

Learning Outcomes: Undergraduate Program in Spanish

Mission, Goals and Objectives of the Spanish B.A. Program

Spanish Program Mission:

In keeping with the mission of the English and Foreign Languages Department, the Spanish program offers majors and non-majors a broad, liberal education that enables them to read analytically, think critically and write clearly in dealing with literature, linguistics and culture. Offerings in these areas for the Spanish major or the non-major provide students with tools to function effectively in different cultural and professional contexts.

Objectives and Outcomes

Based on proficiency guidelines prepared by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), the National Foreign Language Standards, and a review of the Languages Other Than English Subject Matter Requirements as approved by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, the Spanish faculty have identified the following educational outcomes for the Spanish major.

Upon completion of the Spanish program students will demonstrate ability to:

A. Communicate orally in Spanish in real-life situations at the ACTFL advanced high proficiency level

Students will be able to meet the following objectives:

- Demonstrate proficiency in the comprehension of oral messages.
- Demonstrate proficiency in oral expression in Spanish including presentation to an audience of listeners on a variety of topics study (i.e., linguistics, literature, culture), including the ability to develop and articulate positions in Spanish.
- Understand someone else speaking about a discipline-related topic and be able to engage that person in discussion.
- Evaluate the use of language to convey meaning, to inform, and to persuade.
- Participate in multilingual communities at home and around the world.

B. Communicate in writing in Spanish at the ACTFL advanced high proficiency level with minimal errors in grammar, spelling, and the mechanics of writing.

Students will be able to meet the following objectives:

- Write clear and coherent essays in Spanish on various topics related to everyday situations and work.
- Exhibit research skills for producing papers including familiarity with library resources such as online databases and catalogs, the ability to gather and synthesize information, the ability to properly quote, paraphrase and summarize other texts, and familiarity with basic documentation formats.

C. Read critically, interpret analytically, and write coherently about literatures produced in Spanish

Students will be able to meet the following objectives:

- Analyze and interpret a variety of literary and cultural texts.
- Write clear and coherent essays in Spanish on literary topics.
- Interpret the use of rhetorical and literary techniques.
- Demonstrate a broad and deep knowledge of literary and cultural traditions: major movements, genres, writers and works of the Spanish-speaking world.
- Apply critical thinking skills as they read texts.

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D. Read critically, interpret analytically, and write coherently about fundamental principles of the Spanish language

Students will be able to meet the following objectives:

- Identify and explain distinctive linguistic features of Spanish.
- Identify and analyze some distinctive stylistic and dialectal features of Spanish.
- Synthesize selected scholarly work in Spanish linguistics, and Spanish Applied Linguistics.
- Apply Spanish linguistics theory to textual analysis.

E. Understand and demonstrate appreciation of the cultural values of Spanish-speaking peoples

Student will be able to meet the following objectives:

- Identify significant individuals, key eras, and major historical events and developments within Spanish speaking-nations and cultures.
- Describe and compare political, religious, social, economic and educational systems and institutions in Spanish-speaking nations and cultures.
- Discuss how the major physical and geographical features of Spanish-speaking countries have shaped their development and evolution of their cultures.
- Analyze social, ethnic and linguistic diversity in the Spanish-speaking world.
- Compare and contrast the differences and similarities between US and the Spanish speaking cultures.
- Draw connections with other disciplines
- Acquire information about other disciplines using the Spanish language.