Spanish Studies B.A.

Major
Bachelor of Arts
World Languages and Cultures
College of Liberal Arts

Spanish is the second most spoken language in the United States and in the world. In the Spanish Studies major, you will gain proficiency in the language, and you will gain insight into cultures and communities where Spanish is spoken. Take a wide array of courses in Spanish in areas like culture, sustainability, history, art, Business Spanish, film, and literature here at UMD and expand your horizons!

Why UMD

Spanish Studies consists of two different sub-plans: Language and Culture Studies or Latin America. The Language and Culture Studies sub-plan fosters the development of cross-cultural competency and broader world perspectives through the study of history, cultural production, and texts of inherently diverse Spanish-speaking communities and cultures. This major guides students to the acquisition of the Spanish language in order to carry out coursework in the study, analysis, and understanding of literary texts and cultural products from Latin America, Spain, and United States Latino communities. Students in this sub-plan gain proficiency in the Spanish language and essential skills, like critical analysis, empathy, and cultural awareness. Because this major requires a second field of study, this sub-plan prepares students for a wide variety of careers, graduate programs, and professional school programs. Graduates might go on to work in the STEM fields; for non-profit organizations, for the government, or in education; companies with international ties and who value bilingualism and inclusivity; among many other career possibilities.

Students interested in intensifying their study of Latin America are advised to consider the Latin America sub-plan. Students will apply their linguistic and interdisciplinary skills to a wide variety of local, regional, national, or international career choices. This sub-plan requires a study abroad or internship requirement, a requirement that gives students credit for an immersion in a Spanish-speaking community abroad or in a United States Latino community. If they choose a study abroad experience, students will cultivate the ability to articulate a keen understanding of the role of race, class, gender, sustainability, and human rights as they pertain to Spanish-speaking North America, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean. If they select an internship, students will put their Spanish language skills to use and acquire direct experience in a local, state, or private entity.

Acquired Skills

Students will gain proficiency in Spanish for many different contexts and registers.
Students will learn about cultures and communities that speak Spanish.
Students will fine-tune essential skills based on communication and connection.
Students will gain knowledge about history and literary and filmic movements from Spain and Latin America.
Students will have the opportunity to use Spanish in innovative and creative ways.
Spanish will open doors for students in ways they might not imagine.

Career Possibilities

An undergraduate degree in Spanish at UMD prepares
students for a variety of careers and/or graduate or professional programs because students have a second field of study. Our students go on to careers in community organizations in the US and internationally, engineering, teaching, non-profit administration, human resources, the creative economy, law and government, marketing and business administration, health and sciences, and much more.

Scholarships

CLA is proud to be able to offer over 90 alumni and donor-funded scholarships to our students each year. In total over $190,000 is awarded out to CLA majors and some minors as well. Each department facilitates the process for their specific scholarships and students are also encouraged to apply for CLA-wide scholarships offered to students in any field. The World Languages and Cultures Department offers several scholarships for students to study abroad and for students who excel academically (annually, each up to to $2000).

Student Clubs

The UMD Club de Español (Spanish Club) is a student-run organization that plans events where students (and faculty) can connect and celebrate their love of the Spanish language and Hispanic cultures. Recent events include a bonfire in Bagley Nature Area, a holiday goodie decorating party, yoga in Spanish, among others. The club has also hosted fundraisers such as Mock-arita miércoles. The club’s leadership team organizes student volunteering with the Spanish immersion program at Lowell Elementary School.

Faculty Highlights

Work with civic organizations working to improve the lives of indigenous communities in Mexico. Research of oral histories from Minnesota's Latina/o/x communities.

The faculty have won several teaching and research awards. They are internationally recognized scholars and dynamic teachers!

Research on Spanish film and politics.