

Mission Statement

"The Department of Spanish at Bucknell University is committed to providing excellent instruction and learning opportunities that challenge majors and minors, other interested students, and members of the community, to develop to the maximum their language proficiency in Spanish as well as to know and understand the literature and cultures of the Spanish-speaking peoples of the world. We encourage our students to think critically, to question their cultural assumptions about the Hispanic world, and to seek to immerse themselves, as much as possible, in a Spanish-speaking community.

The major in Spanish is designed to cultivate our students' understanding, respect, and appreciation of the rich literary and cultural traditions of Spanish-speaking peoples; to provide a sound foundation for graduate study related to the Hispanic world; and to develop our students' ability to analyze critically literary and cultural works in Spanish.

Through their coursework in the major, students are introduced to the discipline of Hispanic letters, and also explore connections between Spanish and other disciplines in the Humanities or in the Social Sciences. The on-campus curriculum, combined with a semester or year of study abroad on a program approved by the Spanish Department, will enable students to reach an advanced level of proficiency in listening comprehension, speaking, reading and writing in Spanish. The language proficiency attained by our students, along with the cultural understanding they gain through their studies at Bucknell and abroad, will allow them to interact effectively with Spanish-speaking peoples throughout the world. By relating to Hispanic cultures, our students increase their own self-awareness and their sense of connectedness to a diverse world."

Goals (Roman numerals) and Objectives (Arabic numerals)

The following goals have been established for student learning in the major:

I. Students gain insights into the literary and cultural traditions of Spanish-speaking peoples which allow them to discuss selected literary works, authors, and literary and historical periods with cultured speakers of Spanish.

1. Spanish majors take at least two courses that provide overviews of Spanish, Spanish-American or Latino literatures and cultures, choosing from Spanish-American Literature (222), Spanish literature (220), Latino-Latina Literature (285), Spanish Civilization, and Spanish-American Civilization. At least one course must be in literature and one must be in civilization.

2. Students can demonstrate their knowledge of factual information regarding various periods of literature and civilization in the Hispanic tradition in examinations and/or term papers in courses numbered 220 and above.

3. Students who study in a Spanish-speaking country must take at least one course in literature. Other courses for Spanish credit related to aspects of culture and civilization, including courses in the disciplines of history, art, music, sociology, anthropology, political science and economics.

II. Students develop interpretive, critical thinking and research skills through their study of Hispanic literatures and culture, in keeping with the goals of a liberal arts tradition.

1. Students begin to learn these skills as they apply to the Spanish-speaking world in SPAN 207 (Grammar, Conversation, Composition) and in SPAN 208 (Advanced Conversation and Composition). They demonstrate a very basic level of proficiency in this area through research topics for oral presentation in class and for assignments and brief research papers.

2. Students continue to develop their interpretive, critical thinking and research skills in courses numbered 220 and above where they demonstrate these skills in examinations and in research papers.

3. In at least 300 and 400-level courses students write critical analyses of works of Hispanic literature and culture.

4. Seniors will complete an exit survey in which they will respond to questions regarding their learning experiences in the major.

III. Students perceive the diversity that exists within the Hispanic world, as well as perceiving similarities and differences between the Spanish-speaking nations and the United States.

1. Students will take at least one civilization survey, SPAN 280 or 270, and at least one course in literature, 220, 222 or 285.

2. In the classes listed above, students will respond in writing to a series of questions regarding cultural diversity in the Hispanic world.

3. Seniors will complete an exit survey as mentioned above.

IV. The ability to interact effectively with Spanish-speaking peoples, both with a high degree of language proficiency and with sensitivity to the cultural values of Hispanic peoples.

1. 60 % of Spanish majors study abroad.

2. 20 % of Spanish majors should provide service or complete an internship in a Spanish-speaking community. Examples would include working with the Bucknell Brigade in Nicaragua, completing a professional internship while studying abroad, or tutoring a Spanish-speaking child in the local schools.

V. Students make the most of a challenging academic program abroad, immersing themselves in a meaningful way in Spanish-speaking societies.

1. 60 % of Spanish majors study abroad.
2. Once the program in Granada is launched in the spring semester of 2004, students will receive training in the 1/2 credit orientation course that our faculty will teach.
3. After their study abroad experience, students will complete an exit survey that we have formulated.

VI. Through their coursework at Bucknell and abroad, students grow in respect for the cultures of Spanish-speaking peoples.

1. In their courses, students will prepare presentations on artists, writers, and other important figures of the Spanish-speaking world.
2. Students demonstrate this in their responses to a senior survey.

VII. Students gain an awareness of the interconnectedness of knowledge by exploring the relationship between Spanish and other disciplines or areas of study.

1. 70 % of Spanish majors have a second major in another discipline.
2. During their study abroad experience, 65 % of students take courses in disciplines outside of the areas covered in Bucknell's Spanish Department.
3. 30 % of Spanish majors take a capstone for Spanish credit. The capstone by definition is interdisciplinary.

For the non-major and for students obtaining a minor:

*Students develop a level of language proficiency that will allow them to communicate effectively with Spanish-speaking peoples.

*Students' learning about Hispanic cultures enables them to spend a period of time in a Spanish speaking country.

*Students perceive similarities and differences between the cultures of the United States and Spanish-speaking nations.

*Students gain respect for Hispanic cultures.

* Students will demonstrate these skills through class exams and papers as well as in responses to questions at the end of class.

