

Portfolio Instructions for the LACSI Graduate  
Certificate at the University of Georgia  
- 2026 Update -



# Latin American and Caribbean Studies Institute

*Franklin College of Arts and Sciences*  
**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**

Graduate students seeking to document their area of expertise can earn a Certificate in Latin American Studies in conjunction with an advanced degree in any University graduate program. This program offers students a wide range of course options that examine Latin American and Caribbean societies from the perspective of their history, social structure, economic and political structures, language, literature, art, and culture.

**Requirements for the Certificate:**

- Five graduate courses on Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) topics in at least two disciplines from “core” courses. Core courses are defined as those containing at least 25 % Latin American or Caribbean content.
  - One of the five courses must be LACS 6300: Critical Concepts in Latin America and the Caribbean, offered every fall.
  - At least two of the remaining four courses must be listed as 75% or 100%(see list on the [LACSI website](#)). However, additional courses taken toward a graduate degree can be applied to the certificate provided they include significant LAC content. (One of the four courses can be an independent study with significant LAC content).
  - A grade of B or better is required in all course work.
- Language competence in Spanish, Portuguese, French, or Quechua. Non-native speakers should provide documentation of intermediate or better rating. In many cases, a professor from a course may provide documentation or the student can interview with a LACS faculty member (contact [jderpic@uga.edu](mailto:jderpic@uga.edu))
- Students must demonstrate that they have done substantive work on a Latin American or Caribbean topic through their thesis, dissertation, other written work, or evidence of applied work, which will be submitted as part of the portfolio (see expectations below) during the semester students plan to graduate.

**Portfolio Expectations:**

Students must submit a portfolio demonstrating that they have met the above requirements. Portfolios must include:

1. A Table of Contents
2. A cover letter detailing the content of the portfolio, how LACS has contributed to the student's academic experience, and what the student believes s/he has achieved as a LACS certificate student
3. A CV
4. A list of courses taken to satisfy the certificate requirements
5. Documentation of language competence
6. Work demonstrating substantive focus on LACS topics
  - For students in academic disciplines, this could include thesis or dissertation chapters or other written work (course papers, published articles, etc.).
  - For students pursuing applied or vocational degrees who are not completing a final thesis, the portfolio may contain other evidence of substantial work on LACS topics, including evidence of internships, other applied projects, and so forth. However, this evidence must include a narrative report and documentation of the students' activities.

**Portfolios should be submitted as a single PDF document, and should include a title page, table of contents, and initial explanation regarding how the courses have helped shape the student's graduate studies.** The graduate advisor will evaluate the portfolios and surveys. The advisor will submit an evaluative report and discuss the results and suggested program modifications with the academic programs committee.

Only after all requirements have been met and the portfolio has been approved will the certificate be issued.

**Courses Meeting the Requirements:**

For the most up-to-date list of courses that are approved for the graduate certificate, please visit the LACSI website. To request that a course not currently listed, but with substantial LAC-related content, be counted towards the certificate, contact the advisor at [jderpic@uga.edu](mailto:jderpic@uga.edu).