Department: Chicana(o) and Latina(o) Studies

Degree Objective:
Master of Arts in Chicana(o) and Latina(o) Studies

What can I do with this degree? What kind of jobs do people with this degree typically obtain?
Graduates of our program have pursued a wide range of fields, including teaching in community colleges and in K-12 schools, and working in the non-profit sector, government sector, union organizing, and business. Many alumni continue their education through Ph.D. programs.

Will this master’s program prepare me for a PhD program?
Yes! The graduate program prepares interested students for Ph.D. programs by providing research experience, support with doctoral applications, and faculty mentoring. Alumni from the program have completed or are currently enrolled in doctoral programs in top ranking universities across the country, such as UCLA, UC Santa Barbara, UC Riverside, UC San Diego, Claremont, University of Washington, Michigan State University, University of Arizona, Arizona State University, and University of Minnesota.

How do I apply to your graduate program?
Admission to our graduate program is a two-step process. Applicants must apply via the online Cal State Apply application. Students must be admitted by the University in order to be eligible to be admitted by the Chicana(o) and Latina(o) Studies Program.

Applicants must also complete the CLS Department application package which includes an application, statement of purpose, three letters of recommendation, and transcripts. Your Department application, statement of purpose, and transcripts should be emailed as a PDF to Velia Murillo VMurillo@cslanet.calstatela.edu, and your letters of recommendation can be sent by your letter-writers to the same email.

What is the GPA requirement for admissions into the MA degree?
A GPA of 2.75 or above in the last 60 semester units of work is required. In addition, prerequisites to admission are a baccalaureate in Mexican American, Chicana/o, Latina/o Studies, or a related field, with at least 15 upper division units in Chicano Studies or related field. Students who lack prerequisite courses can apply and be admitted conditionally with prerequisites being taken the summer before or during the first year of the program.

Does your program require the GRE?
No.
How many recommendation letters does your degree program require?
Three letters are required.

Whom should I get the recommendation letters from, professors or employers?
It is suggested that letters be written by faculty and/or academic mentors, but employers or other individuals who can attest to your ability to succeed in graduate school may also provide a letter.

Do you have any tips on how to write a personal statement?
Start early, write several drafts, ask mentors to review it and give you feedback. Explain why you want to pursue an MA in Chicana(o) and Latina(o) Studies. Address how your previous academic, personal, community, and/or work experience has prepared you for the program.

When do you accept students into your graduate program in Fall or Spring or both?
Both, though most of our students are accepted for the Fall Semester.

What are the admission deadlines?
Departmental deadlines are October 1 and February 14.

You can also find the University and Department Deadlines at this website: www.calstatela.edu/admissions/deadlines

What is the cost to attend Graduate School?
You can find information regarding tuition and fees on the Student Financial Services website at http://www.calstatela.edu/sfinserv/cashiers-office

Does your department offer any GA or TA positions? If so, what is the eligibility requirement to apply for a GA or TA position?
We do not have GA or TA positions, but incoming graduate students can apply for a CLS Mentoring Fellowship that provides students with limited funding and a faculty mentor during their first year of study. Applicants must be full-time students and not hold a full-time professional job.

Is this degree program cohorted?
Not formally, however, most of our students begin in the fall semester and take two of their courses together in the fall and again in the spring.

How long will it take me to complete the degree if I enroll in 3 or 6 units per semester?
5 years for 3 units per semester, 2 1/2 years for 6 units per semester
How long will it take me to complete the degree if I enrolled in 9 or 12 units per semester?
2 years.

Do you offer any Winter Intersessions classes or any classes during the Summer?
Not currently, though we hope to begin offering one 4000-level course beginning in summer 2020.

When are your graduate classes typically offered during the day or at night?
Our 5000 graduate-level courses are offered exclusively at night (beginning at 6pm), but MA students take a limited number of 4000 level courses, which are offered both at night and during the day.

Whom can I contact in the department, if I have additional questions?
The department chair or the faculty advisor, Dr. Ester Hernandez can answer questions. The chair can be reached at dolores.delgadobernal@calstatela.edu. Prospective students can schedule meetings with the faculty advisor by calling 323-343-2190 or visiting the department office, King Hall, C4069.

Are there any additional resources or funding opportunities for graduate student at CSULA?
The department does offer small ($500-$800) scholarships to MA students, through the university including the Maria Elena & Feliz Gutierrez Scholarship, Blanca Flanagan Rios Scholarship, Urban Pacific Development Corporation Scholarship, and Samuel Freeman Memorial Scholarship.

For additional resources and funding opportunities, please visit the Graduate Studies webpage at http://www.calstatela.edu/graduatestudies.