

9 February 2023

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Peter Chaillé, Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

RE: B.A./B.S. in Chicano/Latino Studies

The following proposal has been approved by the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and is recommended for approval by the Faculty Senate.

You may read the full text of the program proposal, as well as Budget Committee comments, online at the [Online Curriculum Management System \(OCMS\) Curriculum Dashboard](#).

**PROPOSAL SUMMARY FOR  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
B.A./B.S. in Chicano/Latino Studies**

**Effective Term**

Fall 2023

**Overview of the Program**

The CHLA Program is submitting this proposal to offer the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degree in Chicano/Latino Studies. Chicano/Latino Studies (CHLA) is a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary unit. CHLA is devoted to the exploration and analysis of the histories, politics, experiences, and cultures of Chicanx/Latinx populations in the United States. CHLA seeks to explore Chicanx/Latinx experiences through an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach to center the lived experiences and the production of knowledge of Chicanx/Latinx communities. Faculty examine how race, ethnicity, language, sexuality, gender, and other social identities intersect in Chicanx/Latinx communities and within the larger U.S. landscape.

At its core, CHLA employs a decolonial, anti-racist, anti-sexist framework to challenge centuries of white supremacy, settler colonialism, and other systems of oppression that have impacted how Chicanx/Latinx communities live, work, create, and thrive.

The goals and objectives of the degree are the following: provide students with intellectual and critical tools, social consciousness, and critical thinking skills to benefit their communities and peers; empower students through the critical examination of Chicanx/Latinx experiences, histories, and lived realities. Given that our discipline is richly interdisciplinary, there will be no concentrations offered, solely the BA/BS degree in Chicano/Latino Studies.

## **Evidence of Need**

Aligning with PSU's priority to act on equity and racial justice, CHLA's course curriculums center conversations and critically analyze readings about systems of oppression and social justice. We make it our priority to remind students that everyone's social justice journeys are different and that we all have a responsibility to educate ourselves to ensure we are striving for a more just society. In addition to curriculum, CHLA students are regularly encouraged to attend lectures and forums on and off campus to engage in conversation with other communities about local conversions regarding inequities and social injustices. Furthermore, as CHLA faculty, we also hold each other accountable to make sure we act on equity and racial justice. In addition to joining and contributing to DEI committees and events, we present lectures and facilitate workshops frequently about cultural empowerment, racism, and other topics of social justice.

According to a 2016 report by the Oregon Community Foundation, Oregon's Latinx population is growing at a faster rate than the national rate. 12% of the state's population is now Latinx, representing a 72% growth since 2000. We believe that a CHLA major is important and vital to address this crucial growth.

As the largest ethnic minority in the state, we question to what extent the University is serving this community. CHLA thus holds a key role in serving a population that is young, growing, and contributes to the changing demographics in our state. As the first Oregon public university to hold a major in CHLA, Portland State University could stand out in offering a major where the fastest growing demographic can truly find a home.

## **Course of Study**

The BA/BS in Chicano/Latino Studies has a 52 credit requirement. In addition to meeting the general University degree requirements for completing a B.A. or B.S., candidates enrolled in the Chicano/Latino Studies major must meet the 52-credit minimum. At least 24 of the total 52 credits required for the major must be taken in residence at Portland State University. Students interested in declaring a major in Chicano/Latino Studies should see the program undergraduate advisor or the program director for assistance with Chicano/Latino Studies course selection.

### **24 credits of core courses in CHLA:**

CHLA 201 Intro to CHLA (4 cr);  
 CHLA 301U Chicano/Latino Communities (4 cr);  
 CHLA 302U Survey of Chicano/Latino Literature (4 cr);  
 CHLA 303U Chicana/Latina Experience (4 cr);

CHLA 305 Latinx Youth Cultures (4 cr);  
and  
CHLA 360 Bilingualism in U.S. Latinx Communities (4 cr);

OR

SPAN 301/301H Third Year Spanish Heritage (4 cr);  
and  
SPAN 302/302H Third Year Spanish Heritage (4 cr);  
*recommended for BA Students*

**28 credits of upper division electives:**

Two 400-level courses in CHLA (8 cr);  
20 credits of any 300 and 400 level course with the prefix CHLA, BST, NAS,  
WS, and GRN

**Total Credits: 52**