

# What can I do with a degree in... **SPANISH?**

## Why study **SPANISH?**

Spanish is the second most popular language in the United States with more than 54 million people speaking it in their homes. Having the ability to read, write and converse in Spanish gives you a competitive edge in the job market. Bilingual job candidates are desirable to employers in a variety of occupational fields. A career using the Spanish language is also a great way to travel to and even live in foreign countries. Western Carolina University's Bachelor of Arts in Spanish prepares students to speak Spanish and have a deeper understanding of the history and culture of Latin America and Spain.

The B.A. program in Spanish includes learning the Spanish language (both Peninsular and Latin American variants), and courses covering the culture and history of both Spain and Latin America. The coursework covers topics such as Spanish conversation and composition; Latin American, Caribbean and Spanish literature; Spanish linguistics and translation, and Hispanic world topics. Students have opportunities to study abroad in a number of countries to engage with culture and increase Spanish proficiency. Spanish faculty and students are also active in the local Hispanic community and there are opportunities for hands-on cultural experiences, language practice, and internships.

Students who major in Spanish also choose another major or minor to complement their career goals or pathways.

## What is the **DEGREE OPTION?**

**Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Spanish**

## What is the **ADMISSION**



## **PROCESS?**

Students declare their interest in Spanish through the Advising Center, located in Killian Annex. Set up an appointment with your advisor through your MyWCU student portal, or contact any of the Spanish faculty members to become a part of the program.

## What **JOBS ARE AVAILABLE?**

Graduates of the Spanish program may work in a number of career fields. Many Spanish majors go on to work in translation/interpretation, K-12 education, Foreign Service, higher education, healthcare, non-profit organizations, arts and culture organi-

zations, and many other fields. Almost any professional in the United States will benefit from the ability to speak Spanish and most employers will hire a bilingual Spanish-English speaker over a candidate who only speaks English.

## How can I **STUDY SPANISH** abroad?

Aside from studying at a partner institution or with a study abroad provider, you can also travel and study with WCU's Spanish faculty. We have offered faculty-led study abroad opportunities to Spain, Costa Rica, Argentina, and Cuba, and aim to develop more programs in the future.

# MAJOR MAP

**How to use this map:** Review the four categories and suggestions of activities and when you should consider engaging in them. Remember, these are just suggestions! There is a fillable space for you to add in any other ideas you have to set yourself up for success in life after college.

## 1st YEAR

## 2nd YEAR

### EXCEL IN ACADEMICS

Many students in their first year focus on liberal studies requirements and introductory Spanish classes. Students majoring in Spanish will also need another major or minor to complement the program. Check out the [8-semester plan](#) and make an appointment with your advisor.

Courses in the second year will likely complete the liberal studies requirements as well as more in-depth Spanish or other cultural courses. Be sure to check out the [8-semester plan](#) and make an appointment with your advisor.

### GET HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

Check out [WCU's DegreePlus program](#) and choose which events in any of the four categories you want to attend. Categories include: Professionalism, Teamwork, Leadership, or Cultural Responsiveness.

See what on-campus employment opportunities are available by logging in to [jobcat.wcu.edu](http://jobcat.wcu.edu)

Get involved with the Spanish Club.

Engage deeper with [DegreePlus](#); choose an additional competency to complete.

### BE PART OF THE COMMUNITY

Connect with the [Center for Service Learning](#) and ask about the [Lily Award](#), a program aimed to encourage students to be connected with their community.

Start volunteering with organizations which serve the Spanish-speaking communities like [Vecinos](#) or the [Mountain Area Pro Bono Physical Therapy Clinic](#)

Spend your [summer in Spain](#) with a faculty-led summer abroad program.

### PREPARE FOR LIFE AFTER COLLEGE

Further explore your career options or career interests using the [Center for Career and Professional Development's](#) online resources, [Focus 2](#), and Onet Online.

