1. Why Study Spanish?

Would you like to learn the language people speak in more than 23 different countries? Do you yearn to travel, live and study abroad, experiencing the world from different vantage points? Would you like to greatly increase your employment options by working in a bilingual environment or in one of the world's leading or emerging economies? If you speak Spanish, you can communicate with nearly 500 million people in the world, from Europe to the Americas. Just think of the opportunities!

2. Description of the Program

Learning Spanish at ECU’s Hispanic Studies program will prepare you for a wide range of careers in healthcare, education, government, social work, business, and many others in the national and international arena. You will acquire communicative competence in Spanish, as well as the cultural and literary heritage pertaining to a language whose origins go back to the eighth century and which by 2050 will be spoken by more than 30% of the population only in the U.S.!

Our degree programs include Minor, BA in Hispanic Studies, BS in Hispanic Studies with teacher certification, Certificate in Spanish Translation, Graduate Certificate in Hispanic Studies, and graduate courses for the MA in International Studies.

We also offer professional internships that will allow you to use your knowledge of Spanish in a variety of work environments and study abroad options in countries such as Mexico, Spain, and Argentina that will round off your education and give you a significant edge over your competitors in the job market.

Many students in our program combine a major in Spanish with another ECU major, such as Political Science, Biology, Nursing, and Psychology. Pairing your linguistic and cultural competence in Spanish with another major enhances your studies and job prospects and ensures that your understanding of the issues is truly global. Students planning to go into an international career or to work with Hispanic populations in the U.S. find a degree in Hispanic Studies a very beneficial addition to their professional profile.

Our graduates have been highly successful in pursuing careers in education, public health, social work, business, law, and the government sector.

3. What makes the Hispanic Studies at ECU unique?

We could tell you many things about what makes the Hispanic Studies program at ECU different, but our students can say it best. Here is what some of them have recently said about our program:
“In today’s globalized world, especially in the professional and academic realm, knowing a foreign language is critical for staying competitive in the job market. The Hispanic Studies program at East Carolina University prepares students for this competitive arena by adequately preparing students and training them in one of today’s modern languages. As for me personally, in addition to my study abroad experience, the Hispanic Studies major has not only made me a more competitive contender for the job market, but has also prepared me for graduate school because at least seven out of the ten programs I am applying to require proficiency in a second language.” C.T.

“Of all the classes that I am taking and have taken, the courses I have enjoyed the most were my Spanish courses. Studying Spanish has helped me to gain a better understanding of literature and art that would have become lost in translation. It has awakened a desire in me to learn about different cultures and explore the different forms of expression unique to a language. Unlike other departments, I have encountered professors who genuinely care about their students in the Hispanic Studies program.” C. H.

“My personal philosophy is that, if someone has the opportunity to do so, then they should learn an additional language. The international community is becoming more and more integrated and connected every day. In order to keep pace with the world it is necessary to have a large percentage of students graduating with experience in a foreign language. My name is F. H. and I am a Hispanic Studies Major here at East Carolina University. I intend to use the skills I learn here for the rest of my life.” F.H.