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**MINNESOTA STATE  
UNIVERSITY**  
MANKATO

## WORLD LANGUAGES & CULTURES: SPANISH

*College of Humanities and Social Sciences*

### OVERVIEW

Close to 500 million people speak Spanish and 20 countries have it as their official language. Spanish is the second-most spoken language in the U.S. (41 million Spanish speakers), giving you a local and a global advantage when it comes to job and business opportunities, travel, and life experiences.

Students will gain an understanding of Hispanic cultures, literature and history that will help give them an edge when looking for job opportunities that are based in or do business with other companies in Spanish-speaking nations.

### DEGREES & CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

#### Degrees:

Spanish, Bachelor of Arts (BA)  
Spanish for the Professions, Bachelor of Science (BS)  
Spanish, Master of Science (MS)  
Spanish for the Professions, Master of Science (MS)  
Spanish, Minor  
Hispanic Studies, Minor  
Spanish for Professionals, Graduate Certificate (GC)

#### Careers:

Most students who choose to major in a language offered at Minnesota State University, Mankato are double majors in other fields, including Communications Studies, Business, International Relations, Computer Science, the Humanities and many more. In many cases, they have chosen to do so because their future professional or academic plans include goals that require advanced linguistic and cultural proficiency.

Translation/Interpretation is a growing need along with professional editors who do Spanish-English-Spanish translation and interpretation in every field. Over the next decade, 70% of employers anticipate that the demand for language proficiency in Spanish will be a crucial part of their search for employees. Multilingual employees make between 5-20 percent per hour more than monolinguals.

In other words, you can do just about anything and go just about anywhere with a Spanish degree: You are limited only by your imagination and ambition!

### QUALITY OF OUR PROGRAM

#### Accreditation:

CAEP (Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation).

#### Faculty:

Our program has four full-time faculty with degrees from major universities in the United States and Europe. The number of graduate assistants teaching classes varies.

Faculty in the Department of World Languages and Cultures are teachers and active scholars in their specialty areas. They serve as mentors of students participating in the Undergraduate Research Conference, one of the largest conferences of its kind in the U.S. Faculty also mentor students participating in PanLingua, a unique regional conference where students can practice their language and cultures skills with peers from neighboring states attending private and public universities. They serve on university committees and are active in university shared governance. World Languages and Cultures faculty are sponsors of student organizations such as the French, German, Scandinavian, and Spanish clubs; they advise students on study abroad and career planning and mentor students in graduate programs. The department sponsors two language honor societies.

Our faculty have received Fulbright grants, faculty research grants, faculty improvement grants, and teaching awards. Faculty publications include books, articles, on-line publications, translations, videos, and electronic media.

### STUDENT EXPERIENCE

#### Faculty/Student Ratio:

The average is 1:17, which varies according to program and level.

#### Specialized Facilities:

The Global Learning Lab is a state-of-the-art language laboratory. Using specialized software, hardware and networked storage, instructors can create assignments that give students opportunities to work individually, in pairs or small groups, or as an entire class. The lab is also equipped with multiple projectors and a variety of media players, allowing for dynamic and effective classroom presentations and other activities.

Our main classrooms in Armstrong Hall have modern, configurable furniture layouts, as well as large Internet-connected touchscreen monitors, document cameras, and all-region Blu-Ray players. In some cases, rooms are also outfitted with tablet computers and other tools to further enhance students' classroom experience.

### Study Abroad:

All students are encouraged to travel and study in countries where their second language is spoken. The Department of World Languages and Cultures has programs in Costa Rica, Ecuador, France, Germany, Norway, Spain, and Sweden. Minnesota State Mankato collaborates with exchange programs throughout the world. Study abroad enhances student proficiency in language and promotes cultural understanding and sensitivity to cultural difference.

### Scholarships:

The department awards scholarships to returning students based on academic merit and need. Some of those scholarships are aimed toward study abroad opportunities.

### Other Opportunities:

The Department collaborates with local schools in providing clinical experiences and internships for pre-service teachers.

The Department has active language clubs (French, German, Scandinavian, Spanish) and students have the opportunity to get engaged in community and university activities that allow them to use their language and understanding of culture. Some activities include film nights, collaboration with the Hispanic-Latino Conference, the International Festival, conference planning and participation, volunteer service programs in the community and fundraising for club activities.

## PLACEMENT EXAM

Students interested in studying a language will need to take a placement exam to determine what courses he/she would be eligible to register for. High-school language experience or previous college level language courses prepare students for placement in our programs.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

### Department of World Languages and Cultures

Minnesota State University, Mankato  
227 Armstrong Hall  
Mankato, MN 56001

### Phone

507-389-2116 (V)  
800-627-3529 or 711 (MRS/TTY)

### Website

[hss.mnsu.edu/spanish](http://hss.mnsu.edu/spanish)

### Program Chair

Dr. Adriana Gordillo  
(507) 389-5527  
[adriana.gordillo@mnsu.edu](mailto:adriana.gordillo@mnsu.edu)

## COURSE OFFERINGS AND ROTATIONS (4 credit courses)

Offered Every Semester	Fall Semester	Spring Semester	Offered on Demand
SPAN 101 Elementary Spanish I SPAN 102 Elementary Spanish II SPAN 201 Intermediate Spanish I SPAN 202 Intermediate Spanish II SPAN 210W Composition & Conversation	SPAN 301 Topics in Language SPAN 355 Spanish Civilization SPAN 365 Selected Readings SPAN 402 Topics in Spanish Peninsular Literature SPAN 450 Spanish for the Professions	SPAN 310 Conversation & Composition SPAN 356 Latin American Civilization SPAN 401 Topics in Linguistics SPAN 403W Topics in Latin American Literature SPAN 407 Translation	Span 450 Spanish for the Professions Span 407 Translation WLC 310 Portuguese for Spanish Speakers

**Major Electives:** A range of Spanish courses at the 3xx and 4xx levels not required for the major may be selected to complete the programs and career interests in consultation with advisors (see current bulletin).

**Required Minor:** Students pursuing a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in Spanish must also minor in another field. Popular choices are other languages, Communications Studies, Marketing, Accounting, Art, and History. Please note that this requirement does not apply to double majors.

Students who begin their Spanish studies at Minnesota State University, Mankato at the 200 level may count credits from Span 201 and Span 202 toward the total credits required for the Spanish major, but these credits will not replace any specific program requirements listed above.

Students may be allowed to substitute other courses for the requirements listed above. Often, this will occur when a student chooses to participate in a study abroad program, when special one-time course is offered, or when a motivated student chooses to pursue an independent study with a program faculty member.

**BS in Teaching:** Students pursuing a BS in Teaching degree are required to take four teaching methods courses taught by World Languages and Cultures Department faculty. These courses provide instruction in both the theoretical framework and practical implementation of language instruction and acquisition in the classroom.

While there is no required minor for this version of the Spanish BS, students are required to complete an additional major course of study in Professional Education. For details, please see the Secondary Education section of the current Undergraduate Bulletin.

Students selecting this option must also demonstrate an intermediate-high level speaking proficiency as defined in the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines established by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages or equivalent. Also required are firsthand experiences with the target cultures or their equivalent. Firsthand experiences in relevant target cultures are also required.

For additional information about course requirements, please visit [hss.mnsu.edu/spanish](http://hss.mnsu.edu/spanish)

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