

Spanish Major Career Map

Department of World Languages and Cultures



Career-readiness competencies you can learn studying languages, literatures, and cultures¹

Critical Thinking / Problem Solving: Obtain, use, and interpret knowledge of different cultures, facts and data to make decisions and solve problems.

Digital / Informational Literacy: Utilize existing technologies ethically to complete tasks, and adapt effectively to emerging technologies.

Teamwork: Ability to work in groups in the target language, showing flexibility, respect, and effectiveness in accomplishing goals.

Oral and Written Communication: Ability to communicate and present effectively in a professional persuasive discourse in a second language.

Intercultural Fluency: Deep understanding of different cultures and their unique perspective in the world. Inclusiveness and empathy to individuals' differences.

Leadership: Ability to assess and develop the group members' skills to guide, motivate, organize, and coordinate work.

Career Management: Ability to identify one's skills, strengths, and areas for growth relevant to career goals.

Professionalism: Personal accountability, effective work habits, and commitment to the interests of the larger community.

Opportunities at Valpo for you to achieve these competencies

SPAN 220 "Approaches to Hispanic Literary Studies," SPAN 230 "Spain: Studies in Culture and Society," SPAN 231 "Latin America: Studies in Culture and Society," SPAN 307 "Spanish for Business."

Writing Intensive Courses, Advanced 300-level SPAN courses, SPAN 493 "Senior Seminar."

Task-oriented work in groups in our language classes, become an officer of the Spanish Club.

SPAN 303 "Advanced Communication in Spanish," SPAN 306 "Contemporary Social Issues in Hispanic Media," SPAN 307 "Spanish for Business," literary magazine *Letras*.

Study Abroad programs in Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Spain, Valparaiso International Engineering Program in Spain (VIEP), YMCA summer Internship in Valparaiso, Chile, INTL 484 and 485, SPAN 308 "Spanish for Service Professionals," Hispanic Heritage Month, Spanish Poetry Day, Fulbright.

Spanish Club, LIVE, VISA.

Career Center, Sophomore Check-in Form, FLL department and university sponsored events featuring alumni in related careers.

SPAN 307 "Spanish for Business," Fall Welcome Spanish Majors Event, Compass Learning Program.

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¹ Job Outlook Survey 2016, National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE).

