).

<http://spain.slu.edu>

Scheduling:

Exams are typically scheduled during the last week of classes. One day is assigned to the general list and the next day to the specific area list. The student will have 4 hours each day to answer the exam.

Grading:

After the student has completed the written exam, the committee members will read the student's work, and complete an evaluation form. In addition to commenting on his or her view of the examination, each committee member will assign one of three grades: Excellent, Pass, or Fail. The student must have two passing votes in order to be eligible to take the MA Orals and receive the M.A. Degree.

Once the written examination has been completed and a passing grade has been assigned, the Spanish Graduate Program Director will meet with the student in order to determine a date for the Oral Examination. No date will be determined until the Written Examination has been passed.

MA WRITTEN EXAM RETAKE POLICY

5. If a student fails to pass the exam in its entirety, he/she will have ONE chance to retake the exam within a reasonable period of time. The graduate committee with the advice of the examining committee will determine the appropriate wait period for the student to retake the exam. The recommended time is usually one school term.
6. If AT THE RETAKE the student fails to pass a portion of the exam, he / she will have the opportunity to retake that section ONE more time within a reasonable period of time. The graduate committee with the advice of the examining committee will determine the appropriate wait period for the student to retake that portion of the exam. The recommended time is usually one school term.
- 7.
8. If a student fails to pass a portion of the exam the first time he / she takes it, the student will have TWO opportunities to retake that portion. On each occasion, the graduate committee with the advice of the examining committee will determine the appropriate wait period for the student to retake that portion of the exam. The recommended time is usually one school term.

ORAL EXAM PROCEDURES

The oral exam is one of the requirements necessary for completion of a Master's Degree in Spanish at Saint Louis University.

Duration:

The oral exam is approximately one hour long or may last as long as necessary in order for the committee members to fully evaluate the student to his or her satisfaction. The oral examination will not be scheduled until the student presents a written examination.

Committee:

The committee will meet a few days before the examination in order to discuss the questions to be presented to the student.

Content:

The subject matter of the oral examination is the courses that the student has taken. Each committee member is free to develop the questions he or she deems appropriate for the subject matter studied throughout the student's graduate career.

Grading:

After the student has completed the oral exam, the committee members will evaluate the student's performance immediately. The student must receive two passing votes in the oral examination in order to receive the M.A. Degree.

Throughout the examination, students should be able to demonstrate:

- Familiarity with the different literary movements that have influenced or made an impact on the literary production in Spanish throughout its history, including most recent trends.
- Familiarity with the different international pedagogical trends that have influenced or made an impact on the development of language learning and language teaching theories.
- Ability to make comparisons and contrasts between these different trends/movements and give appropriate examples to support her/his opinion.
- Familiarity with the major contributors to such trends or movements, cite examples of their work and comment on their contribution.
- Ability to make conclusions, give knowledgeable appreciations on an author's work or contribution.
- Familiarity with the critical and academic terminology used to talk about literature, pedagogy, linguistics, culture and civilization.
- Familiarity with current literary issues and research on the different literary periods and pedagogical movements.
- Ability to transfer knowledge from one field to another, to apply theory to practice, to draw a chronological mental line of changes and developments in the field of literature and language teaching.
- Ability to anticipate, make predictions, hypotheses, about the future of a pedagogical trend or movement.

MA ORAL EXAM RETAKE POLICY

If a student fails to obtain a passing grade from two or all members of the committee, said student will have ONE opportunity to retake the test within a reasonable period of time. The graduate committee with the advice of the Oral examining committee will determine the appropriate wait period for the student to retake the exam. The recommended time is usually one school term.