

**UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO  
LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM  
STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENTS**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

The University of New Mexico requires all academic programs to design learning outcomes that provide an intellectual guideline for what students should ultimately gain from their degree program. To help academic programs determine whether or not students are effectively mastering material and achieving the learning goals that have been designed, programs utilize assessment tools to evaluate student performance. Below is information on Latin American Studies program Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) and Assessment for undergraduate and graduate students.

**UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**

The Latin American Studies (LAS) program is designed to provide students with a broad yet solid interdisciplinary foundation. Undergraduate students complete at least two semesters of 300-level Spanish or Portuguese, with supplementary skills in a second language [Spanish, Portuguese, or Latin American indigenous language). All undergraduate LAS majors select one of six interdisciplinary Areas of Specialization:

- Arts, Literature, & Cultural Studies
- Conflict, Peace, & Rights
- Environmental governance and resilience
- History & Society
- Indigeneity in the Americas
- Markets & Development

**Program Goal 1:** Students will develop broad knowledge of historical, cultural, and societal processes in Latin America.

**SLO 1.1:** Students will demonstrate a broad understanding of Latin American history.

**SLO 1.2:** Students will demonstrate a broad understanding of Latin American culture and society.

**Program Goal 2:** Students will demonstrate their ability to analyze and evaluate perspectives on Latin American processes from an interdisciplinary perspective.

**SLO 2.1:** Students will construct their own research questions.

**SLO 2.2:** Students will identify appropriate primary and secondary sources for addressing their research questions.

**Program Goal 3:** Students will communicate ideas and concepts clearly and effectively in both written documents and oral presentations.

**SLO 3.1:** Students will present their research in clearly-written analytical arguments.

**SLO 3.2:** Students will support their research with appropriate documentation and citation style.

**SLO 3.3:** Students will orally present their research in English, Spanish or Portuguese, in a clear manner, using appropriate vocabulary and grammatical structures.

**UNDERGRADUATE ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

All LAS majors are assessed on these SLOs in the required LTAM 360: Latin American Culture & Society course, which students generally take in their third or final year.

## **GRADUATE STUDENTS**

The Latin American Studies (LAS) program is designed to provide MA students with a broad yet solid interdisciplinary foundation. The MA in Latin American Studies is designed to prepare students for careers in government service, teaching, scholarship, business, travel, and tourism, and inter-American and/or non-governmental organizations. In addition, the program complements graduate work in a student's chosen professional field (LAS holds four formalized dual degree programs with: the School of Architecture + Planning, the School of Law, the College of Public Health, and the Robert O. Anderson Schools of Management) and provides graduate training in preparation for the pursuit of a disciplinary or interdisciplinary PhD. All graduate students select one of six interdisciplinary concentrations:

- Arts, Literature, & Cultural Studies
- Conflict, Peace, & Rights
- Environmental governance and resilience
- History & Society
- Indigeneity in the Americas
- Markets & Development

**Program Goal 1:** Students will build expert knowledge of historical, cultural, and/or societal processes in Latin America within their interdisciplinary area of specialization.

**SLO 1.1:** Students will clearly articulate knowledge within their interdisciplinary area of specialization, tying phenomena in this area to broader processes in Latin American history, society, and culture.

**Program Goal 2:** Students will demonstrate their knowledge of key academic theories and concepts in their area of specialization and be able to identify remaining knowledge gaps.

**SLO 2.1:** Students will identify academic theories and concepts and analyze connections and disjunctures between them.

**SLO 2.2:** Students will situate their arguments and/or research questions within appropriate academic literatures.

**Program Goal 3:** Students will utilize appropriate research methodologies to address their research questions, in alignment with disciplinary standards from their area of specialization.

**SLO 3.1:** Students will accurately implement research method(s) utilizing appropriate primary and secondary sources of information to address their questions.

**Program Goal 4:** Students will develop written and oral communication skills to meet disciplinary standards within academic and/or other professional settings.

**SLO 4.1:** Students will present their research in writing with compelling, coherent analytical arguments, supported by appropriate sources and citation style.

**SLO 4.2:** Students will orally present their research in English, Spanish or Portuguese, in a clear and compelling manner, using appropriate vocabulary, and complex grammatical structures.

**SLO 4.3:** Students will present intellectual and creative contributions at local colloquia, professional conferences, digital media, community groups, performance art venues, or in peer reviewed regional, or national journals.

## **MA ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

All MA students are assessed on their final projects in the program. There are two routes for completing MA degree requirements:

**Plan I:** Students complete course work, a master's thesis, and oral defense of the thesis. Students also must upload manuscripts into UNM's Digital Repository.

**Plan II:** Students complete course work and satisfactory performance on either a comprehensive examination, professional paper, or other professional project in their chosen concentration.