Welcome to the Carolina Latinx Collaborative!

Dear fellow Tar Heel,

On behalf of the Latinx faculty, staff, and students of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the Carolina Latinx Collaborative (CLC) welcomes you to Carolina and invites you to learn about some of the various student groups, academic programs, and resources that focus on Latinx* issues. UNC-Chapel Hill was the first university in North Carolina to create an organization like the CLC, which focuses on supporting and celebrating the various Latinx cultures of students, faculty, staff, and all our fellow Tar Heels. Carolina has positioned itself as a leader on Latinx issues and concerns for the state and the region.

In the last decade, Carolina’s Latinx undergraduate population has nearly doubled, growing from 799 (4.5%) in 2007 to 1,513 (8.1%) in 2017. During the same period, Latinx faculty numbers grew at a similar rate, increasing from 86 (2.68%) to 161 (4.14%). Supported by faculty and staff who serve as mentors through our various programs, our student scholars are thriving and engaging in their communities through service.

We encourage you to get involved and find the student organization, academic program, and/or initiative that feels like the best fit for you. This guide outlines some of the largest student groups, academic programs, and resources.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or want to connect.

Best,
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Director, Carolina Latinx Collaborative
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*Latinx are defined as people of Latin American and/or Iberian heritage living in the United States. Latinx are ethno-racially diverse, of African, indigenous, Asian, and European descent; linguistically diverse; and culturally diverse. Additionally, the term “Latinx” is used an inclusive term that removes gender identity and allows the individual to designate their gender identity. The terms Latino, Latina/o, and Hispanic are used interchangeable throughout the document, allowing each area to designate their target audience.
# Latinx Academic Programs & Initiatives

- Carolina Latinx Collaborative
- Hispanic Linguistics Major
- Hispanic Literatures and Cultures Major and Hispanic Studies Minor
- Institute for the Study of the Americas
- Latin American Studies
- The Latina/o Studies Program at UNC-Chapel Hill
- The Latino Migration Project
- NCSli High School Scholars Program
- Portuguese Program
- Spanish Minor for the Professions
- Spanish Undergraduate Program

# Latinx Student Organizations

- Aguas del Poz/Waters of the Well
- Alpha Iota Chapter of La Unidad Latina, Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity, Incorporated
- The Caribbean Student Association
- The Carolina Hispanic Association
- The Hispanic/Latino Law Students Association (HLLSA)
- Latinas Promoviendo Comunidad/Lambda Pi Chi Sorority Inc.
- Linking Immigrants to New Communities
- Mezcla
- Minority Student Recruitment Committee (MSRC)
- Omega Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Beta Lambda Chapter
- SOAR-STEAM Outreach Achievement Recreation Program
- Students United for Immigrant Equality
- UNC Latinx Medical Student Association
- UNC Por Colombia
Carolina Latinx Collaborative

The Carolina Latinx Collaborative (CLC) is committed to developing a greater awareness of Latinx issues, cultures, and identities by building collaborative relationships across campus and the community. Through these relationships, the CLC has created a network that connects various groups on campus involved in academic and cultural projects and programs. The CLC provides a supportive environment for students, faculty, staff, and alumni to discuss and understand important issues that affect the Latinx community. CLC provides a welcoming space for Latinx students through resources and services that foster and enrich their academic, social, and cultural experience.

- Collaborates with the UNC Program in Latina/o Studies, the Carolina Hispanic Association, the Spanish House (La Casa), and others to create programs that represent the rich diversity of the Latinx community and reflect the artistic, academic, cultural, social, and political aspects of this group.
- Establishes new resources, programs, and services to create a welcoming environment.
- Provides educational and leadership opportunities that will ensure the retention and success of Carolina Latinx students.
- Collaborates with University departments to provide resources, services, and programs to promote retention of Latinx faculty and staff.
- Continues to develop relationships with stakeholders to generate revenue sources for the support of new programming, resources, and services.
- Establishes new resources, programs, and services to recruit and better serve first-year Latinx students in their transition to college and integration at Carolina.
- Establishes strong partnerships with Latinx alumni to build a larger support network for the Latinx community at Carolina.
- Provides bilingual support as needed across campus.
- Latinx Mentoring Program (for all incoming Latinx students)
Annual CLC programming includes the following:

