In addition to developing students’ language skills, the major in Spanish underlines the importance of critical thinking and experiences in culture, literature, art, and the history of Spanish-speaking people across continents. At William Paterson University, Spanish majors explore the countless possibilities that this interdisciplinary field has to offer. Students are encouraged to live and study abroad in order to experience firsthand the cultural, political, and economic significance of the discipline across national borders.

Preparing Students for a Variety of Careers

In this globalized era, it is imperative for graduates to be proficient in a foreign language and to be able to communicate in a clear and thoughtful manner. The Spanish major complements and enhances a wide range of disciplines including teaching, communication, journalism, anthropology, history, international relations, environmental studies, literature, economics, business and international finance, translation, political science, sociology, and graduate work in Spanish or Latin American studies. Students considering a career in medicine or law are also encouraged to develop advanced proficiency in Spanish by completing the major or minor.

Spanish Major - Language and Much More

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The B.A. in Spanish
Preparing You to Take the Next Step

Highlights of the Program

• Faculty with expertise in a broad range of linguistic, literary, and cultural studies pertaining to Spanish language and Spanish-speaking civilizations around the world
• Multimedia Language Center, offers a state-of-the-art instructional delivery system to promote language proficiency
• Study Abroad Programs in Spain, Puerto Rico, Argentina, Uruguay, and Chile
• Small classes, providing individualized attention to students in a beautiful 370-acre campus in suburban New Jersey, only twenty miles from New York City
• Sigma Delta Pi, an established chapter of the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society. The society promotes excellence in the study of Spanish language and literature, and recognizes student’s high achievements in the field.
• Spanish Club, bringing together Spanish-speaking students of all levels. Many extracurricular activities are scheduled throughout the year.

Teaching Certification
Spanish majors wishing to become Spanish teachers in secondary or elementary schools complete a double major.
In addition to the 33-credit Spanish major, they must also earn a 30-credit education major to obtain teaching certification.

Our students succeed in teaching:
• 100% Praxis II exam pass rate
• Over 95% Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) pass rate at state-mandated level
• Over 95% of our graduates who pursue certification are employed in NJ public schools within a year from graduation.
• Districts that have recently hired Spanish teachers from our program include: Wayne, Morris Hills, Morris Knolls, Pequannock, Long Valley, Clifton, Elmwood Park, Passaic, Paterson, Ramapo-Indian Hills, Haledon, North Haledon, Northern Valley, Oradell, Jefferson, Parsippany, Vernon and others.

The Faculty
Ellen Frye, Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania. Renaissance and Baroque literature of Spain. Specialty in seventeenth century theatre, the comedia。
Grisel Maduro, Ph.D., CUNY, Graduate Center. Nineteenth and Twentieth century in Latin American and Caribbean literatures. Specialty in Puerto Rican literature.
Esther Martínez, Ph.D., University of Michigan. Medieval and early Renaissance Spanish literature.
Franklin Rodríguez, Ph.D., SUNY Binghamton. Twentieth and twenty-first century Latin American literature, literary criticism, Roberto Bolaño.
Gladys Scott, Ph.D., Purdue University. English language and linguistics. Language assessment and second language writing. Second language pedagogy and teacher education.
Octavio de la Suarée, Ph.D., CUNY. Spanish Golden Age, Modernismo, twentieth century Latin American literature.
María P. Tajes, Ph.D., Rutgers University. Nineteenth and twentieth century peninsular literature. Migration theory and literature.
Bruce Williams, Ph.D., University of California- Los Angeles. Film theory and history, sociolinguistics. Contemporary Spanish and Latin American literature.

For Further Information
For more information about the Spanish major or minor, please contact: Octavio de la Suarée, chairperson, Atrium 241, at 973.720.2516 or delasuares@wpunj.edu or Linda De Feo, secretary, Atrium 239, at 973.720.2330 or defeol@wpunj.edu.

Courses that fit your schedule
The program offers day, night and online courses to accommodate students’ scheduling needs.
For a list of courses offered and other information about the Spanish program, please visit the Department of Languages and Cultures web page at www.wpunj.edu/Spanish.

Major Requirements 33 credits
A grade point average of 2.0 must be earned in this major to graduate.
I. Core Courses: 15 credits
SPAN 221 or 360, 222 or 314, 229, 232, 250
II. Electives: 12 credits
Two 300/400 level courses on Latin America
Two 300/400 level courses on Spain
III. Seminars: 6 credits
One seminar on Spain or Latin America
Senior Capstone

Minor Requirements 18 credits
A grade point average of 2.0 must be earned in this minor to graduate.
I. Core Courses: 12 credits
SPAN 221 or 360, 222 or 314, 229 or 232, 250
II. Electives: 6 credits
Two 300/400 level courses