



Department of World Languages and Cultures

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## **Professional Certificate in Spanish for Counseling and Human Services**

**By perfecting their Spanish and heightening their intercultural awareness, psychology and counseling students can better serve a large and growing population of Spanish speakers.** A 2018 [study](#) by the American Psychological Association reports a shortage of Spanish speaking mental health practitioners with “only about 5,000 psychologists in the United States who are Hispanic, representing 5 percent of all psychologists, an increase from 3 percent a decade ago, according to [Census data](#).

Spanish-speaking therapists are a rare commodity. In a nationwide [APA survey](#), only 5.5 percent of psychologists, who may be Hispanic or another race or ethnicity, said they can provide mental health services in Spanish. Various studies also report on Language barriers limiting access to quality care. A recent [study](#) found that Spanish-speaking clients often feel less comfortable sharing personal information with an English-speaking therapist, even when an interpreter is used. Another [study](#) found that Spanish-speaking clients may shift from English to Spanish when recounting emotional experiences, and they may represent themselves differently depending on the language they are speaking. Beyond language, understanding Latin American and Hispanic cultural realities is key to providing successful treatment.

**Equipping our students with language and intercultural skills to work with Hispanic clients will help to address the shortage of Spanish speaking mental health providers for both adults and children.**

**The Spanish Professional Certificate for Counseling and Human Services** consists of three classes beginning with SPA 203/ SPA 210, each of which will build students’ oral proficiency, intercultural skills, cultural humility, and specialized vocabulary pertaining to semantic areas they need to interact appropriately and professionally with clients (including mental health and counseling, medical terminology, and law). Both SPA 228 and SPA 219 specifically focus on issues faced by Hispanics in the U.S. related to disparities in healthcare, mental healthcare, and the criminal justice and immigration systems. Both classes are designed to advance students’ oral proficiency in the Spanish language. Finally, both classes also foster empathy and cultural humility by building students’ awareness of the hardships others face.

## **Required Courses**

**SPA 203 or SPA 210** • *Spanish for Intermediate Oral Proficiency or 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.

### **SPA 219** • *Spanish for Medical Purposes*

In **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. Students also 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 228** • *Spanish for Law, Justice, and Human Services*

**SPA 228** examines the shared experiences and unique circumstances of Latin American peoples in both Latin America and the U.S. Students will examine the reasons for this populations' mistrust of the police and criminal justice system in both the U.S and Latin America. SPA 228 emphasizes respect for different points of view and awareness of hardships that others face. Class readings, films, and group discussions will allow students to formulate their own opinions about current-day issues as well as provide them with a basis from which to develop more advanced oral skills in Spanish including work on the following skills: students will develop narration in all major time frames, circumlocution, expressing opinions, handling a situation with a complication, asking and answering questions, and improving listening comprehension, all skills that will help students to interact with Latin American/ Latino clients with greater language ability and intercultural awareness.

## **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> SPA 203 <i>Intermediate Oral Proficiency</i> (Fall & Spring), SPA 210 <i>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