

Spanish

Spanish is one of the two major languages spoken on the Iberian Peninsula and throughout Latin America, as well as in various regions of the United States. The Department of Spanish and Portuguese offers an undergraduate major program in Spanish designed to provide students a strong foundation in the language. It introduces them to the study of literary works and helps them develop an informed awareness of the respective cultures. In addition, the Spanish Honors program offers an in-depth and particularly challenging curriculum.

One of the principal goals of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese is to help students attain the highest possible level of language proficiency. The department encourages students to take advantage of several study abroad programs sponsored by the department in Argentina, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, and Spain. These programs provide opportunities to gain greater exposure to the language, literature, and cultures of the Spanish-speaking world.

Pursuing Spanish at Ohio State

Students do not need to have studied Spanish in high school since the department offers basic language instruction. However, students that have had prior instruction in the language may begin their major program earlier and thus progress toward advanced levels more rapidly.

All Ohio State freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process for the Columbus campus. The primary criteria for admission are the completion of the applicant's high school college preparatory program, performance in that program as indicated by class rank and/or grade-point average, and performance on either the ACT or SAT. Upon admission to the university, students can declare a major in Spanish within the Arts and Humanities. Interested students should contact an undergraduate advisor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and in Arts and Sciences Advising.

During their studies, Spanish majors are encouraged to frequently meet with departmental advisors, in order to keep them on track throughout their major program. The key to successful completion of major study in another language is to carefully and efficiently select courses with a departmental academic advisor.

Spanish Requirements

Prerequisite requirements include Spanish 101 (Elementary Spanish I) through 104 (Intermediate Spanish II) and Spanish 250 (Fact and Fiction: A Reading Course).

Successful completion of the Spanish Listening and Reading Proficiency Exam (SLRPE), indicated by a score of 80 percent or better on both portions of the test, is a prerequisite for entry into the Spanish major. Students are eligible for the exam as early as the fifth week of enrollment in Spanish H104 or Spanish 250. Students with an AP score of 4 or 5 in Spanish should contact a departmental advisor about placement.

The major program requirements in Spanish include a minimum of 50 hours:

- an orientation of 12 credit hours in advanced language instruction including Advanced Grammar, Intermediate Spanish Composition, and Introduction to the Study of Literature and Culture in Spanish
- a core of 30 credit hours of 500 and 600-level course work, including at least one 600-level Senior Seminar or Honors Seminar
- a minimum of eight credit hours of electives
- an immersion requirement

Co-Curricular Opportunities

Over 40 percent of Spanish majors also carry another major such as engineering, business, nursing, social work, biology, international studies, and linguistics. Due to the interdisciplinary interests of our students, the Spanish department offers many opportunities to learn and grow outside of the classroom. Our departmental web site has regularly updated pages with outreach and volunteer opportunities in education, social work, medical fields, and community-based groups. The web site also contains study abroad information and information about student organizations and clubs, such as Sin Inglés and Club Hispano, that are supported by our department.

Many incoming students realize the importance of research and collaborating with professors to write a thesis. There are opportunities for these students to receive scholarships, fellowships, and other funding opportunities offered at Ohio State. After receiving such funding, many of our students have traveled to Mexico, Argentina, and throughout the United States during the summer to complete their investigative work, and then finish their writing during the school year.

Honors & Scholars Programs

Ohio State offers the Honors and Scholars programs to create an environment of intellectual support and stimulation within a close-knit community of high-ability undergraduate students. Through these programs, students have access to smaller classes, undergraduate research opportunities, close working relationships with faculty, priority scheduling, and unique housing options.

For more information, check these web sites:

Spanish and Portuguese: sppo.osu.edu

Arts and Humanities: artsandhumanities.osu.edu

Ohio State: osu.edu

Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu

Multicultural Center: multiculturalcenter.osu.edu

First Year Experience Program: fye.osu.edu

Curriculum Sample

This is a sample list of classes a student may take to pursue a degree in Spanish. Since university students need more than specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete the General Education Curriculum (GEC). The GEC will allow students to develop the fundamental skills essential to collegiate success across major programs. Course work options satisfying the GEC often come from a variety of academic areas of study allowing students to tailor their GEC toward their interests. Note: This sample represents one of several possible paths to a degree in Spanish. Consult the departmental web site, sppo.osu.edu, for details on each specific track.

Freshman Year:

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| Intermediate Spanish I* | 15 |
| Intermediate Spanish II | 5 |
| GEC courses | 25 |
| Fact and Fiction: A Reading Course | 4 |
| Arts and Humanities Survey | 1 |
| Freshman Seminar | 1 |
| Total hours | 51 |

Sophomore Year:

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| Advanced Grammar | 4 |
| Spanish Pronunciation | 3 |
| Intermediate Spanish Composition | 4 |
| Introduction to the Study of Literature and Culture | 4 |
| GEC courses | 30 |
| Total hours | 45 |

Junior Year:

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| Masterpieces of Modern Spanish Literature | 5 |
| Introduction to Spanish Linguistics | 5 |
| Advanced Spanish Composition | 5 |
| Introduction to Spanish American Culture | 5 |
| GEC courses | 30 |
| Total hours | 50 |

Senior Year:

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| Contrastive Structures of Spanish & English | 5 |
| Modern Spanish Syntax | 5 |
| Senior Seminar | 5 |
| GEC courses | 5 |
| Electives | 15 |
| Total hours | 35 |

* Assumes student tested out of two beginning-level Spanish courses. Ten hours of EM credit would be applied toward the 181 credit hours required for graduation.

Honors and Scholars programs represent great opportunities to be part of a smaller community within a large university. Good candidates for these programs will receive additional information after admission to the university. Learn more about the Honors and Scholars program at honors-scholars.osu.edu.

Career Prospects in Spanish

The knowledge of a second language is usually a key to acquiring strong writing skills. Employment in almost any field is open to a language major, especially in companies that do business with overseas clients. This can range from the banking industry to public relations to computer programming. Knowledge of a second language is also helpful in health care and in social work. A second language can be beneficial for employment in federal, state, and local governments. The ability to do research and translation in another language also opens doors to careers.

Ohio State graduates with Spanish degrees have chosen jobs such as Spanish teacher, House of Representatives, Spanish-speaking loan/mortgage officer, technical writer for AT&T, lawyer, FBI Field Agent, and U.S. postal inspector in Puerto Rico.

Career Counseling and Job Placement

Students should utilize the Arts and Sciences Career Services Offices during their studies at Ohio State for help in writing résumés and for advice about enhancing their academic experiences with internships and jobs. Workshops and career fairs are organized on a regular basis through the ASC Career Services Office.

Students can explore career options by utilizing Career Connection as well as the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office. Providing complimentary services, Career Connection focuses on helping students establish a career direction, while the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office assists students with finding internships—experiences that are essential to testing out the suitability of career fields they are considering. Located in 48 Townshend Hall, the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office also assists seniors and recent graduates with finding entry-level career employment. More information about both offices is found at asccareerservices.osu.edu and careerconnection.osu.edu.

Apply to Ohio State

Students wishing to apply for admission have a number of options. Those with Internet access can download application materials or apply online by visiting undergrad.osu.edu/apply.html. Students may also contact Undergraduate Admissions and First Year Experience at (614) 292-3980 or askabuckeye@osu.edu to have an application mailed.

Revised September 2009. For the most up-to-date information on the Spanish program, please visit sppo.osu.edu.

Contact information:

Melissa Logue or Rachel Sanabria | Spanish and Portuguese
298 Hagerty Hall | 1775 College Road | Columbus, Ohio 43210-1340
(614) 292-4958