# Spanish
## at Benedictine University

## Why study Spanish at Benedictine?

When a student chooses to major in Spanish at Benedictine University, we promise a learner-friendly atmosphere featuring courses taught by native or near-native experienced professionals. Our communication-centered curriculum utilizes current methods and materials in second language education, and stresses individual attention to students in small classes. We encourage our students to supplement the classroom experience with specialized technologies designed to reinforce language learning, and to participate in extra-curricular programs and activities. Each student has the opportunity to develop fluency in the Spanish language, to gain an understanding of Hispanic cultures, to learn to write effectively, and to otherwise respond to the cultural and linguistic challenges of an Hispanic environment. Benedictine University faculty members also strongly encourage Spanish majors to take advantage of a wide range of community service activities, internships and cultural enrichment experiences. The Spanish program at Benedictine University is flexible, and we encourage students to enhance their education by pursuing a second major or minor in another field of study.

## How does the program work?

Students who major in Spanish are required to take 12 courses (36 semester credit hours) starting at the Intermediate I level. Although the University expects that the vast majority of students pursuing the major will test out of the Elementary and Intermediate I levels, the program's flexibility allows students with no background in Spanish to begin with elementary coursework before proceeding to the major requirements.

The program includes study of the works of Spanish and Latin American writers and analysis of how they influenced the thinking of their times. Language skills and cultural awareness are further developed through selected readings that explore topics such as Hispanic family structures, the role of the Church, and governmental and social relations, as well as class discussions and individual projects and papers in Spanish. Independent study courses developed by advanced students with faculty guidance provide the opportunity to tailor the program to the individual needs and interests of students. The Department of Languages and Literature also offers a Spanish major with Medical Spanish concentration option to help prepare students interested in health care careers to develop the language and cultural proficiency necessary for working effectively with Spanish-speakers.

During their studies, Spanish majors are required to participate in a short- or long-term study abroad program in a Spanish-speaking country in order to develop their Spanish skills in an authentic environment. Prior to graduation, Spanish majors must demonstrate Intermediate High level oral proficiency, according to the guidelines of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). Oral proficiency will be evaluated through the ACTFL online proficiency testing program. Spanish minors must demonstrate Intermediate Mid level oral proficiency.

## What careers are available with a degree in Spanish?

Knowledge of another language and culture is an increasingly valuable asset for people entering the job market. Benedictine University's Spanish major emphasizes cultural and communicative competence so that successful completion of the program enables graduates to use their Spanish in a professional environment. The Spanish language faculty and the University work closely with students to help each identify and pursue a career path chosen from a variety of areas such as government, business, advertising, law, journalism, the sciences, the arts, education and health care. As more and more middle and high schools require second language study, the University offers teacher certification in Spanish in order to respond to the growing need for Spanish and bilingual teachers.

# Recommended Program

## Bachelor of Arts in Spanish

### FRESHMAN

| | |
|---|---|
| Writing Colloquium | 3 |
| Mathematics (MATH 105, 108 or 110) | 3 |
| Modes of Inquiry elective | 3 |
| Modes of Inquiry elective | 3 |
| Intermediate Spanish I | 3 |
| | 15 |

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| Research Writing | 3 |
| Modes of Inquiry elective | 3 |
| Modes of Inquiry elective | 3 |
| Modes of Inquiry elective | 3 |
| Intermediate Spanish II | 3 |
| | 15 |

### SOPHOMORE

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| Basic Speech | 3 |
| Modes of Inquiry elective | 3 |
| Intermediate Grammar and Composition | 3 |
| *Intermediate Oral Communications | 3 |
| Modes of Inquiry elective | 3 |
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|---|---|
| Spanish Civilization/Culture or Latin American Civilization/Culture | 3 |
| Modes of Inquiry elective | 3 |
| Second major/minor/elective | 3 |
| Modes of Inquiry elective | 3 |
| **Spanish Literature requirement | 3 |
| | 15 |

### JUNIOR

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|---|---|
| **Spanish Literature elective | 3 |
| Advanced Grammar | 3 |
| Second major/minor/electives | 9 |
| | 15 |

Study Abroad
Spanish equivalent (9 semester credit hours) of:

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|---|---|
| Spanish Civilization/Culture or Latin American Civilization/Culture | 3 |
| Advanced Written Communications | 3 |
| Advanced Oral Communications | 3 |
| Second major/minor/elective | 6 |
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### SENIOR

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|---|---|
| Advanced Grammar or Spanish elective | 3 |
| **Spanish Literature elective | 3 |
| Catholic and Benedictine Intellectual Traditions (IDS 201) | 3 |
| Second major/minor/elective | 6 |
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|---|---|
| Advanced Spanish Literature or Advanced Latin American Literature | 3 |
| Human Dignity and the Common Good (IDS 301) | 3 |
| Second major/minor/electives | 9 |
| | 15 |

* *Students who are heritage speakers of Spanish (who grew up in a Spanish-speaking home) will take a Spanish elective in place of Intermediate Oral Communications.*

** *To meet the literature requirement for the major, students must take one of the following three combinations of courses, for a total of 6 semester credit hours of credit:*
*1. SPAN 220, 310 OR*
*2. SPAN 221, 307 OR*
*3. SPAN 307, 310.*