- CLC Open House during the Week of Welcome
- Latinx Heritage Month: September 15 - October 15 (national tribute to the generations of Latinx who have influenced and enriched our nation)
- Éxitos Recognition Reception
Hispanic Linguistics Major

Spanish, the world’s third largest language and second in terms of native speakers, is spoken by nearly 500 million people across the globe. The over 50 million Hispanics in the United States have become the fastest-growing social and political segment in North America. Because of its prominence, learning to communicate in Spanish can be essential for those entering the global economic market and numerous professions.

Spanish studies at UNC-Chapel Hill thrives on innovative literary, linguistic, and theoretical approaches to the Spanish-speaking world, and includes the study of indigenous, Afro-descendant, Asian, and other cultures. Students obtain well-grounded and comprehensive critical knowledge of the literatures, languages, and cultures of Spain and the Americas, often through collaborative research with a faculty member. Qualifying students have the opportunity to pursue an honor’s thesis with one of our faculty members.

Hispanic Literatures and Cultures Major and Hispanic Studies Minor

The major and minor in Hispanic studies are designed for those who wish to continue their study of the Spanish language and acquire a more in-depth knowledge of Spanish and/or Spanish American literature, culture, or linguistics. Through the selection of courses, students may choose to concentrate on a single region of the Hispanic world (Spain or Spanish America), a specific content area (literature, culture, or linguistics), or a combination of regions and/or content areas.
Institute for the Study of the Americas

The Institute for the Study of the Americas (ISA) is dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge of the Latin American experience in the Western Hemisphere. It builds on a long-standing and distinguished tradition of scholarly interest in Latin America, an interest that embraces diverse regions such as Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, and South America. As early as 1915, Latin American course offerings at Carolina were coordinated in a special curriculum, and the continued growth of interest in Latin America culminated in 1940 with the creation of the Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS). ILAS was, thus, one of the first educational centers in the United States dedicated exclusively to the study of Latin America. Renamed in 2007 as the Institute of the Study of the Americas, ISA is located on the third floor of the FedEx Global Education Center.

Latin American Studies

The Bachelor of Arts in Latin American studies provides the opportunity to master methodological skills and acquire the language competence that will help gain comprehensive understanding of the Latin American and Caribbean experience. Through a combination of classroom instruction, outreach programs, research, and the opportunity to travel to Latin America for field work and study, the Latin American studies major provides students with multifaceted experiences to develop expertise on an increasingly important region of the world. The Latin American studies major provides interdisciplinary training and knowledge to enable students to continue their studies in graduate and professional schools as well as succeed in public and private sector careers in education, business, public health, law, communication, and government, among others.
The Latina/o Studies Program at UNC-Chapel Hill

Since its inauguration in fall 2004, the Latina/o Studies Program at UNC-Chapel Hill has led the Southeast in studying Latinx cultures within the United States. With over 40 courses, faculty in 13 departments, and a faculty advisory board, the Latina/o Studies Program is housed within the Department of English and Comparative Literature. The program is crucial to the study of U.S. history and culture and to a comprehensive understanding of the United States as it is today — a country in which nearly 18% of the population is Latinx — with that figure projected to grow to approximately 30% by 2050. Latina/o Studies as a field is constituted out of the transdisciplinary study of Latinx cultural production and experience.

