# Spanish, BA

**Emphases:** Spanish Teaching
**Department:** Languages, Philosophy and Communication Studies Department
**College:** College of Humanities and Social Sciences

## Overview

### About This Degree

The goal of the Spanish program at USU is to prepare students for advanced studies in Spanish language, literature, and culture. Spanish majors at USU take extensive language courses where they develop speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. Students also take courses in Spanish and Latin American history and literature, giving them the opportunity to broaden their education.

The faculty in this department have culturally diverse expertise in all aspects and areas of language. Students have access to their knowledge, as well as a language lab and many tutors to help them through their classes and prepare for a number of exciting careers in government, education, travel, and foreign affairs. Spanish majors gain a solid grounding in another language and culture, which helps them function effectively as members of the international community.

Students also have a chance to complete an international experience component. The student may choose the traditional study abroad experience in an accredited program or choose an internship. The internship must have a clear international focus and be supervised by a faculty member. The faculty member and the Spanish advisor must approve proposals for internships.

### Distance Education

A minor in Spanish is available online through USU's Regional Campuses and Distance Education program.

## Career Options

With a degree in Spanish, students may pursue the following careers:

- Translator or interpreter
- Customs worker
- Government translator
- Immigration services
- Language teacher or tutor
- Social services
- International business or development
- Peace Corps
- Tour guide

**Spanish Teaching Emphasis:**

- Spanish teacher in middle school or high school

Career Services provides counseling and information on hundreds of job and internship opportunities and even helps students apply and interview.

## What it takes

### Admissions Requirements

In addition to Utah State University's admissions requirements, the Spanish program has additional requirements:

- **New Freshmen:** New freshmen admitted to USU in good standing qualify for admission to this major.

- **Transfer Students:** Transfer students from other institutions and other USU majors need a 2.75 total GPA for admission to this major.
- A Spanish language placement test is available if students wish to bypass beginning-level Spanish classes.
- **STEP Requirements (Spanish teaching emphasis only):** In order to be accepted into STEP, students must go through an application process, which includes the following:
    - Complete 60 semester credits with a minimum GPA of 2.75
    - Complete certain core courses (see department for more information)
    - Complete a speech and hearing test
    - Pass the Teacher Education Writing Exam
    - Provide an unofficial copy of your transcript
    - Pass a criminal background check (this should be done one semester before submitting the application)

International students have additional admissions requirements.

### Major Requirements

Click here to see course requirements for the **Bachelor of Arts**.

## Contact

### Advising

All new USU students participate in a New Student Orientation program, where they receive detailed information about major requirements, registering for classes, and other important advising information.

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# Get Involved

## Professional Organizations, Honor Societies, and Clubs

**American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages:** The ACTFL is the only national organization dedicated to the improvement and expansion of the teaching and learning of all languages at all levels of instruction. ACTFL is an individual membership organization of more than 9,000 foreign language educators and administrators from elementary through graduate education, as well as government and industry.

**Spanish Ambassadors:** This club is dedicated to serving the Spanish-speaking population in Cache Valley, including translating at schools, health fairs, and university events; Spanish fluency is not required.

**Spanish Club:** The USU Spanish Club is open to any interested student on campus. The club discusses academic topics, informs members of job opportunities, and competes and participates in a number of different activities with organizations around campus.

**Medical Unity Club:** This club is for students interested in healthcare professions and working with Spanish-speaking communities or helping those who speak primarily Spanish in the United States.

**Phi Sigma Iota:** Phi Sigma Iota is the highest academic honor in the field of foreign languages. This honor society recognizes outstanding accomplishment in the study or teaching of academic fields related to foreign language, literature, or culture. These fields include foreign languages, as well as classic languages, linguistics, philology, comparative literature, bilingual education, second language acquisition, and other interdisciplinary programs with a significant foreign language component.

## Labs, Centers, Research

With the second oldest undergraduate research program in the nation, USU offers students a wide range of opportunities to gain hands-on research experience. The Undergraduate Research and Creative Opportunities program allows students to apply for grants and receive funding. USU's Honors Program prepares students for excellent graduate programs by helping them build relationships with professors, participate in research projects, take smaller, more intensive classes, and develop leadership skills.

**Technology Assisted Language Center:** This center serves primarily as a self-paced, language practice facility for students majoring in foreign languages. Also included in the TAL Center, is a tutoring room where students can meet with language tutors.