



Spanish

at Benedictine University at Mesa

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. 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 community service activities, internships and cultural enrichment experiences, when available. Students are encouraged 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—exploring such topics as Hispanic family structures, the role of the Catholic Church, and governmental and social relations—class discussions, and individual projects and papers in Spanish.

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. Students can pursue career paths in a variety of areas such as government, business, advertising, law, journalism, the sciences, the arts, education and health care.

Sample Program

Bachelor of Arts in Spanish

Below is a sample four-year plan that an incoming freshman would follow. There may be slight variations to course offerings. Transfer students who have completed an Associate of Arts degree or an Associate of Science degree may have many of the general education courses listed in this plan satisfied through transfer coursework.

FRESHMAN

Writing Colloquium	3
Mathematics (MATH 105, 108 or 110)	3
Theology of Love	3
Social Scientific I: Individuals, Organizations and Societies (QIO) course	3
Intermediate Spanish I	3
	15

Research Writing	3
Theology of Justice	3
Basic Speech	3
Artistic and Creative (QCA) course	3
Intermediate Spanish II	3
	15

JUNIOR

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

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

SOPHOMORE

Physical Scientific (QPS) course	3
Social Scientific II: Political, Global and Economic Systems (QPE) course	3
Intermediate Grammar and Composition	3
*Intermediate Oral Communications	3
Philosophical (QPL) course	3
	15

Spanish Civilization/Culture or Latin American Civilization/Culture	3
Life Scientific (QLS) course	3
Second major/minor/elective	3
Computational, Mathematical and Analytical (QCM) course	3
**Spanish Literature requirement	3
	15

SENIOR

Advanced Grammar or Spanish elective	3
**Spanish Literature elective	3
Catholic and Benedictine Intellectual Traditions (IDS 201)	3
Second major/minor/elective	6
	15

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.