	1ST YEAR	2ND YEAR	3RD YEAR	4TH YEAR
Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ Usual sequence, depending on placement: (SPAN203 and 204) OR (204 and 220/230/231) OR (220 and 230/231). ➡ Consider General Education courses that also help you explore options for a minor or second major, such as ED206 (School and Society). ➡ Look at programs with a language component: Latin American and Latino Studies, International Economics and Cultural Affairs, Global Service, International Business, VU International Engineering Program (VIEP). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ FALL: Take SPAN220 (if not already taken) or Spanish electives. ➡ Discuss study abroad with adviser to prepare but not duplicate coursework. Explore a minor/major that will help you meet your career goals. ➡ SPRING: Take SPAN230 or 231 (Civilization courses), or 300-level electives. ➡ INTL 484: pre-departure course. ➡ Do the sophomore check in with your adviser—What skills do you need to be working on and how to accomplish them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ Study abroad. Take advantage of unique opportunities as well as equivalent major requirements (in conversation with your adviser). ➡ On campus: INTL 485 (re-entry course); 300 level electives, attention to remaining Gen Ed and any major/minor requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ FA: SPAN493 Senior Seminar in Spanish. ➡ Consider GS390 Scholarship & Service Beyond Campus (helpful for students preparing Fulbright applications).
Co-curricular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ Join the Spanish Club, LIVE (Latinos in Valparaiso for Excellence) or VISA (Valparaiso International Students Association). ➡ Participate in activities like our Hispanic Heritage Month events. ➡ Check the WLC, Office of International, and Multicultural Programs webs. ➡ Take GS 180, Conversation Partners, and converse with an international student on a variety of topics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ Join a committee in one of the student organizations. ➡ Participate in our annual Spanish Poetry Day and submit a poem for publication in our literary journal, <i>Letras</i>. ➡ Attend programs presented by the Career Center and the WLC Department. ➡ Familiarize yourself with the Judith Peters “Aprender ayudando” Spanish Service Award. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ Interact with other students, host family and community members while studying abroad. ➡ Engage in community service as part of your abroad experience. ➡ Become a member of Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society, and attend the induction ceremony in the spring semester. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ Take a leadership role in one of the student organizations. ➡ Work as a program ambassador in the Office of International Programs. ➡ Apply for a CAPS fellowship or other program that provides post-graduation opportunities for service or immersion in Spanish-speaking communities.
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ Consider taking GS 180, Conversation Partners, which allows you to talk to an international student on a variety of topics. ➡ Volunteer off-campus doing tutoring at Compass Learning, Heathlinc, or Hilltop Neighborhood House. ➡ Explore the city of Valparaiso and discover our local Spanish restaurant, Don Quixote and our store, La Mexicana. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ Learn about Latino culture through LIVE (Latinos in Valparaiso for Excellence), attend cultural events during Hispanic Heritage month, and engage with guest lectures on topics relevant to Latinos in the US. ➡ Explore Spanish-speaking neighborhoods in Chicago such as Pilsen and visit the National Museum of Mexican Art (NMMA). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ Do targeted networking in your desired field by joining LinkedIn groups. ➡ Engage with alumni who work in careers of interest. ➡ Consider attending a conference related to your field of interest. ➡ Ask your adviser about participating in Undergraduate Research with a faculty mentor. ➡ Consider volunteering for a community organization related to your career goals while studying abroad. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ Attend networking events and consider joining professional associations. ➡ Visit the Immigration Law Clinic or the Income Tax Clinic for potential volunteer and networking opportunities. ➡ Meet with community organizations or members that are in careers that interest you. ➡ Check out the Valparaiso International Center’s 4th Friday presentations on countries around the world.
Abroad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ Attend the Study Abroad Fair (August 30, Feb. 7). ➡ Attend the Study Abroad Speed Dating event (Sept. 12). ➡ Talk to your Spanish adviser about options, goals, interests, and when to study abroad. ➡ Look at VU’s Study Abroad website. ➡ Talk to your family about study abroad in Spain, Mexico, Costa Rica or Chile. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ Program selection time! ➡ Talk to your adviser about courses in the major, Gen Ed classes offered on different programs, and internship opportunities. ➡ Spring: apply! Sign up for INTL484: International Experience: Preparation. ➡ Go through orientation for overseas study and for your program. ➡ Apply to be a program blogger (contact Nicole Hughes). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ Study abroad time! ➡ Follow it with the INTL485 International Experience: re-entry. ➡ Become a program ambassador to share your experience and recruit others. ➡ Loved the experience? Think about a Fulbright to study/teach overseas. Meet with Dean Stewart for details. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ Fulbright application? ➡ Work with the career center on how to market your experience overseas.
Career	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ Attend the Welcome Majors event in September organized by the Spanish section of the WLC Department. ➡ Meet other Spanish major students and learn about their other specializations. ➡ Get familiar with the WLC website. ➡ Attend events organized by WLC with former alumni and their career paths. ➡ Get familiar with the Valparaiso Career Center to explore future careers and network. ➡ Attend the Valpo Career Fairs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ Explore and research about different job options for your areas of studies. ➡ Look for material related to your major that captures your interest in the Career Center. ➡ Start writing resumes for future job opportunities. ➡ Continue attending panels with former alumni and guest speakers. ➡ Get familiar with “Handshake”, Valparaiso University recruitment system. ➡ Attend the Valpo Career Fairs. ➡ Connect to different alumni via LinkedIn. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ Start preparing for LSAT or GMAT tests in case you want to pursue graduate studies. ➡ Meet Valpo alumni in your career field to understand better the job experience process. ➡ Meet with your Spanish major adviser to talk about future careers in your field. ➡ Seek career advising on regular basis. ➡ Bring questions that can help you decide about your future career. ➡ Learn about the right skills you need for your future career. ➡ Attend the Valpo Career Fairs. ➡ Continue polishing your resume. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ Attend the resume writing clinics and ask an expert in your field to review your resume. ➡ Identify faculty mentors that may write letters of recommendations for you. Request your letter of recommendations as earlier as possible. ➡ Attend the Valpo Career Fairs, Employer Info sessions and companies presentations. ➡ Look for advice at the Career Center regarding job searching. Meet with you adviser and explore possibilities regarding your abilities and talents. ➡ Attend mock interviews so you prepare in advance for future ones.