LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES, BA

Banner Code: LA-BA-LAS

Email: las@gmu.edu
Website: las.gmu.edu/programs/LA-BA-LAS

The BA in Latin American studies looks at contemporary Latin America and its progress through a long and turbulent history of conquest, resistance, and cultural mixing. The result is a rich and unique blend of African, indigenous, and European cultures. Majors develop a broad expertise in the region while also pursuing an individualized program of study that suits their interests. Students improve their language skills and take courses in many disciplines, including anthropology, dance, economics, folklore, geography, government, history, and literature. All students have opportunities for research, global engagement, public service, and career preparation.

Admissions & Policies

Policies

Students pursuing this degree must complete 33 credits within the major, with a minimum GPA of 2.00.

For policies governing all undergraduate degrees, see AP.5 Undergraduate Policies.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: minimum 120

Students should be aware of the specific policies associated with this program, located on the Admissions & Policies tab.

Core Courses in the Major

Required Introductory Course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LAS 300</td>
<td>Latin American Studies: Interdisciplinary</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Perspectives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits

Required Courses in History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIST 271</td>
<td>Survey of Latin American History (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 272</td>
<td>Survey of Latin American History (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits

Social Science Courses Related to Latin America

Select two courses from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 302</td>
<td>Peoples and Cultures of Latin America (Mason Core)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 361</td>
<td>Economic Development of Latin America (Mason Core)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GGS 316</td>
<td>Geography of Latin America</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits

Humanities Course Related to Latin America

Select one course from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 315</td>
<td>Folklore and Folklife</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 322</td>
<td>Introduction to Latin American Culture (Mason Core)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPAN 325</td>
<td>Major Hispanic Writers (Mason Core)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits

Seminar Course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LAS 499</td>
<td>Research Seminar in Latin American Studies (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits

Language Requirement

All Latin American studies majors must demonstrate reading, speaking, or writing knowledge of Spanish or Portuguese by exam or achieving a minimum grade of 2.00 in a 300-level course in the language selected. Upper-level Latin American literature or culture courses taught in Spanish or Portuguese may be used to satisfy the electives requirement.

Electives in Latin American Studies

Select four electives in Latin American studies

Total Credits

Writing-Intensive Requirement

The university requires all students to complete at least one course designated "writing intensive" in their major at the 300 level or above. Students majoring in Latin American studies should consult with the director for a course to fulfill this requirement.

Upper Level Requirement

Students seeking a bachelor’s degree must apply at least 45 credits of upper-level courses (numbered 300 or above) toward graduation requirements.

College Level Requirements for the BA Degree

In addition to the Mason Core program, students pursuing a BA degree must complete the coursework below. Except where expressly prohibited, a course used to fulfill a college level requirement may also be used simultaneously to satisfy other requirements (Mason Core requirements or requirements for the major).
### Philosophy or Religious Studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELI</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1. Note that the following courses may not be used to fulfill this requirement:
   - PHIL 323 Classical Western Political Theory
   - PHIL 324 Modern Western Political Theory
   - PHIL 327 Contemporary Western Political Theory
   - PHIL 393 Humanities College to Career
   - PHIL 460 Senior Seminar in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

Additionally, PHIL 253 Philosophy and Literature (Mason Core) and RELI 235 Religion and Literature (Mason Core) cannot be used to fulfill both the philosophy/religious studies requirement and the Mason Core literature requirement.

### Social and Behavioral Sciences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH</td>
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<tr>
<td>SSCI</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Or choose from the following GGS courses:

- GGS 101 Major World Regions (Mason Core)
- GGS 103 Human Geography (Mason Core)
- GGS 110 Introduction to Geoinformation Technologies
- GGS 301 Political Geography
- GGS 303 Geography of Resource Conservation (Mason Core)
- GGS 304 Population Geography (Mason Core)
- GGS 305 Economic Geography
- GGS 306 Urban Geography
- GGS 315 Geography of the United States
- GGS 316 Geography of Latin America
- GGS 320 Geography of Europe
- GGS 325 Geography of North Africa and the Middle East
- GGS 330 Geography of the Soviet Succession States
- GGS 357 Structures in Urban Governance and Planning
- GGS 380 Geography of Virginia

1. The two courses used to fulfill the combined college and Mason Core requirements must be from different disciplines in the social and behavioral sciences.

