



World Languages and Cultural Studies

Major information

St. Bonaventure offers a major and minor in Spanish, as well as minors in French, and Arabic and Islamic Studies. Additionally, Italian is offered through the intermediate level.

B.A. in Spanish

In the United States, more people speak Spanish than any other language except English. In the 21st century, Spanish has become a professional asset in an array of professions.

The Spanish major provides students with a strong foundation in language skills: speaking, listening comprehension, reading and writing in a variety of language courses. As students advance in the major, they continue to enhance their knowledge through a variety of upper-level courses in culture and literature from Latin America, Spain and through study abroad opportunities.

Our Language classes are small, especially upper-level courses, and there is a personalized pedagogical approach between faculty and students. Faculty is dedicated and offers a diverse curricula and advisement to enhance students' educational experience as well as to provide students with a multicultural perspective of the Hispanic speaking world.

The linguistic and communication skills acquired in the Spanish major, along with critical-thinking skills and the overall cultural awareness gained, prepare students to pursue employment in fields of teaching, translation and interpretation, government positions and others.

If interested, students can pursue a double major in Spanish and a different discipline in the schools of Arts and Sciences, Business, Education, Health

Professions, and the Jandoli School of Communication. Students are encouraged to develop a plan for a minor in another area of study.

Students who graduate with a Spanish major also pursue myriad graduate degrees including the Ph.D. in Spanish as well as graduate studies in Hispanic studies or comparative literature, MBA, MPA, Master of Spanish and other advanced degrees.

Students who meet the requirements can be inducted into the Spanish honor society Sigma Delta Pi.

Curriculum

Majors receive grounding in the fundamental skills of language: in holistically oriented courses, with a special emphasis on culture as well. In addition, majors take advanced courses in conversation and composition, literature, and culture and civilization.

Why does learning a language matter?

- Many Americans speak languages other than English.
- More and more businesses work closely with companies in other countries.
- Studying a second language can improve your skills and grades in math and English and can improve entrance exam scores like MCATS and LSATS.

Why learn a language at SBU?

- Small, intimate learning environments where you matter
- Varied and multiple opportunities to study abroad
- A dedicated and accomplished faculty
- Personal advisement that is committed and caring
- Academic experiences that will challenge and advance your understanding of your world



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Who needs you?

- The need for language and culture specialists is growing rapidly worldwide, as there are millions of Spanish, French and Arabic speakers in the world, and even in the U.S.
- The Census Bureau reports that the United States has the second largest Spanish-speaking population in the world, second only to Mexico.
- At home and abroad, career professionals face an increasingly competitive global job market where the ability to read, write, speak and understand multiple languages and their associated cultures are valuable assets.

What our graduates say

“The Department of World Languages and Cultural Studies provides more than just a language-based education; it enriches student experiences with literature, history, and travel.

“In an increasingly global society, this department teaches the importance of intercultural communication and mutual understanding.

“I started my scholarly journey in language and culture at St. Bonaventure University, but the Department of World Languages and Cultural Studies has given me the tools to continue learning and growing for the rest of my life.”

— Peter Bertoldo '17

“As a Spanish major, I have been able to expand upon my interest in languages and culture in a practical way.

“The Department of World Languages and Cultural Studies requires Spanish majors to study a second language, which has allowed me to study French and gain competency in yet another language.

“These language and cultural skills have assisted me in both my educational and professional career. I have used these skills to acquire an internship abroad in Valladolid, Spain, as well as an internship through Columbia University working with international students.”

— Haylei John, '18