

LATINA/O STUDIES MINOR



The Latina/o Studies minor addresses the history, culture and contributions of people from the Spanish speaking countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to the United States. The above digital mural was created by Michelle Angela Ortiz, a Philadelphia based artist, and installed at Clipper Stadium in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Students from the minor participated in its development. The companion mural is installed at the Student Memorial Center.

WHAT IS LATINA/O STUDIES?

Latina/o Studies is an 18-credit interdisciplinary minor that consists of courses from a wide variety of academic disciplines. The Latino population is one of the fastest growing in the United States, and its contribution to our culture as a whole impacts all of us professionally, socially and economically. The Latina/o Studies minor gives students the opportunity to understand the roots of culture, become conversant in the language and understand the political and economic issues faced by the population — all of which ultimately translate into valuable career skills.

CORE REQUIREMENTS

The minor prepares students for graduate school as well as careers that interact extensively with the Latina/o community. Students complete LATS 201 Introduction to Latina/o Studies and four other electives. They finish the minor by completing either an internship (LATS 300), the research-based senior seminar (LATS 488) or an independent study (LATS 498).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Serving the community is a central part of our mission. In collaboration with various Latina/o serving organizations, students in the minor must engage in community service projects that benefit the Latina/o community.

ROSARIO CAMINERO LATINA/O STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP

The Rosario Caminero Latina/o Studies Scholarship is awarded annually to one student who is pursuing the minor. The student must have a 2.5 or higher overall grade point average, earned 15 or more credits at Millersville University and complete an essay on his/her service with the Latina/o community.

ENHANCED LEARNING

Our students frequently study abroad through short-term and semester-long academic experiences. They also participate in summer research projects with our faculty members. A regular film series complements our course offerings to acquaint students with historical and contemporary issues related to the Latina/o community.

EXTRAORDINARY SUPPORT

Our faculty members are bicultural and/or bilingual in English and Spanish. They are here to support the success of our students. They participate in community service activities, spend time in conversations with students outside of class and advocate at the University level to improve the experiences of our Latina/o students.



LATINA/O STUDENT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (LSLI)

Our purpose is to build a strong sense of community among Latina/o first-year and transfer students while networking with faculty, staff, current LSLI students and alumni.

LSLI participants are:

- First-time, first year college students
- Transfer students
- First-generation college students
- Nontraditional college students
- Earning degrees in various disciplines

LSLI alumni are:

- Student employees on campus
- Representatives at the U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute in Chicago
- Enrolled in master's and Ph.D. programs

WHAT WE DO

The Latina/o Student Leadership Institute (LSLI) is a 3-day community-building experience that strengthens social and cultural ties. Created by two students who had declared the Latina/o Studies minor, LSLI maintains close ties to the minor for inspiration and social support.

Held on a mid-September weekend, our activities are conducted in English and bilingual peer mentors are available to support an inclusive community.

Through team-building activities led by faculty, alumni, staff and students, participants will:

- Identify their personal goals
- Review their degree audit report and curriculum/program requirements
- Learn how to connect with faculty, staff and student organizations
- Identify academic, financial, cultural, psychological and spiritual resources available at the University

LSLI'S CONTINUED SUPPORT

The LSLI fall retreat is only the beginning. Every semester LSLI students, both new and returning, are encouraged to attend workshops on career building, financial aid and scholarships, internships and unique academic opportunities.

LSLI alumni demonstrate:

- Higher grade point average (GPA), retention and graduation rates than non-participants
- More involvement with campus activities and other organizations

THE LSLI SYMBOL

The symbol for LSLI was created by Levi Tran.

The jaguar represents strength, power, bravery, authority, wisdom, value and pride. It was the symbol of the Meso-American civilization's aristocracy and warrior classes. It is regarded as the greatest creature because it is able to live in two worlds, carrying a sense of duality — the capacity to live and hunt day and night on both land and water.



Latino Student Leadership Institute
at Millersville University

CONTACT US

Latina/o Student Leadership Institute
Millersville University
P.O. Box 1002
Millersville, PA 17551
PHONE: 717-871-7481
kmahaffy@millersville.edu

Millersville University

Latina/o Studies Minor • 717-871-7481 • www.millersville.edu/latinostudies