



UC Santa Barbara  
Summer Institute in  
Hispanic Language & Culture



---

**Description of Master's Essay Required of All Students Entering after 2004**

Students are required to write an M.A. essay consisting of a research paper of approximately 20 pages including notes and bibliography of 10-15 references that include recent research on the topic.

The topic will be chosen by students in the first year of the Institute and will be based on the core classes taken in the first year. Students will receive a grade on the essay in the second year of study, during the Exam Preparation course worth 2 units that is required in the second year. By the end of the first summer, all students must turn in plan of work (“un plan de trabajo”) to the Institute Director and must have the topic approved before the end of the summer.

The corresponding faculty member whose area of expertise most closely relates to the topic will help oversee the essay. This advisory capacity will be decided by the faculty and students will be advised to the name of their advisor. In all cases, the professor teaching the Exam Preparation course in the second year will receive the finished essays.

During the academic year, students will report to the director of the Institute at least twice, indicating their project progress.

If students change their topic during the year, they must write to the director for approval and include a new plan of work. This must be approved as part of the process for the essay to count toward a degree. Upon arriving in the second year, students turn in the essay, which will be graded by an agreed-upon professor.

Completed essays must be turned in by the Friday of the third week of class in the second summer. Grades will be assigned during the fourth week of the Institute and will be figured into the grade for the Exam Preparation course.