



UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Omaha



ABOUT OLLAS

OLLAS (pronounced “oy-yas”) was established in the fall of 2003 and is housed in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO).

Our mission:

To combine academic excellence with real-world engagement in order to advance our understanding of Chicano/Latino/Latin American peoples and the critical issues affecting these populations.

Our goals:

1. Develop policy-oriented and community-relevant research.
2. Create learning opportunities for students and communities beyond the classroom and across borders.
3. Establish strategic and egalitarian community partnerships and strengthen our mutual capacity to address urgent issues and long-term challenges within and beyond the region.



WHAT WE DO AT OLLAS...

1. OLLAS offers a major in Latino/Latin American Studies (LLS) and a minor in Chicano/Latino Studies (CLS).
2. OLLAS publishes research reports and policy briefs accessible to students and the general public.
3. OLLAS faculty and staff offer students a support system that helps them navigate college and access social networks connecting them to future jobs and careers.
4. OLLAS offers internships, scholarships, volunteering, study abroad and employment opportunities.
5. OLLAS faculty, staff and students regularly engage with community organizations and partners located anywhere from the metro area to Latin America.

WHY MAJOR IN LATINO / LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES (LLS)?

The major in Latino/Latin American Studies (LLS) prepares students with a comprehensive understanding of Latino and Latin American peoples, societies and cultures. Students learn about multiple issues related to Latinos and Latin Americans which include: urban growth; education; economic, racial and ethnic disparities; the environment; political mobilization; human rights; migration; language shifts; and cultural creations. Employers and post-graduate programs today seek to recruit students with the kind of integral knowledge an LLS degree provides. Students can easily double major in Spanish, social sciences, humanities, natural sciences and more, which allows them to double up on skills to effectively participate in their communities and the labor market. (30 credit hours)

WHY MINOR IN CHICANO / LATINO STUDIES (CLS)?

The OLLAS minor is the “perfect” complement to a wide variety of majors across campus where the work of the discipline intersects with the growing presence and importance of Latinos (Mexicanos, Chicanos, Central Americans, and South Americans) here in the U.S. and our local communities. These include Business and Finance, Social Work, Journalism, Education, Fine Arts, Spanish, Sociology, History and Political Science to name a few. CLS focuses primarily on U.S. Mexican and Latino communities. (18 credit hours)

THE OLLAS JOB CREDENTIAL

OLLAS offers what 21st century employers want and what the world needs:

- ✓ Individuals who are knowledgeable about local Latino cultures and issues while understanding the global contexts which influence them today.
- ✓ Professionals with increased proficiency in languages as well as excellent writing and critical thinking skills.
- ✓ Problem-solvers, team players and ethical professionals ready to meet the challenges of the dynamic changes taking place in the 21st century here and abroad.
- ✓ Individuals ready to continue their learning process beyond a bachelor’s degree.

WHY OLLAS AT UNO?

- Latinos are the future. About two out of five Latinos are younger than 17. Nearly one in four of all Nebraskans under the age of 18 are Latinos.
- Latinos are the region's fastest-growing population. Nebraska's Hispanic population grew 70%, to 167,405, between 2000 and 2012. The Omaha-Council Bluffs Metro Hispanic population increased 95%, to 77,508, during the same period. UNO strives to serve students in the metro area.
- Other populations have stopped growing. Between 1990 and 2010, Nebraska's white population grew by a mere 16% while Iowa's decreased by 5%. The Latino population grew by about 500% in both of these states.
- Latin America is an important neighbor, major trade partner and principal sending region of Nebraska and Iowa immigrants.
- Universities today need centers like OLLAS committed to participatory, academically- and multiculturally-grounded strategies for engaging with diverse communities and societies across borders.

WHAT OUR GRADUATES SAY ABOUT A CLS OR LLS DEGREE WITH OLLAS

School Counselor at the Rosebud Indian Reservation in Mission, S.D.:

“My LLS degree and my experiences with OLLAS, combined with a double major in sociology, have given me an in-depth understanding of society and minorities within it.”

Bilingual In-home Family Services Consultant with Boys Town, Omaha:

“It makes us more marketable to companies and organizations looking to hire people with experience with the Latino/Latin American community. It also helps me to know the history of different Latin American countries.”

State Department Intern and Intercultural Relations graduate student at the University of the Pacific in Lima, Peru:

“My LLS degree has given me the proper resources and capabilities in Latin America and its culture. I believe I function well overseas due to a continuing interest in Latino/Latin American Studies!”



For more information, contact the OLLAS office at 402.554.3835; visit us at www.unomaha.edu/ollas or www.facebook.com/unollas; or email OLLAS' Project Coordinator, Yuriko Doku at ydoku@unomaha.edu