The Latina/o Studies Program is complemented by the Latina/o Cultures Speakers Series, which began in fall 1999 and is dedicated to exploring Latina/o Studies as a transdisciplinary endeavor. The series invites specialists in different areas of Latina/o Studies and related fields from all over the country throughout the academic year. The series has hosted more than 80 creative writers, prominent thinkers, and scholars to engage in dialogue with students, faculty, and the greater community. These specialists are brought to campus as part of a collaborative relationship among various campus entities, including the Latina/o Studies Program’s UNC Teatro Latina/o Series and the Jewish Latina/o Cultural Production Working Group. In addition, other working groups have sprung up to foster networks of scholarly/creative/professional endeavor between professors, graduate students, and undergraduates at UNC-Chapel Hill, and also between UNC-Chapel Hill and other area schools such as Duke, NC State, and Wake Forest.
The Latino Migration Project

The Latino Migration Project is an education and research program dedicated to improving public understanding about the impact and implications of the expanding Latin American presence in North Carolina and the southeastern United States. Recent migration to the region is a continuation of a historical process that has long served as a source of economic development for the state as well as a catalyst for revisiting issues of civil rights, diversity, and the status of marginal groups in society.

The Latino Migration Project fulfills a number of critical needs in a state with one of the fastest growing Latino populations in the nation, including the following:

- Accurate and timely information about immigration issues relevant to the general public well-being;
- Strategic planning for immigrant integration in NC municipalities; and
- Leadership development and academic training to enable immigrants and others to address the challenges and opportunities of demographic change in their own communities.

The Latino Migration Project was established in 2006 as a collaboration between the Institute for the Study of the Americas, one of the oldest centers in the nation for the study of Latin America, and the Center for Global Initiatives.

NCSli High School Scholars Program

The NCSli High School Scholars Program seeks to create pathways to educational, professional, and civic engagement opportunities for a new generation of Latinx leaders in North Carolina. The program aspires to create stronger, more equitable communities in North Carolina by building a support network that identifies students’ strengths, affirms their identities, and invests in their leadership.

This program is one of the largest service-learning initiatives at UNC-Chapel Hill, with mentors investing over 10,000 service hours each year, helping over 150 high school students from over 11 high schools successfully enroll in college, and even supporting the growth and expansion of its mentoring and college prep model to other universities across North Carolina and Virginia. Because of those who have come before, the program has an even larger network of professionals and scholars who continue to invest in new generations of Latinx leaders beyond the high school level. Today, the organization identifies as N.C. Sli (pronounced as “sly”) and strive to encompass more students across the broader landscape of North Carolina.
Portuguese Program

Portuguese is the seventh most spoken language in the world, with over 250 million speakers. It is the language of Portugal, Brazil, and parts of Africa and Asia. Brazil, with a population of 185 million, is the largest country in South America, has the ninth largest economy in the world, and has the largest population of Portuguese speakers worldwide. Portuguese as a second language would open multiple job opportunities in various countries with expanding economies and promising futures. It would also provide an avenue to learn more about the rich cultural traditions of Portugal and Brazil, including literature, art, and music.

The Portuguese program at UNC-Chapel Hill is among the largest in the country and offers courses in literature, film, and culture from Brazil, Portugal, and Lusophone Africa, in addition to beginning, intermediate, and advanced language courses. Topics include subjects of current issues, such as the environment and questions of race in the Lusophone world. Our capoeira course (with instruction in English) is offered most semesters and is one of our most popular!

There are four UNC-Chapel Hill-approved study abroad programs in Portuguese-speaking countries, including two in Portugal and two in Brazil, where students can take up to half of the courses required for the Portuguese major in a single semester. The Portuguese major requires eight courses above the 204 level and the minor requires five.

Spanish Minor for the Professions

The Spanish minor for the professions is designed for students who anticipate careers in which they will need to interact with Hispanic communities in the United States or abroad and who wish to continue the study of Spanish language and culture for specific professional purposes: business, medical and other health professions, or law and other legal professions. The capstone course in the minor includes experiential learning through field work and/or public service.
Spanish Undergraduate Program

Spanish, the world’s third largest language and second in terms of native speakers, is spoken by nearly 500 million people across the globe. The over 50 million Hispanics in the U.S. have become the fastest-growing social and political segment in North America. Because of its prominence, learning to communicate in Spanish can be essential for those entering the global economic market and numerous professions.