2. HIST 100 History of Western Civilization (Mason Core) and HIST 125 Introduction to World History (Mason Core) may not be used to fulfill this requirement.

### Foreign Language

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<th>Code</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

Intermediate-level proficiency in one foreign language, fulfilled by:

1. Completing a course in a foreign language numbered 202, 209, or 210 (or higher level courses taught in the language)
2. Or achieving a satisfactory score on an approved proficiency test
3. Or completing the following ASL three course sequence:
   - EDSE 115 American Sign Language (ASL) I
   - EDSE 116 American Sign Language (ASL) II
   - EDSE 219 American Sign Language (ASL) III

1. Students who are already proficient in a second language may be eligible for a waiver of this requirement. Additional information on waivers can be found at the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs (http://chssundergrad.gmu.edu).

### Non-Western Culture

Select 3 credits of an approved course in the study of a non-Western culture (additional to the Mason Core requirement in global understanding)

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<td>PSYC</td>
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<td>SSCI</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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- GGS 101 Major World Regions (Mason Core)
- GGS 103 Human Geography (Mason Core)
- GGS 110 Introduction to Geoinformation Technologies
- GGS 301 Political Geography
- GGS 303 Geography of Resource Conservation (Mason Core)
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- GGS 306 Urban Geography
- GGS 315 Geography of the United States
- GGS 316 Geography of Latin America
- GGS 320 Geography of Europe
- GGS 325 Geography of North Africa and the Middle East
- GGS 330 Geography of the Soviet Succession States
- GGS 357 Structures in Urban Governance and Planning
- GGS 380 Geography of Virginia