Connect with a career counselor early on to explore opportunities and experiences you can do while in college to further develop your professional resume.

Check out [CCPD's list of career-building activities](#) and participate in an activity this year, such as attending Career Fair Plus.

If you are interested in attending graduate school, start a spreadsheet of schools to which you wish to apply in a few years with their admission requirements so that you are aware of the expectations.

# Looking for a minor or other major? Consider these options:

Biology  
Communication  
Criminal Justice  
Health/ Physical Education  
History

Hospitality & Tourism Mgmt  
Inclusive Education  
International Studies  
Integrated Health Sciences  
Latinx Studies

Philosophy  
Psychology  
Social Work  
Sociology

## 3rd YEAR

Third level courses focus heavily on Spanish topics, in addition to a second major or minor classes. Check out the [8-semester plan](#) and make an appointment with your advisor.

Consider internship experiences that will give you practical and hands-on experience to put on a resume.

Continue to build relationships and volunteer with area organizations in your field(s).

Connect with alumni in your field through [LinkedIn](#)

Connect with the [Study Abroad Office](#) with additional study abroad programs and options.

Visit the CCPD to hone your professional resume and cover letter. Apply for internships. Utilize the [Writing and Learning Commons](#) for MCAT, GRE, and other professional exam preparation sessions for those wishing to apply to graduate schools. Use [Big Interview](#) to learn more about professional interviews.

Schedule a visit to tour graduate schools of your choice, if applicable.

## 4th YEAR

Courses in your final year will focus on remaining required Spanish courses, plus any additional requirements from your second major or declared minor. Check out the [8-semester plan](#), complete your degree audit with your advisor, and [apply for graduation!](#)

Investigate requirements for full-time jobs. Assess what skills or experiences you're lacking and invest time in seeking additional opportunities such as certification programs, classes, or professional development workshops during your last year to fill that gap. Connect with your faculty advisor or career counselor.

Join professional Spanish organizations such as the [American Translators Association](#)

Network with employers and non-profits at the annual Career Fair Plus event, held each October and February.

Apply to professional/ graduate schools, if applicable.

Look for and [apply for jobs](#) between 4 and 6 months before graduation.

Polish your resume, cover letter, and interview skills by using the [CCPD](#).

Internships are still the number-one educational experience employers look for in a recent college graduate resume. (Chronicle of Higher Education's study on 59,000 employers)

**DID YOU KNOW?**

# MORE INFORMATION

## **INTERNSHIP** Information

At Western Carolina University there are numerous internship opportunities for students. In some cases internships are established through a faculty member in the student's major. Oftentimes students find part-time jobs in an area related to their field of study. When this happens, students should discuss with their academic advisor the possibility of receiving college credit. Generally, three hours of general elective credit can be earned for a minimum of 200 hours of experience.

## **SKILLS LEARNED** in the classroom

The core competencies will center on developing skills, knowledge, and attitudes such as:

- independent thinking
- critical thinking
- problem solving
- written and oral communication
- professional teamwork
- curiosity and creativity
- fluently speaking Spanish
- goal setting

## **KNOWLEDGE** Base

This program will prepare students to:

- Express themselves fluently and spontaneously
- Use the language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes
- Produce clear, well-structured, detailed texts on complex subjects showing controlled use of organizational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.
- Understand a wide range of texts, including classical literary works, and recognize implicit meaning.
- Acquire a thorough knowledge and understanding of the various cultures related to the language.

## Professional **RESOURCES**

- The American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP): [www.aatsp.org](http://www.aatsp.org)
- American Translators Associations: [www.atanet.org](http://www.atanet.org)

## **QUESTIONS?**

For questions, please call the Spanish program at 828-227-7241 or visit [spanish.wcu.edu](http://spanish.wcu.edu).

To schedule an appointment with a career counselor, contact the Center for Career and Professional Development, 828-227-7133 or [careerservices@wcu.edu](mailto:careerservices@wcu.edu).