

# explore majors with OAAS!

The Office for Academic Advising Support  
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## Major: Spanish, BA

The major in Spanish emphasizes practical communication skills, linguistic and textual analysis, and the in-depth study of other cultures. After a foundation of advanced language courses that explore various topics related to the history and cultures of the Spanish-speaking world, students can pursue their interests in literature, linguistics, film, translation, and Spanish for business and medical fields.

### *What skills do students develop in this program?*

Spanish majors develop the linguistic skills and cultural competence that they need in order to communicate effectively in Spanish. They also develop their ability to think critically and creatively so that they are better prepared to live and work in an increasingly globalized world. Beyond intercultural skills and the ability to read, write, and speak in Spanish, our majors also develop general research, presentation, analytical, and writing skills that are useful in a variety of professions.

### *What kind of student is a good fit for Spanish?*

A good fit for the Spanish major is a student who is curious about language and who wants to explore other cultures in depth. Students start off in the major with a wide range of abilities in Spanish and a wide range of contact with the cultures of the Spanish-speaking world: from those with little experience with Spanish to those who grew up speaking the language. They all share, however, an interest in learning about other times and places.

Students who excel in the Spanish major have a sense of adventure and curiosity about other places and cultures. They have an interest in Spanish, of course, but also an interest in language in general, along with an analytical bent and attention to detail.

### *Are there any popular classes in the program that you would suggest or recommended classes for a student who is just starting to explore the major?*

Any class at the student's level of Spanish is a good place to start, so taking DePaul's language placement test first is critical.

Those starting at the very beginning of the Spanish language sequence will take SPN 101: Basic Spanish I. Those who start at the advanced level usually begin with a 200-level class. We also offer a few courses in English that can either count for the major or the Liberal Studies Program. One of these courses can also be a great place to start.

***What are examples of internships and/or research opportunities that students in this major are currently working on or have access to as majors in this program?***

Several of our courses involve work with Spanish-speaking communities in Chicago or language exchanges over Zoom with university students in Latin America. Many of our students also study abroad with our term-long programs in Madrid, Spain, or Mérida, Mexico.

***What are students doing after graduation?***

Spanish majors go on to work in a wide range of areas, especially education, business, and law, with a good portion working abroad or involved in international business. Other common professions are in journalism, translation, the health industry, government, local politics, librarianship, and the not-for-profit sector.

***Other interesting facts about the Spanish major?***

Through local connections with community organizations and virtual connections with Latin American students, our faculty promote authentic contact with Spanish speakers. In conjunction with the Department of Latin American and Latino Studies and the Center for Latino Research, they also organize numerous events every year, including lectures, symposia, art exhibits, concerts, film series, and poetry readings. DePaul University maintains strong links to Chicago's Latin American communities and encourages students to take advantage of local cultural institutions, such as the National Museum of Mexican Art, the Instituto Cervantes, and the Newberry Library.