

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

What is Latin American Studies? (from <http://www.albright.edu/catalog/latin-american-studies.html#program>)

“Latin America and the Caribbean have always occupied a place of unique and singular importance for the United States. For instance, the Panama Canal, the economic embargo of Cuba, NAFTA, preservation of the Amazon rainforests and drug trafficking are just a few of the many subjects that have consumed the imaginations, the interests, and the energies of U.S. business people, politicians, students and even tourists. In fact, the regions of North, Central and South America, including the Caribbean, are becoming ever more intertwined culturally, linguistically, economically and politically.

For the student interested in issues of bilingualism in secondary education, international trade and finance, foreign affairs, diplomatic history and modern foreign languages, knowledge of Latin America and the region’s relationship to the United States is becoming ever more indispensable. The Latin American studies curriculum offers students the opportunity to learn about Latin America from a broad-based interdisciplinary perspective.”

What are the career opportunities for a Latin American Studies Concentrator?

Many Latin American studies majors find employment with the government, international banking and business, and non-governmental organizations that do business in Latin America. “There are many jobs available to people with cultural knowledge and some level of competency in a foreign language. One of the best resources available for thinking about and researching jobs in the field, possible graduate programs and scholarships, and internships, is the book *After Latin American Studies: A Guide to Graduate Study and Employment for Latin Americanists*. It is available online and is an important resource for anyone interested in working in or in a field that has to do with Latin America.” http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/clas/students/after_LAS.pdf

Related Career Titles (Some may require education beyond bachelor's degree.)

Anthropologist	Archivist	International Lawyer
Business Manager	CIA/FBI Agent	Civil Service Employee
College/University Professor	Community Affairs Specialist	Conflict Resolution Specialist
Coordinator of International Students	Corporate Trainer	Counselor
Interpreter/Translator	Foreign Service Officer	Cultural Affairs Officer
Cultural Arts Center Coordinator	Customer Relations Representative	Customs/Immigration Officer
Economist	Editor/Writer	Drug Enforcement Agent
Employee Relations Specialist	ESL Teacher	Foreign Language Teacher
Government Agency Administrator	Health and Human Resources Director	Historian
Historic Site Administrator	Import/Export Specialist	International Health Care Systems Analyst
International Airport Visitors	International Conference Planner	International Education Specialist

Center Director		
International Marketing Analyst	International Relations Specialist	International Student Advisor
Journalist	Librarian	Lobbyist
Hotel Manager	Management Consultant	Market Research Specialist
Museum Curator	Nonprofit Administrator	Public Policy Specialist
Politician	Social Worker	Travel Consultant

How do you get ready?

- Become familiar with current events in the world.
- Earn leadership positions on campus.
- Combine concentration in education and acquire teaching certification if goal is work in educational field.
- Combine concentration in business if goal is work in international business.
- Practice language skills by conversing with native speakers.
- Consider co-concentration in communications and gain experience working with radio or print media within local media industries.
- Pursue graduate degree.
- Demonstrate intercultural competency, sensitivity and tolerance.
- Gain experience in communications with people from other countries. Get to know international students on your campus.
- Live and/or work abroad while in school.
- Commit to a continuous study of host country's language.
- Develop a good understanding of etiquette and business practices in country of target.
- Obtain daily papers in target city to determine international and national news, business features, real estate markets and community calendars.
- Develop traits such as creativity, initiative, tenacity, a willingness to take risks and an adventurous spirit, and a sense of humor.

Related Major Skills

Speaking to groups	Reading/writing another language
Clarifying ideas	Writing clearly
Understanding historical language change	Reporting and editing
Reading critically	Creative thinking
Evaluating information	Oral & written communication
Comparing translations/interpretations	Gathering information
Working with original sources in many fields	Organizing materials/information
Summarizing ideas	Compiling/recording data
Computer literacy	Collaborating as part of a team
Determining the needs of others	Acknowledging value systems
Listening carefully	Strong work ethic
Establishing hypotheses	Reading for content and structure

Working with research subjects	Communicating between cultures
Understanding cultural diversity	Assessing needs
Adapting to other cultures	

What about the future?

For specific job outlook information, refer to www.bls.gov/oco.

Disclaimer

Links to Internet sites are provided for your convenience and do not constitute an endorsement by Albright College or the Career Development Center.

Links found at <http://www.uncwil.edu/stuaff/career/Majors/index.htm>

Job and Internship Search Links

- OverseasJobs.com <http://www.overseasjobs.com>
- Escape Artist: overseas jobs index <http://www.escapeartist.com/jobs/overseas1.htm>
- Resources for International Job Opportunities (Riley Guide) <http://www.rileyguide.com/internat.html>
- Bilingual Jobs - Bilingual Professionals and Career Seekers <http://www.bilingual-jobs.com/>
- Saludos Web (Hispanic Careers and Education) <http://www.saludos.com>
- LatPro: Job Board for Hispanic and Bilingual Professionals <http://www.latpro.com/>
- Multilingual Vacancies <http://www.multilingualvacancies.com/>
- Bilingual Career <http://www.bilingualcareer.com/>
- Department of State: <http://www.state.gov/employment/>

Career Planning Links

- Living Abroad <http://www.livingabroad.com>
- Going Global <http://www.goinglobal.com/>
- International Job Resources http://www.duke.edu/~lpmaskel/intl_jobs.html
- InterSol: International Business Links http://www.intersolinc.com/links/business_links.htm
- Bloomberg: International Sites, Careers and Find a Job <http://about.bloomberg.com/careers/index.html>

Professional Associations Links

- Foreign Language Associations (links to associations) http://www.discoverfrance.net/France/Language/DF_lang_assn.shtml
- American Translators Association <http://www.atanet.org/bin/view.pl/181.html>
- Modern Language Association <http://www.mla.org/>
- American Association for Applied Linguistics <http://www.aaal.org/>
- American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages <http://www.actfl.org/>
- American Political Science Association <http://www.apsanet.org>
- The Federation of International Trade Associations <http://fita.org/>

- International Association of Business Communicators <http://www.iabc.com/>
- Foreign Policy Association <http://www.fpa.org>
- World Trade Organization <http://www.wto.org>
- World Economic Forum <http://www.weforum.org>
- World Bank Group <http://www.worldbank.org>
- Idealist: International Nonprofit Information <http://www.idealist.org>
- United States International Trade Commission <http://www.usitc.gov>
- International Bureau of Chambers of Commerce <http://www.iccwbo.org/>
- The International Trade Administration <http://www.ita.doc.gov>

Miscellaneous

- Internet Resources for Latin America (New Mexico State University Library): <http://lib.nmsu.edu/subject/bord/laguia/>
- Latin AmericaLinks: <http://www.latinamericalinks.com/>
- Major International Newspapers <http://www.inkpot.com/news/majint.html>
- Journal of Commerce Online: major international newspaper (searchable) <http://www.joc.com>
- United Nations International Computing Center <http://www.unicc.org>
- Newsweek International Editions http://www.msnbc.com/news/nw_int_front.asp?cp1=1
- Languages of the World <http://www.nvtc.gov/lotw/index.html>
- The Electronic Embassy <http://www.embassy.org/>
- United Nations <http://www.un.org>
- National Capital Language Resource Center <http://www.cal.org>