



General Guidelines for Spanish Practicum

SPANISH PROGRAM

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Practicum

Definition 1: A school or college course, especially one in a specialized field of study, that is designed to give students supervised practical application of previously studied theory.

Definition 2: a course involving activities emphasizing the practical application of theory, especially one in which a student gains on-the-job experience in a field of study.

Definition 3: North America work experience as part of study: a period of work for practical experience as part of an academic course

Note: Origin of PRACTICUM

German Praktikum, from Late Latin practicum, neuter of practicus practical

First Known Use: 1904

Spanish Practicum: General Guidelines

The Spanish Practicum (FLAS 498) is designed to give Spanish majors practical experience in their field(s) of study. Due to this characteristic, a sense of flexibility is implied in the development of each practicum in order to meet the individual student's needs and desired outcomes or goals. However, in order to provide a consistent means of evaluating the experience, students must meet certain standards. This document discusses some of the general guidelines that the Spanish faculty has identified as important for helping each student find success in this endeavor. It should be noted, however, that your professor of record may place more concrete requirements (e.g. number of academic sources used during the research project or frequency of contact with professor) according to the specifics of your project.

General Guidelines

Preparation

1. Prior to beginning the practicum, students must have completed all core courses in Spanish.¹
2. Prior to registering for FLAS 498 you will meet with your advisor and professor of record (if different), who will help determine if you have reached an adequate level of oral and written proficiency in Spanish to be able to proceed with the practicum. Your professor of record will consult with the Spanish faculty in a departmental meeting in order to determine preparation of each candidate. This may include an additional evaluation of your skills.

Content

Hours

The Spanish practicum is a 3 credit course, and as such, the student is expected to work at least a total of 135 hours (3 credits=3 hours of in class per week+2 hours of study per hour in class x 15 weeks=135 hours) during the course of the semester. These hours can include the time spent doing research, completing an internship, writing up the report, and preparing the oral defense. A log for time spent on various aspects of the practicum may be required by the professor of record.

Written Report

Each practicum must consist of a report, written in Spanish. The document must be an academic manuscript, and your professor of record may require a research element, with a works cited page. The typed document must be at least 3000 words (approximately 10 pages) in length, but may be more as determined by the professor of record. It will consist of at least two drafts.

Oral Defense

At the conclusion of the practicum, you will have an oral defense, also carried out in Spanish. This will be presented to at least two members of the Spanish faculty, one being the professor of record, and the other member of the professor's choosing. The function of the second member is to help measure the adequacy of the language and presentational skills of the student. The evaluation will be based on grammatical accuracy, lexical correctness, presentational skills, content and control of the language. The score on your oral defense will be determined jointly by the two professors.

¹ The core classes include FLAS 301 Advanced Spanish Grammar, FLAS 302 Advanced Spanish Composition, FLAS 303 Advanced Spanish Conversation, FLAS 311 History & Culture of Spain, FLAS 312 History & Culture of Latin America, FLAS 321 Intro to the Literature of Spain, FLAS 322 Intro to the Literature of Latin America, and FLAS 341 Spanish & the Nature of Language.

Criteria for Successful Completion

Your grade will be determined on how successfully you complete your project. The oral defense will constitute 10% of your grade. You must receive a 70% or higher on the oral defense in order to successfully complete the Practicum.

The remaining 90% will be determined by the professor of record.

- Sample: 60% (paper), 20% (journal), 10% (internship/log)

Students must receive a B or higher on the Practicum to be eligible for graduation.

Internship

While not a requirement of the Spanish practicum, those students who decide to carry out an internship are responsible for finding their own group with whom to collaborate. However, this must be done in consultation with the professor of record, who will decide the appropriateness of the internship.

Possible Guidelines for each Track

Each of the three tracks in the Spanish degree may include distinct elements and procedures. Below you will find some possible project ideas; however, this should in no way dictate what the project must include.

Applied Professional Spanish

Those majoring in the Applied Professional Spanish track may consider doing one (or a combination) of the following activities.

Internship: Former students have carried out internships with the Literacy Center (Mesa County Public Libraries), Riverside Education Center, and the Marillac Clinic. Other students have fulfilled their practicum requirements in service oriented internships abroad.

Observation: Many students in this track have fulfilled part of their Spanish practicum by carrying out observations in various settings. This portion generally includes keeping a log of elements that the students have learned during these observations (e.g., grammatical constructions, phrases and lexical items). Examples of observations have included the shadowing of translators in the Mesa County Court and in the Marillac Clinic.