1. The two courses used to fulfill the combined college and Mason Core requirements must be from different disciplines in the social and behavioral sciences.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARAB 360</td>
<td>Topics in Arabic Cultural Production</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARAB 420</td>
<td>Survey of Arabic Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARAB 440</td>
<td>Topics in Arabic Religious Thought and Texts (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 203</td>
<td>Survey of Asian Art (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARTH 204</td>
<td>Survey of Latin American Art (Mason Core)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARTH 206</td>
<td>Survey of African Art (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARTH 318</td>
<td>Art and Archaeology of Ancient Egypt</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 319</td>
<td>Art and Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 320</td>
<td>Art of the Islamic World (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 382</td>
<td>Arts of India (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 383</td>
<td>Arts of Southeast Asia (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 384</td>
<td>Arts of China (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 385</td>
<td>Arts of Japan (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARTH 386</td>
<td>The Silk Road (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARTH 482</td>
<td>RS: Advanced Studies in Asian Art</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIN 318</td>
<td>Introduction to Classical Chinese (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIN 320</td>
<td>Contemporary Chinese Film</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIN 325</td>
<td>Major Chinese Writers (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>DANC 118</td>
<td>World Dance (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON 361</td>
<td>Economic Development of Latin America (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 362</td>
<td>African Economic Development (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>FREN 451</td>
<td>Topics in Sub-Saharan Francophone Literature and Culture</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>FREN 454</td>
<td>Topics in Caribbean Francophone Literature and Culture</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>GGS 101</td>
<td>Major World Regions (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GGS 316</td>
<td>Geography of Latin America</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GGS 325</td>
<td>Geography of North Africa and the Middle East (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>GGS 330</td>
<td>Geography of the Soviet Succession States</td>
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<tr>
<td>GGS 399</td>
<td>Select Topics in GGS</td>
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<td>GOVT 328</td>
<td>Non-Western Political Theory</td>
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<td>GOVT 332</td>
<td>Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>GOVT 333</td>
<td>Government and Politics of Asia</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOVT 340</td>
<td>Central Asian Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOVT 341</td>
<td>Chinese Foreign Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>GOVT 345</td>
<td>Islam and Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOVT 432</td>
<td>Political Change and Social Development in Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>GOVT 433</td>
<td>Political Economy of East Asia</td>
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<td>HIST 251</td>
<td>Survey of East Asian History (Mason Core)</td>
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<td>HIST 252</td>
<td>Survey of East Asian History (Mason Core)</td>
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<td>HIST 261</td>
<td>Survey of African History (Mason Core)</td>
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<td>HIST 262</td>
<td>Survey of African History (Mason Core)</td>
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<td>HIST 271</td>
<td>Survey of Latin American History (Mason Core)</td>
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<td>HIST 272</td>
<td>Survey of Latin American History (Mason Core)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 281</td>
<td>Survey of Middle Eastern Civilization (Mason Core)</td>
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<td>Survey of Middle Eastern Civilization (Mason Core)</td>
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<td>HIST 326</td>
<td>Stalinism</td>
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<td>HIST 327</td>
<td>The Soviet Union and Russia Since World War II</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>HIST 328</td>
<td>Rise of Russia (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>HIST 329</td>
<td>Modern Russia and the Soviet Union (Mason Core)</td>
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<td>History of Traditional China</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 354</td>
<td>Modern China</td>
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<td>HIST 356</td>
<td>Modern Japan (Mason Core)</td>
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<td>HIST 357</td>
<td>Postwar Japan (Mason Core)</td>
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<td>HIST 358</td>
<td>Post-1949 China (Mason Core)</td>
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<td>HIST 360</td>
<td>History of South Africa (Mason Core)</td>
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<td>HIST 364</td>
<td>Revolution and Radical Politics in Latin America (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 365</td>
<td>Conquest and Colonization in Latin America (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 366</td>
<td>Comparative Slavery</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 367</td>
<td>History, Fiction, and Film in Latin America</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 387</td>
<td>Topics in Global History (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3-6</td>
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<td>HIST 426</td>
<td>The Russian Revolution</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>HIST 460</td>
<td>Modern Iran (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>HIST 461</td>
<td>Arab-Israeli Conflict</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>HIST 462</td>
<td>Women in Islamic Society (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>HIST 465</td>
<td>The Middle East in the 20th Century</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>JAPA 310</td>
<td>Japanese Culture in a Global World (Mason Core)</td>
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<td>JAPA 340</td>
<td>Topics in Japanese Literature (Mason Core)</td>
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<td>KORE 320</td>
<td>Korean Popular Culture in a Global World</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>MUSI 103</td>
<td>Musics of the World (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELI 211</td>
<td>Religions of the West (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELI 212</td>
<td>Religions of Asia (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELI 240</td>
<td>Death and the Afterlife in World Religions</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELI 272</td>
<td>Islam</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>RELI 313</td>
<td>Hinduism (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>RELI 314</td>
<td>Chinese Philosophies and Religious Traditions</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>RELI 315</td>
<td>Buddhism (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELI 337</td>
<td>Mysticism: East and West</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELI 365</td>
<td>Muhammad: Life and Legacy</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELI 374</td>
<td>Islamic Thought (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELI 375</td>
<td>Qur'an and Hadith</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELI 379</td>
<td>Islamic Law, Society, and Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELI 387</td>
<td>Islam, Democracy, and Human Rights</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELI 490</td>
<td>Comparative Study of Religions (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
A course used to fulfill the Mason Core global understanding requirement may not be simultaneously used to satisfy this college-level requirement. A course used to fulfill this requirement may be used simultaneously to fulfill any other requirements (Mason Core requirements, college-level requirements, or requirements for the major). Additional information on waivers can be found at the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs (http://chssundergrad.gmu.edu).

**Mason Core**

Note: Some Mason Core requirements may already be fulfilled by the major requirements listed above. Students are strongly encouraged to consult their advisors to ensure they fulfill all remaining Mason Core requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RUSS 353</td>
<td>Russian Civilization (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSS 354</td>
<td>Contemporary Post-Soviet Life (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1 minimum 3 credits

**Additional Electives**

Any remaining credits may be completed with electives to bring the degree total to 120

**Honors**

**Honors in the Major**

Latin American studies majors who have completed 75 credits (a minimum of 15 in Latin American studies, 6 of which must have been taken at Mason) with an overall minimum GPA of 3.50 and a minimum GPA of 3.50 in the major may apply to pursue advanced work leading to graduation with honors in the major. The application consists of a transcript, a recommendation from one member of the LAS faculty, and a brief description of a proposed research project.

Once accepted into the program, students pursuing honors in the major complete a two-course sequence LAS 491 Directed Reading for Honors in Latin American Studies and LAS 499 Research Seminar in Latin American Studies (Mason Core) (an honors section), which must be taken in successive semesters. In this sequence, students complete an advanced research project under the guidance of a faculty member. To graduate with honors in the major, students must earn a minimum GPA of 3.50 in the honors courses.