



## CENTER FOR CAREER & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

# Major Possibilities: Latin American & Border Studies

### Quick Facts

- Many US government agencies benefit from hiring graduates with a degree in Latin American and Border Studies to handle American affairs with Latin American nationals and their governments.
- There are jobs in a variety of fields available for graduates who are specialized in Latin American and Border Studies. Careers are offered not only in embassies and consulates, but also in the CIA and FBI, immigration offices, the Office of Homeland Security, the World Health Organization of the UN, the International Red Cross, and other governmental, humanitarian, and even corporate divisions.
- Internships (including research experiences) help shape professional identities, develop 21<sup>st</sup> century career-readiness skills, and make meaning of the academic experience.
- Many jobs will require fluency in Spanish, relocation to another country, or frequent traveling.

### Latin American and Border Studies Major Synopsis

The Latin American and Border Studies major is an interdisciplinary program designed to increase the student's understanding of Latin America and the Caribbean. The program requires students to take the equivalent of six semesters of Spanish language courses in order to develop a high degree of proficiency. Study abroad for at least one semester is highly recommended. Students will take courses in Latin American history, anthropology, art history, communication, philosophy, political science, and more.

### Sample Occupational Areas

#### GOVERNMENT

Relations between the countries of Latin America and the United States have been prevalent since the founding of our country. People specializing in Latin American and Border Studies can work in many areas of the government. The State Department offers jobs in embassies, consulates, and cultural exchange offices. The Departments of Justice, Commerce, and Defense, along with the Office of Homeland Security, also provide unique jobs for graduates of Latin American Studies. The CIA and FBI also offer exciting jobs that require certain levels of security clearance.

#### INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

International bodies that work with world-wide human concerns such as nutrition, health care, goods production, and education offer career positions to people with a degree in Latin American and Border Studies because of their distinct and localized knowledge of a large area containing many developing nations. The World Health Organization, which provides leadership on world-wide health matters, and other UN bodies provide some careers. Others can be found in the Organization of American States, which brings together the regions of the Western Hemisphere on the principles of strengthening democracy and promoting human rights, and the Pan American Health Organization, which is a division of the World Health Organization that deals with health issues between the countries of North and South America.

#### HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS

Latin American and Border Studies graduates interested in providing humanitarian outreach are able to find jobs in the popular Peace Corps or AmeriCorps. Volunteers for the Peace Corps travel to aid foreign countries and work in education, health and HIV/AIDS, business, environment, youth, agriculture, and more. AmeriCorps enables people to help fellow Americans by teaching, fighting illiteracy, improving health care, and helping communities respond to disasters. Careers are also available with Oxfam America and the International Red Cross. Oxfam America tries to influence countries at the highest levels in order to improve human rights. The

International Red Cross assures assistance for victims of wars or other situations of violence. If you wish to work within a religious affiliation, missionary work is an option. Environmental groups also appreciate this specialized perspective.

#### CORPORATE

Latin American countries are important trading partners to the United States. People with degrees in Latin American and Border Studies are uniquely qualified to provide trade experts with the social, political, and economic background and the language expertise they may need to conduct business effectively in Latin America countries.

### Sample Job Titles

#### ARTS, MEDIA, AND ENTERTAINMENT

Advertising Executive  
Copy Writer  
Critic  
Cultural Arts Coordinator  
Editor  
Foreign Correspondent  
Journalist  
International Media Planner  
News Correspondent  
Public Relations Specialist  
Screenwriter  
Travel Writer

Archivist  
Attorney  
CIA/FBI Agent  
Civil Service Employee  
College Professor  
Community Organizer  
Conflict Resolution Specialist  
Counselor  
Cultural Affairs Officer  
Customs Officer  
Drug Enforcement Agent  
Foreign Service Officer  
Historic Site Administrator  
Immigration Officer  
International Studies Advisor  
International Education Specialist  
Interpreter/Translator

Librarian  
Linguist  
Lobbyist  
Missionary  
Museum Curator  
Non-Profit Administrator  
Passport Examiner  
Politician  
Public Administrator  
Public Information Officer  
Public Policy Specialist  
Social Worker  
Teacher  
Tour Guide  
Travel Consultant

Business Manager  
Consultant  
Consumer Advocate Corporate Trainer  
Customer Relations Rep.  
Economist  
Human Resource Specialist  
Import/Export Specialist  
International Banker  
International Conference Planner  
International Health Care Analyst  
International Marketing Analyst  
International Relations Specialist  
International Trade Specialist  
Management Consultant

#### GOVERNMENT, SERVICE, AND EDUCATION

Anthropologist

#### INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

Advertising Executive

### Sample Internship Employers of SU Students

Boys and Girls Club  
Center for World Indigenous Studies  
Council on Hemispheric Affairs (COHA)  
European Latinamerican Association (ELG)  
Foundation for Sustainable Development (FSD)  
Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities  
Hispanic Outreach Coordinator (Mexican Consulate)  
Justiça Global – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
Institute for Policy Studies  
International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)  
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)

Mexican-American Legislative Caucus  
North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA)  
People Organized in Defense of Earth and her Resources (PODER)  
South and Meso American Indian Rights Center (SAIIC)  
Southwestern University  
UNICEF  
U.S. Agency for International Development  
U.S. Department Of State  
Washington Internship Institute  
Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)  
The World Bank

### Sample Full-Time Employers of SU Grads

Account Manager (Smiley Media)  
Assistant Director (Language Stars)  
Background Investigator (Omniplex World Services)  
Broker's Assistant (Commercian Texas)  
Casa Verde Builder (AmeriCorps)  
Community Organizer (La Union del Pueblo Entero)  
ESL Teacher (Language Studies International)  
Group Leader (The Experiment in International Living, Mexico)

Hispanic Health Outreach Coordinator (Mexican Consulate)  
Legal Assistant (Kuhm & Associates)  
Refugee Resettlement Specialist (Caritas)  
Regional Director (National Hispanic Institute)  
Program Coordinator (Capital Area Food Bank)  
Program Specialist (Office of the Governor)  
Teacher (Teach For America)

## **Professional Associations**

Asociación de Colombianistas

Brazilian Studies Association

Canadian Association for Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Caribbean Studies Association

Latin American Studies Association

Society for Latin American Studies