



Department of World Languages and Cultures

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## **Professional Certificate in Spanish for Healthcare Professionals**

Language and other socio-cultural barriers compromise the quality of health and health care delivery for millions of Spanish-speaking, limited English proficient, and other Latino patients each year. U.S. Latino patients, for example, are more likely to be uninsured, and suffer from higher rates of diabetes, and other illnesses and have been disproportionately affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. As the U.S. Latin American and Latino populations continue to grow, the healthcare sector increasingly needs doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals who are prepared to work compassionately and effectively with Spanish-speaking patients.

The Certificate in Spanish for Healthcare Professionals will help prepare future healthcare workers to better respond to the unique healthcare and social service needs of Latino and Latin American populations in the U.S. and to better serve Spanish-speaking patients who otherwise may not get equal access to health care services due to linguistic and cultural barriers. Through targeted language and cultural training, students will boost their ability to communicate effectively in Spanish and to understand cultural nuances. Students' increased language proficiency and cross-cultural competency will help to work more effectively in the healthcare industry, provide more accurate care for Spanish-speaking patients, and potentially increase patient outcomes across healthcare systems.

### **Required Courses:**

The first required course in the certificate is **SPA 203 (Intermediate Oral Proficiency) or SPA 210 (Spanish for Heritage Speakers)**,

**SPA 203** boosts non-native students' language proficiency to at least the intermediate-mid level, so that they are prepared for more specialized professionally oriented courses.

**SPA 210** helps to fill gaps and improve heritage speakers' written Spanish ability so they can more easily become bilingual professionals.

**The following two courses** — which must be taken sequentially — are SPA 219 (Medical Spanish) and SPA 319 (Spanish Medical Interpreting)

**SPA 219** students read and report on (orally and in writing) materials ranging from newspaper articles to publications in professional journals in Spanish, to interview native Spanish speakers and to transcribe these interviews, and to write a final paper in Spanish.

They learn specialized vocabulary for all the systems of the body, diseases, and how to conduct patient interviews. They study healthcare disparities and related topics, such as the role of cultural competence and cultural humility in health care delivery to Latino populations. As a final project in SPA 219, students examine the synergistic factors that impact health outcomes for Latino patients for an illness or condition that disproportionately affects such patients and propose ways to improve health outcomes.

**SPA 319** students will expand their medical vocabulary and ability to successfully read and understand Spanish-language texts related to health and medicine, understand the cultural and linguistic aspects of treating a non-English-speaking Hispanic population, and expand their ability to define common medical problems and discuss their causes, risk factors, symptoms, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention in Spanish. They will become familiar with the Standards, Interpreting Protocols, and Code of Ethics of the International Medical Interpreters Association. Through weekly medical interpretations students will learn to evaluate their own skills as bilingual interpreters, and identify areas for improvement and continued practice.

**SPA 219 and 319 students will develop the following competencies:**

- Solid knowledge of the vocabulary needed to speak in Spanish about anatomy and medical conditions and diseases.
- Knowledge of non-technical vocabulary and expressions frequently used by Spanish-speaking patients to describe illness or body parts.
- Solid knowledge of cognates for medical terms in Spanish and English and false cognates that could be misunderstood.
- Knowledge of cultural attitudes and values that might impact the treatment of limited English-proficient Spanish-speaking and other Latino patients and their relationship with medical providers.
- An understanding of the challenges of caring for patients with whom there is a language or cultural barrier.
- The ability to interview a Spanish-speaking patient to determine his or her chief complaint, symptoms and history of the presenting illness or condition, for which he or she is accessing medical care, at a level appropriate for a pre-health student.
- The ability to understand patients giving their medical history.
- The ability to explain to a Spanish-speaking patient medical information including causes and treatment of diseases or conditions, purpose for diagnostic tests.

- The ability to check the patient’s understanding of medical information presented and to clarify or to answer additional questions as necessary.
- The ability to read different text types on health and other medical topics in Spanish, such as from the press, from professional journals, and at different levels of difficulty.

## Spanish for the Professions Certificates Pathways

Spanish for Law & Justice Practitioners	Spanish for Healthcare Professionals	Business Spanish	Spanish for Counseling & Human Services
<b>Required Core Classes:</b> <i>SPA 203 Intermediate Oral Proficiency</i> (Fall & Spring), <i>SPA 210 Spanish for Heritage Speakers</i> (Fall), or credit by examination by WLC department			
<i>SPA 228 Spanish for Law, Justice, and Human Services</i> (Fall) (Satisfies Global requirement)	<i>SPA 219 Spanish for Medical Purposes</i> (Spring)	<i>SPA 211 Intermediate Writing Prof</i> (Fall & Spring)	<i>SPA 219 Spanish for Medical Purposes</i> (Spring)
<i>WLC 238 (in English) Latin American Cultural Perspectives</i> (Spring) (Satisfies Global requirement)  Or <i>SPA 216 Current Events in the Spanish-Speaking World</i> or <i>SPA 217 Introduction to Hispanic Cultures</i>	<i>SPA 319 English/Spanish Medical Interpreting</i> (Fall)	<i>SPA 218 Business Spanish</i> (Spring)	<i>SPA 228 Spanish for Law, Justice, and Human Services</i> (Fall)
Second two classes for the certificate can be taken in any order	SPA 219 needs to be taken prior to 319	Second two classes for the certificate can be taken in any order	Second two classes for the certificate can be taken in any order