

# Spanish: A World Power Language

With more than 490 million speakers, Spanish is the world's third most spoken language. In the Americas, it is the dominant language, spoken by 51 out of every 100 people. The United States, with more than 53 million Spanish speakers, currently ranks second among the Spanish-speaking countries of the world. By the year 2050, the projected Hispanic population of the United States will reach 28%.



Spanish is also a language of great literature, with numerous Nobel laureates, great cultural variety, and is increasingly important as a language for domestic and global business.

In 1787, Thomas Jefferson gave the following advice to the nation:

*Bestow great attention on the Spanish language and endeavor to acquire an accurate knowledge of it. Our future connection with Spain and Spanish America will render that language a valuable acquisition.*



The Department of Languages and Culture Studies has a record of helping students fulfill their professional goals. Students who major in Spanish at UNC Charlotte achieve success as:

- Elementary, middle and high school teachers
- Professional translators and interpreters
- Professors and researchers at colleges and universities after completing graduate work
- Graduate students in top graduate programs in international business such as the University of South Carolina and the American Graduate School of International Management
- Graduate students in international programs such as the M.A. in Nursing at Emory University
- Professionals in the airline industry, criminal justice, social work, and healthcare, using Spanish to communicate on a daily basis

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The University of North Carolina at Charlotte is committed to equality of educational opportunity and does not discriminate against applicants, students, or employees based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, or disability. In keeping with this commitment, UNC Charlotte actively seeks to promote diversity in its educational environment through its recruitment, enrollment, and hiring practices.

Produced in 2015 by the Department of Languages and Culture Studies.



# Why study Spanish

## at UNC Charlotte?



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## Committed Faculty



The Department of Languages and Culture Studies boasts an international faculty of highly qualified and experienced teacher-scholars. Faculty use proven teaching methods and technologies to create meaningful learning experiences. Most important, they are excited about what they teach and dedicated to helping you learn.

## Certificate Programs

In addition to a major or minor in Spanish you can also obtain a Certificate of Studies in the following areas:

- Business Spanish
- Translating

## Internship Opportunities

The professional internship in Spanish provides:

- An opportunity to apply your language skills and cultural knowledge in real-world settings.
- An opportunity to improve your Spanish by interacting with native speakers.
- An advantage in a competitive job market as our experiential learning course in Spanish puts you in direct contact with various services and agencies in the community.

## Study Abroad Programs



All students of Spanish are encouraged to take advantage of the unique learning experience provided by study abroad. The Department of Languages and Culture Studies offers:

- A semester or year-long program in Spain
- A 4-week summer program in Costa Rica
- A 4-week summer program in Cuba
- Exchange opportunities with many other countries

Additionally, the Office of International Programs offers opportunities to study almost anywhere in the Spanish speaking world.

## Honors Program

Students who excel in their program of study are recognized for their efforts and achievement. For our best students, we offer the possibility to graduate with Honors.

## Community Connections



The Spanish department values strong links with the community: schools, businesses, and government agencies. As a UNC Charlotte student, you benefit by having an inside edge in job and internship opportunities that require language and cross-cultural skills. We can help you to develop networking skills and provide you with useful recommendations to meet your career goals.

## Collaboration with Other Majors and Departments

UNC Charlotte faculty and staff collaborate across departments and majors to create a learner-centered environment. You can double major, minor, or complete a concentration in Spanish that will complement and enhance your own major. Outside of a major or minor, Spanish language courses are essential for students who major in Latin American Studies and International Studies. To meet the growing demand for Spanish teachers in K-12 education, the department collaborates with the College of Education to prepare teachers of Spanish. And in collaboration with the Department of English, there is a new interdisciplinary minor in Linguistics which features several Spanish courses.

## Language Resource Center



Students are served by this vibrant facility that supports access to global resources through technology, tutoring, and an international film collection. LRC Staff assist students with technology to complete course and program requirements.

## Extra-curricular Activities

UNC Charlotte offers numerous activities outside the classroom to practice your Spanish including guest speakers, movies, dances, and community service initiatives. Additional opportunities include:

- **CEPA**, the Spanish Club
- **Tertulia**, Spanish Conversation Table
- **Sigma Delta Pi**, the national Spanish Honor Society
- The **English Language Training Institute** assists in locating Spanish-speaking conversation partners.
- The **Office of International Programs** sponsors the annual International Festival, international dinners, and a study abroad fair.
- **Phi Beta Delta**, the Honor Society for International Scholars.