LASMA is designed to provide students with a combination of in-depth interdisciplinary understanding of Latin America and language proficiency so that, upon graduation, they can assume leadership positions in the public, private, and NGO sectors. Measures to assess outcomes include:

1. Demonstration of high level proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and oral comprehension of Spanish and/or Portuguese. Assessment in proficiency in the foreign language of the students’ choosing is determined by examination by BU language instructors. Students must pass the 2-part examination to complete the degree.

   a. Written exam: in Spanish, results of the Romance Studies Department on-line exam should place students at the level of LS 212 or above; in Portuguese, a professor of the Department will evaluate student proficiency.

   b. Oral exam: After passing the written exam, student must have a successful verbal conversation with a BU language professor.

2. Demonstration of advanced knowledge of Latin American nations and their peoples: their history, politics, economics, culture, and social involvements, including in global and inter-regional perspective. Students’ knowledge is assessed by their B or above performance in coursework and the quality of their MA paper, successfully defended in the presence of 3 faculty members with expertise relevant to the paper. The 3-person panel includes the MA paper-advisor and two other Latin Americanist faculty.