The Spanish degree promotes the values in the liberal arts tradition that derive particularly from the study of languages, literatures, and cultures, and provides an enlightening encounter with cultures and modes of thought different from one’s own. The program provides practical training in the skills of listening comprehension, speaking, reading, writing and cross-cultural understanding that prepare majors to engage meaningfully and respectfully in diverse communities locally and across our interconnected, 21st-century world. Many majors pursue a second major in fields such as international and global studies, biology, history, philosophy, psychology, music, business, and nursing.

Degree Outcomes

- Graduates have received competitive grants and fellowships, including Fulbright Teaching and Research Fellowships and the Spanish Ministry of Culture Fellowship.
- Graduates have pursued a variety of professional paths, including careers in the U.S. government and Foreign Service, tourism and hospitality, translation and interpretation, international business, social work, international and immigration law, fashion, foreign language/ESL education, teaching in public and private middle and high schools, and the armed forces.
- Graduates have gone on to earn advanced degrees in Spanish at renowned institutions such as Yale University, Pennsylvania State University, the University of N.C. at Chapel Hill, The University of Virginia, University of Kentucky, and Vanderbilt University.

The Student Experience

- Well-rounded preparation in the Spanish language, linguistics, and the literatures and cultures of the Spanish-speaking world for second-language learners and heritage speakers.
- Opportunities to explore subjects of special interest through directed studies with faculty and Disciplinary Honors Program projects.
- Development of Spanish skills by joining the Global Village living-learning community as a freshman and/or application of language skills as a Global Village Spanish language facilitator as an advanced major.
- Participation in the Spanish Club and Café Olé, where students meet others who are interested in practicing their language skills and learning more about different cultures of the Spanish-speaking world.
- Opportunities for cross-curricular academic experiences with programs including Women’s & Gender Studies, African American & African Diaspora Studies, and International & Global Studies; the Lloyd International Honors College; and Afro-Latin American/Latinx Studies, a campus consortium of departments.
- Participation in study abroad programs in several Spanish-speaking countries, including faculty-led summer programs in Costa Rica and Spain.
Opportunities to engage in service-learning and internships that connect students to local Spanish-speaking communities and the organizations that serve them.

Access to a range of department-based annual scholarships allocated according to academic achievement and financial need as well as to awards to support study abroad.

Accolades & Accomplishments

- Faculty receive regional, national, and international recognition and have received prestigious campuswide and nation-wide teaching awards.
- Faculty have received research grants allowing them to pursue literary, cultural, and linguistic study that they share in the classroom.
- The department offers a wide variety of co-curricular events that promote global awareness, linguistic competence, and cross-cultural understanding.
- The department participates in foreign language studies consortia within the University of North Carolina distance education system, UNC Online and the Language Exchange, as well as interdisciplinary programs throughout the College of Arts and Sciences.