Spanish Business

The Spanish business major is sponsored by the Department of Modern Languages and the Department of Management and Business. It offers a core business curriculum and weaves second language study throughout the entire four years. Special attention is given to developing a cultural understanding with direct experience in Latin America.

The Spanish business major was created in response to a very real need in the business and industrial sectors. Demand for applicants with business skills who can speak Spanish and who have a good understanding of the cultures of South and Central America and Spain has multiplied in recent years. This demand is expected to continue to grow as new international trade agreements are made, particularly in our American hemisphere.

The Spanish business major leads the way in teaching the basics of business management with a global approach, as it includes a semester of study abroad at the University of San Francisco in Quito, Ecuador.

Curriculum

Credit hours shown in parentheses.

Spanish Business (76–77 credits)

• Fundamentals of Spanish I (3)
• Fundamentals of Spanish II (3)
• Intermediate Spanish (3)
• Spanish Conversation and Composition (3)
• Business Spanish (3)
• Three of the following (including at least one 300-level course):
  • Latin American Plays of Protest (3)
  • Spanish Theatre Production (3)
  • Post-Franco Spain (3)
  • The Struggle for Spanish Identity (3)
  • Topics in Latin American Literature (3)
• Culture and Identity in Latin America (3)
• Applied Phonetics (3)
• Topos in Spanish Peninsular Literature (3)
• The Counter Reformation and the Spanish Baroque (3)
• Spanish Linguistics (3)
• Contemporary Mexico (3)
• Modern Languages Seminar (3)
• Financial Accounting (3)
• Computer Applications (3)*
• Opportunities in Business (1)
• Applied Statistics for Management (3)
• One of the following:
  • Economics of Social Issues (3)
  • Issues in Environmental Economics (3)
  • Contemporary Economics (3)
  • Economic Development (3)
• Principles of Management (3)
• International Business and World Economy (3)
• Ministry in International Business (3)
• Marketing Principles (3)
• One of the following:
  • Applied Math for Management (3)
  • Intuitive Calculus with Applications (3)
  • Calculus I (4)
• Fifteen credits of the following:
• Approved Spanish and business courses through the Brethren Colleges Abroad program at the University of San Francisco, Quito, Ecuador. Students must choose two business courses from the approved list and three or four other courses in grammar, literature, history, art history, or political science. See the Department of Modern Languages for approved course descriptions.

All students must pass the Computer Competency Exam to complete their major.

• All students must pass the Computer Competency Exam, administered by the Department of Management and Business, prior to enrolling in Computer Applications.
• Students who do not pass the Computer Competency Exam may enroll in Introduction to Computers.

Why Spanish Business?

The major is attractive to students interested primarily in business and who understand the advantages that a knowledge of Spanish brings to their credentials. Of course, it is also a good option for those who have a passion for the Spanish language and Hispanic literature and culture and who recognize the advantages of a combination of this knowledge with a high-demand business degree.

Whether chiefly interested in business or Spanish, upon graduation the Spanish business major will be well prepared to enter an exciting international career.

Distinctives/Rationale

• Language majors often tailor their expertise in speaking a modern language along with study in another area.
• A significant portion of business majors realize the efficacy of speaking, reading, and writing a modern language well.
• The globalization of markets has created a need for managers with business acumen who are skilled in the intricacies of a second language and culture.
• Both departments have significantly altered their curriculum to allow students to complete this major within the four-year time span.
• Several Messiah College graduates who have studied Spanish, management, and business were consulted. This major will help our students to focus study in a particular area of the world. Marketing, manufacturing, and business executives must be well educated in business and bolstered by fluency in a second language in order to excel in international sites. Our alumni have confirmed our initiative.

Semester Abroad

The Spanish business major includes a semester abroad at the University of San Francisco in Quito, Ecuador. During this semester, students will develop their Spanish skills, experience the culture, build relationships, and grow emotionally, socially, and spiritually.

Although majors and course requirements may change from time to time, as stated in the College Catalog, the preceding information is correct according to the 2006–2007 catalog.
Our Programs

The Department of Modern Languages at Messiah College offers programs of study in French, German, and Spanish languages, literatures, and cultures. The programs are designed to develop linguistic competence and critical skills as well as a profound appreciation of the culture and civilization of the French-, German-, or Spanish-speaking peoples.

The language courses provide solid preparation and practice in spoken and written areas including a thorough review of grammar and vocabulary supplemented with cultural readings and activities. The beginning courses prepare students for advanced work in literature and cultural studies while improving competence in the language. The 200-level courses cover a selection of outstanding works in various periods and genres. Some of the 200-level classes are devoted to advanced language training and afford practice in spoken and written work. Others consider the political, social, and cultural histories of the French-, German-, or Spanish-speaking people. Advanced courses deal intensively with individual authors or periods of special significance.

Students in all of the languages are encouraged to speak the language at all times. All of the classes are taught in French, German or Spanish.

Study Abroad

To ensure linguistic and cultural proficiency, each language major spends at least one semester abroad with the Brethren Colleges Abroad Program in Ecuador, France, Germany, or Spain. Study at Messiah is supplemented with an intensive semester with the Brethren College Abroad program. Modern language students experience the richness of foreign cultures while studying in Strasbourg, France, at Philipps Universität in Marburg, Germany, in Barcelona, Spain, or in Quito, Ecuador. At all of the study abroad sites our students choose from a wide selection of courses in literature, linguistics, history, political science, and art. Residence in this program is required for one semester, and many students spend the full junior year abroad.

Careers and Vocation

Students with advanced training in modern languages and cultures have an important edge in today’s increasingly international job market. They often go on to successful careers in banking and business, government and diplomacy, education, travel, the Peace Corps, mission work, telecommunications, and human services among other fields. K–12 teaching certification is also available.

Message From The Faculty

At Messiah College, the modern language faculty work hard to help students discover the world in all its complexity. Many students agree that to master a second language and to understand and have insight into the artistic and cultural heritage of other peoples of the world is integral to a liberal arts education. Yet sometimes students question, “Are these activities worthwhile and marketable?”

The source of this question rests on the assumption that success in life depends on learning how to do a specific job and then spending one’s life doing it well. We would argue, on the contrary, that Christian thinkers who can adapt to new situations are in high demand. The disciplines in this department teach students how to learn in myriad ways, think creatively, speak clearly, read critically, and interact with others from around the world. Graduates who possess these skills are prepared to adapt to change. Employers repeatedly tell us, “If you teach students to think well, write persuasively, read knowledgeably, and learn a second language, we will train them for this particular job.”

Times change, but to think cogently and to express oneself well in another language are abilities that not only enrich the soul but are essential qualities in the competitive workplace. We welcome you to consider spending these crucial years with us. The faculty members in this department make every effort to create a learning environment that challenges students to learn, from Messiah College professors, and from scholars around the world as well. In the study abroad experience your classes will be taught by native language faculty.

We wish you God’s best as you choose a college, and we hope that you join us at Messiah College.