There are two courses beyond SPAN 204 (level 4) designed specifically for students who have grown up speaking Spanish in the home; SPAN 267 Advanced Spanish in Context for Heritage Speakers and SPAN 302 Introduction to Literary and Cultural Studies for Heritage Speakers.

Upper-level Spanish studies at UNC-Chapel Hill thrive on innovative literary, linguistic, and theoretical approaches to the Spanish-speaking world, and include the study of indigenous, Afro-descendant, Asian, and other cultures. Our majors and minors obtain well-grounded and comprehensive critical knowledge of the literatures, languages, and cultures of Spain and the Americas, often through collaborative research with faculty. Qualifying Spanish majors have the opportunity to pursue an Honors thesis with one of our faculty members.

Students may choose a major in Hispanic Literatures and Cultures or Hispanic Linguistics, a minor in Hispanic Studies, or the Spanish Minor for the Professions, which has business, health and law tracks. Students have the opportunity to spend a summer, semester, or academic year abroad in a Spanish-speaking country to further their work towards these majors or minors or to simply refine their language skills and enhance cultural competency. While at UNC-Chapel Hill, students can participate in a variety of extracurricular and service opportunities offered through the department and campus organizations, including our honor society, Sigma Delta Pi; film series; conversation tables; the Spanish House living and learning community; community service; peer tutoring; and student publications.
Latinx Student Organizations
The Journal Aguas del Poz/Waters of the Well emerges from the heart of Spanish 394: Creative Writing Workshop in Spanish. This journal is dedicated only to the short story genre and is bilingual. It aims to disseminate the best stories written by students in the course, along with select photographs and paintings that illustrate the central theme: the well. It also publishes works by independent authors if they are presented in English as well as Spanish. While the “official” languages are English and Spanish, originals or translations of some of the works can be read in Korean, Chinese, Bulgarian, Basque, French, Hebrew, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, and Vietnamese. The editor-in-chief is Luis Marcelino Gómez, teaching associate professor in Romance Studies.

La revista Aguas del Poz/Waters of the Well surge en el seno de Spanish 394: Creative Writing Workshop in Spanish/Español 394 Taller de Escritura Creativa, que se imparte en castellano en nuestra universidad. Esta revista sólo se dedica al género cuento. La publicación es bilingüe. Y se propone difundir los mejores relatos escritos por los estudiantes del curso, así como fotos y pinturas cuyo tema sea el pozo. Publica también trabajos por invitación que serán presentados por sus autores en español e inglés. Aunque los idiomas «oficiales» son el inglés y el español, también pueden leerse los originales o las traducciones de algunos trabajos en coreano, chino, búlgaro, euskera, francés, hebreo, italiano, polaco, portugués, rumano, ruso y vietnamita. El jefe-redacción es Luis Marcelino Gómez, profesor asociado docente en Estudios Romances.
The Caribbean Student Association

The all-inclusive Caribbean Student Association showcases, educates, and celebrates the unique and diverse cultures of the Caribbean with the people of the Chapel Hill area. The organization also advocates for and provides aid to local and Caribbean communities.

The Carolina Hispanic Association

The Carolina Hispanic Association sponsors awareness around Latino/a issues, culture, and heritage at UNC-Chapel Hill and the surrounding community as well as provides a supportive and welcoming environment for all students. The association promotes tolerance, multiculturalism, community, and support of one another.

Alpha Iota Chapter of La Unidad Latina, Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity, Incorporated

The Alpha Iota Chapter of La Unidad Latina, Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity, Incorporated is a fraternal service organization aimed at uniting men in brotherhood to serve the Latino community. The organization believes in a diverse membership, a commitment to academic excellence, and a proactive vision towards raising awareness about the Latino culture and history.

