

SPANISH, BACHELOR OF ARTS

College: The Goodwin College of Business and Liberal Arts

Department: Languages and Literature

Student Type: Traditional Undergraduate

Degree: Bachelor of Arts

Campus: Both Lisle Campus and Mesa Campus

Students may not declare this major after the Fall 2025 term.

Students prior to Spring 2026, please refer to original catalog of entry for appropriate academic requirements.

The faculty members who teach in the Spanish program firmly believe that, for the person who possesses the ability to communicate in another language and who shows sensitivity toward and understanding of other cultures, the world will have fewer boundaries. The development of language skills and cultural understanding and sensitivity will stimulate students' intellectual and personal growth and broaden their perspective, thus enabling them to become responsible citizens and leaders in the world community.

The faculty subscribes to the proficiency guidelines of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) and uses them as a basis for instruction.

Courses in Spanish are designed to enable students to:

1. Initiate and progressively develop skills in listening comprehension, speaking, reading, writing, and cultural understanding;
2. Recognize the close relationship between language and culture, enabling them to become culturally sensitive to non-English speaking peoples and societies;
3. Be able to use specialized terminology from a variety of professional fields, including health care, business and finance, translation and interpretation, and law and law enforcement; and
4. Broaden their career opportunities and marketability in an increasingly globalized and interdependent world.

Requirements – Bachelor of Arts in Spanish

A Spanish major must complete at least 36 semester credit hours of Spanish courses at or above the 2000-level, including a minimum of 18 hours at the 3000-level or above, with a grade of "C" or better. The 36 semester credit hours (typically 12 classes) must include the following courses:

Code	Title	Hours
SPAN 2201	Intermediate Spanish I	3
SPAN 2202	Intermediate Spanish II	3
SPAN 2211	Intermediate Grammar and Composition	3
SPAN 2212	Intermediate Oral Communications ¹	3
or SPAN 2215	Spanish for Heritage Speakers	
SPAN 3221	Introduction to Hispanic Literature	3
SPAN 3231	Hispanic Culture and Civilization	3
SPAN 3350	Competency in Latino Culture for Health Care	3
or SPAN 3360	Introduction to Community Interpreting in Spanish	
SPAN 4311	Advanced Composition and Grammar	3

SPAN 4312	Advanced Oral Communications	3
Two additional SPAN elective classes at or above the 2000 level		6
One additional SPAN elective classes at or above the 3000 level		3
Total Hours		36

¹ Heritage speakers—students who grew up in a Spanish-speaking home—should take SPAN 2215 Spanish for Heritage Speakers instead of SPAN 2212 Intermediate Oral Communications.

Spanish majors must demonstrate Intermediate-High level proficiency or higher in spoken Spanish according to the 2012 ACTFL proficiency guidelines. Students should arrange to take the oral proficiency exam during the semester **prior** to the semester in which they plan to graduate. This ACTFL oral proficiency exam is administered online for a modest fee. After taking the test, students receive a nationally-recognized certificate of their oral Spanish proficiency from ACTFL. For information on the ACTFL online test, contact Dr. Rafael Iglesias (Rlglesias@ben.edu) at (630) 829-6268. The ACTFL oral proficiency interview may be repeated for an additional fee until the required level of proficiency is demonstrated.

Requirements - Teaching License

Students who desire to be licensed to teach Spanish at grades K-12 are to declare themselves as Spanish majors and Education minors and register with the Benedictine University Education Program as teaching licensure candidates. Advising is then a joint responsibility of the Spanish program and the School of Education.

Students must complete the requirements for a major in Spanish as well as the requirements of the Teacher Licensure Program in Education which includes the Education minor (<http://catalog.ben.edu/lisle-undergraduate/academic-programs/education/secondary-education-minor-pel/>) (see Education [Elementary Education, Special Education and Minors in Education and Special Education (<http://catalog.ben.edu/lisle-undergraduate/academic-programs/education/>)] section). Students seeking teacher licensure must earn a rating of Advanced-Low or higher on the ACTFL oral proficiency exam if required by the Illinois State Board of Education for licensure.

External Credit Information

For information on external credit awards for language courses visit the External Credit (<http://catalog.ben.edu/lisle-undergraduate/academic-requirements-policies/external-credit/languages/>) section of the catalog.

Objectives

Students in the Languages Programs (Arabic, and Spanish) will achieve the following student learning outcomes (SLO):

Student Learning Outcome 1: Demonstrate proficiency in all four skills of the target language at the intermediate level as defined by ACTFL (low, mid, high). The appropriate intermediate level will vary depending on the language studied and whether the student is a major or a minor in the language.

• University SLO: 1. Disciplinary Competence and Skills; 3. Communication Skills; 6. Global Awareness and Cultural Competence

Student Learning Outcome 2: Recognize key aspects of target culture.

• University SLO: 1. Disciplinary Competence and Skills, and 6. Global Awareness and Cultural Competence

Student Learning Outcome 3: Demonstrate knowledge of the target civilization, including its geography, history, art, literature, diversity (e.g. linguistic, ethnic, religious), and current political issues and their international ramifications

• University SLO: 1. Disciplinary Competence and Skills; 2. Critical and Creative Thinking Skills, 3. Analytical Skills; 6. Global Awareness and Cultural Competence

Student Learning Outcome 4: Display cultural competence in both formal and informal contexts in target culture(s).

• University SLO: 1. Disciplinary Competence and Skills; 3. Communication Skills, 6. Global Awareness and Cultural Competence; 9. Personal Development