Translation: You may choose, in consultation with the professor of record, to translate documents for various entities. Former students have translated documents for schools in District 51, the Mesa County Detention Facility, and other public and private groups.

Interpreting: Depending on the level of expertise, some students have interpreted in various settings (health care sector, court, business incubator).

Business Incubator: Those interested in working with Business Spanish may choose to participate in a variety of settings, including Grand Junction's Business Incubator Center.

Other: Similar opportunities for community service exist. For example, working with Mesa County Partners provides a way to help Spanish speakers in need of social services.

Spanish Literature and Language

Those working in the Spanish Literature and Language track may consider doing one (or a combination) of the following activities.

Literary Analysis: Many students in this track have analyzed literature of a favorite author. This author is to be chosen in consultation with your lead professor. Similarly, you may consider analyzing a theme common to various literary works.

Linguistic Research: In consultation with your lead professor, you may devise a research project that analyzes some linguistic aspect of the Spanish-speaking world (phonetics/phonology, syntax, language contact, etc.). Similarly you may consider carrying out a comparative analysis of variation within dialects of Spanish (e.g., sayings (dichos/refranes) from various Spanish-speaking countries).

Creative Writing: With permission from your lead professor, you may embark on writing short stories/poetry in Spanish.

Spanish Secondary Teaching

In addition to student teaching (EDUC 499G), students interested in Spanish Secondary Teaching must also carry out a Spanish practicum. Those working in this track may consider doing one (or a combination) of the following activities.

Portfolio development: Beyond the requirements of the Education department, students could add to the teaching products in their portfolio. These products may include activities to develop cultural awareness, grammatical accuracy, lexical development, written accuracy, listening comprehension and oral proficiency.

Teaching Methodology: You may also consider carrying out research on a current teaching methodology (TPRS, Communicative Approach, etc.) or those that promote them (Tracy Terrell, Steven Krashen, Bill Van Patten, etc.).

Observations: Students in this track may also wish to do additional hours of observation. This would include a log composed of critical comments of the teacher and his/her teaching style/methodologies. These observations may include visits to foreign language courses at Colorado Mesa University, or observations at the Dual Immersion Academy.

Two or More Concentrations

In the case that you will be receiving a degree in more than one track, you may choose to fulfill the Spanish practicum requirements in one of two ways:

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- 1) Complete a Spanish practicum for each track (6 or 9 credits) or
- 2) Complete one Spanish practicum (3 credits) but whose elements combine aspects of the two (or three) concentrations within the project. For example, students doing Applied Professional Spanish and Spanish Secondary Teaching may consider doing a teaching portfolio together with the translation of documents (perhaps for the school where you are assigned for student teaching). The project should show a balance between the two (or three) concentrations.

Deadlines

Before beginning of Semester of Practicum: Prior to the semester of your practicum, and after consulting with your desired professor as to his/her availability and your preparation, register for FLAS 498.

Within first two weeks of Semester: Meet with your professor to decide what elements will be included in your project. Prior to your visit, send a typed, one-page proposal on what you would like to do for the project. In the meeting, create an informal contract on what is expected of both the professor of record and the student.

Monthly: During the semester meet with your professor at least monthly to discuss progress with the project. More meetings may be needed as proscribed by professor of record.

Four weeks prior to end of contract²: Turn in first draft of paper.

Three weeks prior to end of contract: Receive feedback on the first draft of paper.

Two weeks prior to end of contract: Turn in your paper and other materials to the professor of record.

One week prior to the end of contract: Meet with your professor of record to discuss any changes that are necessary in your project. Schedule a time for your oral defense during last week of contract.

Last week of the contract: Present your oral component.

Other

Special needs:

Students with a disability must notify the professor of record immediately, and have EAS contact the professor for any accommodations that must be considered. All reasonable efforts will be made to make necessary accommodations; however, it must be noted that community partners may not be able to offer the appropriate accommodations.

² The end of the contract date will be the week of finals, or the final week of the Summer/J-Term.

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty, such as cheating and plagiarism, are defined in the Student Handbook. No violations of this policy will be tolerated. In cases of violation the student will receive a grade of zero (0), and the case will be reported to the proper University authority.

Incompletes:

In accordance with the student handbook, a student may be given an incomplete only in an emergency case and at the discretion of the lead professor.