The Hispanic/Latino Law Students Association (HLLSA)

The Hispanic/Latino Law Students Association (HLLSA) promotes unity within the Latino student population at Carolina Law. The members of HLLSA strive to create a strong sense of community, along with educational, social, and political programs that enhance the education of the Carolina community as a whole.
Latinas Promoviendo Comunidad/Lambda Pi Chi Sorority, Inc.

The mission of this organization is to empower women by providing a supportive network dedicated to their personal and professional advancement. The *hermandad* (Spanish for “sisterhood”) is further advanced by the shared dedication and promotion of public service and cultural awareness, with an emphasis on U.S. Latinx history, contributions, and experiences.

The organization has six goals, which drive the work of the organization. Those goals are as follows:

1. To unify women through the promotion of the Latino community and the Latino culture;

2. To promote community service to the local community;

3. To work towards the advancement of all people of color with a special emphasis on the Latina;

4. To enlighten our respective communities about Latino cultural, social, and political issues;

5. To sponsor cultural events which identify and evaluate the existing and emerging roles of women with an emphasis on the Latina; and

6. To promote professional advancement by encouraging academic excellence, mentorship, and networking.

Sorority History

The first U.S. Latina-focused sorority founded at an Ivy league institution, Latinas Promoviendo Comunidad/ Lambda Pi Chi Sorority, Inc. was established on April 16, 1988 at Cornell University. Their founding hermanas strove to establish an organization that would transcend their collegiate experience and consolidate their strength as responsible leaders of the community. Today, Latinas Promoviendo Comunidad/ Lambda Pi Chi Sorority, Inc. represents a tradition of strong, proud women whose lives and achievements reflect an unwavering commitment to public service, *hermandad*, and the preservation of the rich cultural legacies that shape Latina experiences.

Committed to the three ideals upon which the organization’s foundation stands — La Comunidad, La Cultura Latina, and La Hermandad — Las Hermanas strive to promote progress and development in their communities. Comprised of undergraduate, graduate, and professional women, Latinas Promoviendo Comunidad/ Lambda Pi Chi Sorority, Inc. seeks to unify women through the promotion of community service programs that highlight the contributions of women and people of color with an emphasis on the U.S. Latina and offer opportunities for academic and professional advancement to members of historically underrepresented groups.
Linking Immigrants to New Communities

Linking Immigrants to New Communities (LINC) helps ease the transition of recent immigrants to the United States through student interaction and raising awareness on and off campus. The organization provides English classes to immigrants and holds conversation/discussion groups and workshops to help with the acculturation process for immigrants in our community. These activities, our workshops in particular, help connect immigrants to legal, social, and cultural resources in their communities. The organization strives to inform UNC-Chapel Hill students of the realities of the immigration system through personal interactions with immigrants to create advocates and allies for immigration reform and equality.

Mezcla

Mezcla (Spanish for “mixture”) is a bilingual and bicultural magazine produced by students. It was created in a first-year seminar, called “The Value of Language in Identity: Hispanics in the United States,” in 2004 with Professor Julia Cardona Mack. Now a student organization, Mezcla provides a platform for students to share their experiences and perspectives in both Spanish and English. More than just a mixture of languages, the topics covered in every issue are as different as the students that produce it each semester.

Mezcla es una revista bilingüe y bicultural hecho por estudiantes. Se creó en un first-year seminar llamada “El valor del idioma en identidad: hispanos en los Estados Unidos” en 2004 con la Profesora Julia Cardona Mack. Ahora Mezcla es una organización estudiantil que ofrece a los estudiantes la oportunidad de compartir sus experiencias y perspectivas en español e inglés. Más que una mezcla de lenguas, los temas de cada edición son tan diferentes que los estudiantes que la producen cada semestre. ¡Disfrútala!
Minority Student Recruitment Committee (MSRC)

Your collegiate educational experience should be more than just attending classes. UNC-Chapel Hill is a microcosm of our multicultural society and promoting an understanding of this is a significant objective for the University Office for Diversity & Inclusion and for the students who participate as members of the Minority Student Recruitment Committee (MSRC).

