

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 the latest 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 computer programs designed to reinforce the language, and to participate in extra-curricular programs and activities. Consequently, 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 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 encourages 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-hours) beginning 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 also allows students with no background in Spanish to begin with elementary coursework and subsequently proceed to the major requirements.

The program includes study of the works of Spanish and Latin American poets, novelists, essayists, playwrights and philosophers, and analysis of how they influenced the thinking of their times. Language skills and cultural awareness are further developed through selected readings concerned with such topics as Hispanic family structures, the role of the church, and governmental and social relations, as well as class discussions, 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. In the past, students have used this option to study Contemporary Latin American Women Writers, Spanish in the Medical Environment and Spanish in the Legal Environment.

During their studies, majors are required to participate in an international experience such as our Summer Education Abroad Program in Spain, or study or intern in another Spanish-speaking country in order to develop their Spanish 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. Oral proficiency will be evaluated in an interview with a faculty member of the department.

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 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 and education. As more and more middle and high schools require second language study, the University offers teacher certification (grades 6-12) in Spanish in order to respond to the rapidly growing need for Spanish teachers.

Recommended Program

Bachelor of Arts in Spanish

FRESHMAN

Writing Colloquium	3
Mathematics (MATH S105, S108 or S110)	3
Social Science core elective	3
Natural Science core elective	3
Intermediate Spanish I	3
15	

Research Writing	3
Social Science core elective	3
Natural Science core elective	3
Fine Arts/Music core elective	3
Intermediate Spanish II	3
15	

JUNIOR

Introduction to Spanish Literature or Introduction to Latin American Literature	3
Advanced Grammar	3
Second major/minor/elective	3
Social Science core elective	3
Cultural Heritage (HUMN 240)	3
15	

Study Abroad	
Spanish equivalent (9 hours) of:	
Spanish Civilization/Culture or Latin American Civilization/Culture	3
Advanced Written Communication	3
Advanced Oral Communication	3
Second major/minor/elective	6
15	

SOPHOMORE

Speech Communication	3
Religious Studies core elective	3
Intermediate Grammar and Composition	3
Intermediate Oral Communications	3
Cultural Heritage (HUMN 220)	3
15	

Spanish Civilization/Culture or Latin American Civilization/Culture	3
Philosophy core elective	3
Second major/minor/elective	6
Cultural Heritage (HUMN 230)	3
15	

SENIOR

Advanced Grammar or Spanish elective	3
Introduction to Spanish Literature or Introduction to Latin American Literature 3	
Second major/minor/elective	3
Natural Science core elective	3
Cultural Heritage (HUMN 250)	3
15	

Contemporary Spanish Drama or Latin American Narrative	3
Second major/minor/electives	12
15	