

# SPANISH, B.A.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
**MERCED**

SCHOOL OF  
SOCIAL SCIENCES,  
HUMANITIES AND ARTS



## WHY APPLY TO SPANISH, B.A.?

Spanish is the first language of 427 million speakers in over 30 countries and is the official language not only of Spain but also of Mexico, several Caribbean islands, most of the countries of Central and South America, and Equatorial Guinea. With 41 million native speakers and another 11.6 million who are bilingual, the United States is ahead of Colombia (48 million) and Spain (46 million) and second only to Mexico (121 million). Spanish is a major international language of banking, commerce, cultural production, diplomacy, and science. Fluency in Spanish opens up a wide range of service and employment opportunities at home and abroad.

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# SPANISH, B.A.




The major and minor in Spanish at UC Merced are part of the Department of Literature, Languages, and Cultures. Our program accommodates both heritage and second language speakers. The Spanish program prepares learners with academic and specialized language skills and intercultural competence to participate effectively in professional and local contexts where bilingualism is in demand (e.g., business, education, healthcare). Thus, it helps students face the needs of an ever more globalized society that requires and values broad linguistic and cultural competence by requiring the study of Iberian, Latin American, and Latinx literatures, linguistics, and cultures. Learners are challenged to think critically, to analyze literary works and discourse using linguistic approaches. Our curriculum is designed to engage students' capacity for rigorous analysis and independent thought within a considerable range of disciplines and endeavors and to cultivate the intellectual, creative, ethical, and social qualities essential for leadership in a rapidly changing global community. We believe we have established a lively intellectual environment that fosters innovative thinking among faculty and students alike.

## Job/Career Prospects

- ▶ International Business
- ▶ International Law
- ▶ Government
- ▶ Foreign Service
- ▶ Tourism
- ▶ Media, Communications
- ▶ Law Enforcement Professional/FBI/CIA
- ▶ Writer
- ▶ Academia/Teaching and research universities
- ▶ Secondary/Primary Education
- ▶ Teaching of English as a Foreign Language
- ▶ Translation and Interpretation
- ▶ Journalism
- ▶ Social Work
- ▶ Sales Professional
- ▶ Medical Professional

## Graduate Program Opportunities

- ▶ Spanish/Hispanic Studies
- ▶ Spanish Languages and Literatures
- ▶ Comparative Literature
- ▶ Linguistics
- ▶ International Business
- ▶ Law
- ▶ Political Science
- ▶ History
- ▶ Economics
- ▶ European Studies
- ▶ Anthropology

**62%**   
of undergraduate  
classes have fewer  
than 30 students



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### Jocelyne Mazariegos B.A. '13

I currently work at Google as a Partner Sales Engineer on the Chrome OS team, based out of Mountain View, California. My journey began at UC Merced, where I earned a B.A. in Literatures and Cultures (Spanish Track) in '13. The faculty consisted of professors that weren't only subject matter experts in their fields but professionals who also invested and mentored students throughout their time at UC Merced. While I was there, I was fortunate to study abroad for a year in Barcelona, where my network of professors and colleagues was expanded. In retrospect, I am thankful to have started my journey with Merced as it opened up MANY doors later on, including my acceptance into Stanford University, where I received an M.A. in Iberian and Latin American Cultures from Stanford.

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