MSRC partners with such student organizations as the Black Student Movement (BSM), the Carolina Indian Circle (CIC), Carolina Hispanic Association (CHispA), student government, and various campus units and departments. These partnerships allow the MSRC to work collaboratively while creating and implementing an enriching academic, cultural, and social developmental programs to achieve an inclusive campus environment.

MSRC programs will offer you the opportunity to do the following:

- Develop leadership experience
- Encourage and mentor high school students to prepare for higher education
- Build your portfolio of work experience
- Be part of a group working together for a common goal
- Make a difference in someone’s life
Omega Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Beta Lambda Chapter

Omega Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. (OPBSI) is the nation’s premiere Greek-lettered organization working towards the elimination of violence against women and empowerment of women. As a national sorority, OPBSI is committed to the development of collegiate and professional women through sisterhood, diversity, leadership, service, and academic excellence. OPBSI envisions a world without oppression, where empowered women celebrate the essence of womanhood and act as resources in the advancement of their communities.

The Beta Lambda Chapter of OPBSI was established on UNC-Chapel Hill’s campus on April 23, 2011. Over the past seven years, the Beta Lambda Chapter has gained a total of 25 sisters comprised of 16 different ethnicities. The organization has enjoyed numerous recognitions such as Chapter of the Year and Highest GPA in our Greek council.

SOAR-STEAM Outreach Achievement Recreation program

Originally known as Las Guapitas y Los Caballeros, SOAR-STEAM Outreach Achievement Recreation program is a new UNC-Chapel Hill student organization that works with middle school Latina/o 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students from McDougle Middle School to expose them to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts/Design, and Mathematics) -related fields and promote self-identity through mentorship. SOARista mentors plan/teach or just participate in STEAM-related experiments and lead activities that implement art, design, and reflection! Most importantly, SOARista are there to encourage students to soar so that they can accomplish their dreams.

As part of the program, the organization seeks to involve parents and families in the education of these students to provide a cohesive support system that extends beyond the school. Every year, parents are invited to learn more about the program and how they can get involved in their children’s futures through a dinner with the mentors and staff. Funds raised go towards serving parents and families.
UNC Latinx Medical Student Association

UNC-Chapel Hill’s chapter of Latinx Medical Student Association’s primary goal is to gather students of all backgrounds at the undergraduate and graduate levels alongside physicians to work together on improving the health of the Latino community. The chapter proudly supports access to medical school and all forms of higher education, regardless of documentation status.

Students United for Immigrant Equality

Students United for Immigrant Equality has a mission to empower, inform, and activate the immigrant community, its allies, and the greater public about the issues that prevent immigrants in the United States from being able to enjoy the protection of basic human rights granted under the U.S. Constitution. The organization advocates for immigrant issues to be recognized as human rights issues through the promotion of the ideals that stress equality of all people regardless of national origin or documentation status.
UNC Por Colombia

Por Colombia is the largest network of college students and professionals with Colombian background in North America, promoting networking and leadership initiatives aimed to develop professional and entrepreneurial advancement.

Through cultural, professional, and philanthropic initiatives, the organization aims to educate and raise awareness of present and future opportunities to build from abroad a stronger, safer, and dynamic Colombia. The vision is to create the largest global network of college students and professionals with Colombian background.

UNC Por Colombia is a branch of the nationwide parent organization, Por Colombia, specific to UNC-Chapel Hill. UNC Por Colombia is the 14th and newest chapter of the organization with a purpose of creating a network of students interested in Colombia at the university and to serve the Latinx community through the national pillars. Through campus and community events, the organization seeks to provide a better understanding of what it means to be Colombian and demonstrate our dedication to serve the community.

The organization does not and will not exclude anyone from participating or joining. Anyone with an interest in Colombia or in the initiatives are encouraged to participate as the organization seeks to build a better Colombia from abroad and a better Latinx community within UNC-Chapel Hill.