

# SPANISH FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE

The Spanish for Health Professionals (SHP) Certificate Program is designed to provide students with the language skills and cultural knowledge needed to help Spanish-speakers successfully negotiate the health care system. Graduates of the program leave not only with proficiency in medical Spanish, but also with an understanding of the Hispanic culture and how that culture may affect healthcare practices and the delivery of health services.

This certificate will enhance the credentials of individuals seeking a career in direct patient care such as doctor, nurse, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or physical therapist, or anyone who works with Spanish-speakers in a healthcare setting such as insurance providers or healthcare navigators.

Hispanic and Latino groups are the largest minority group in the United States, and Spanish-speakers constitute the fastest-growing segment of the U.S. population. In Milwaukee alone, Spanish-speakers make up 14 percent of the population. As these populations grow, so does the need for healthcare workers who can communicate with and advocate for Spanish-speaking patients.

Students in the program gain expertise in the language of health care, in Spanish, including colloquial Spanish; an understanding of cultural differences that impact the delivery of health care services to Hispanic populations; and knowledge of the health care concerns of many different groups of Spanish-speakers. There is a language-intensive track for students who need more education in that area or a health-focused track for individuals who may have some Spanish fluency but need more background in medicine and science.

Certificates are similar to minors in terms of credit requirements but draw on coursework from multiple fields of study rather than from a single department.

## Eligibility

The Spanish for Health Professionals Certificate is open to all students seeking a bachelor's degree from UWM, to students who previously received a bachelor's degree from UWM or any other accredited college or university, and to individuals who do not plan to pursue a college or university degree (non-degree students) but who have a strong interest in this topic. To be admitted as non-degree candidates, individuals must meet regular University admissions requirements. Students currently involved in baccalaureate studies who successfully complete the requirements of the program will be awarded the certificate at the time of graduation. Students who already have a bachelor's degree and non-degree students will receive the certificate upon completion of the program requirements.

## Requirements

There are two tracks in the Certificate, a language-intensive track for students in health professions areas who are interested in working with Hispanic populations and a health-focused track for students with some Spanish competency who desire familiarity with the health-related

vocabulary in Spanish. To obtain the certificate, students must complete at least 18 credits in courses approved for the Spanish for Health Professionals certificate, with at least 12 credits taken in residence at UWM and a minimum of 9 of the residence credits taken in L&S courses at the advanced level (courses numbered 300 and above). A maximum of 6 credits in a combination of independent study, internship, and study abroad courses may count toward the certificate. Students must earn a 2.500 GPA in all certificate courses, including transfer work, and in the courses for the certificate taken at UWM. Courses for the certificate may not be taken on a credit/no credit basis. The certificate requirements are as follows:

### Spanish for Health Professionals, Language-Intensive Track

The Language-Intensive Track requires completion of at least 18 credits as follows, and is not available to Spanish majors and minors; they must select the health-focused track:

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required</b>		
SPANISH 308	Advanced Writing and Reading	3
SPANISH 318 or SPANISH 319	Advanced Speaking and Listening Advanced Speaking and Listening for Heritage Speakers	3
SPANISH 338	Spanish for Health Professionals	3
SPANISH 388	Health Issues in the Hispanic World	3
<b>Electives</b>		
Select 6 credits from any courses in the electives group listed for the health-focused track		6
Total Credits		18

### Spanish for Health Professionals, Health-Focused Track

The Health-Focused Track requires completion of at least 18 credits as follows:

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required</b>		
SPANISH 338	Spanish for Health Professionals	3
SPANISH 388	Health Issues in the Hispanic World	3
<b>Electives</b>		
Select 9 credits in one of the clusters below		9
Select 3 credits from any cluster or the general electives		3
Total Credits		18

#### Health-Focused Track Electives

##### Health Communication

Code	Title	Credits
COMMUN 381	Health Communication	3
COMMUN 481	Interpersonal Issues in Health Communication	3
COMMUN 581	Health Communication Interventions	3

##### Pharmaceuticals, Medicine, and Drugs

Code	Title	Credits
ANTHRO 443	Medicine and Pharmaceuticals in the Global Age	3

HCA 212	Drugs Used and Abused	3
PSYCH 454	Psychopharmacology and Addiction	3

**Health Care Delivery Policy**

Code	Title	Credits
ECON 450	Health Economics	3
HCA 502	Healthcare Delivery Systems: National and International Perspectives	3
PHILOS 244	Ethical Issues in Health Care: (subtitle)	3
URB STD 639	Health Care and Public Policy in the United States	3

**Health: A Social Science Perspective**

Code	Title	Credits
ANTHRO 440	Medical Anthropology	3
COMSDIS 210	Survey of Communication Disorders (SS) <sup>1</sup>	3
PSYCH 555	Health Psychology	3
SOCIOL 282	Sociology of Aging	3
SOCIOL 331	Sociology of Health Care	3

<sup>1</sup> As determined by the certificate program coordinator.

**Health: A Natural Science Perspective**

Code	Title	Credits
BIO SCI 350	Human Parasitology	4
BMS 232	Introduction to Nutrition (NS) <sup>1</sup>	3
HS 101	Introduction to Health and Disease	2

<sup>1</sup> As determined by the certificate program coordinator.

**Global Health**

Code	Title	Credits
ANTHRO/GLOBAL 439	Culture and Global Health	3
NURS 102	Perspectives on Health Care Systems	2
NURS 401	Global Patterns of Disease	3
NURS 475	Global Health: Ethics and Human Rights	3
NURS 683	Healthcare of Immigrants and Refugees	3
NURS 684	Death and Dying Around the World	3

**General Elective Courses**

Code	Title	Credits
BMS 260	Introduction to Complementary and Integrative Health Approaches	3
HCA 307	Epidemiology for the Health Sciences	3
NURS 101	Cultural Diversity in Health Care (CD SS)	3
NURS 102	Perspectives on Health Care Systems	2
NURS 110	Introduction to Global Health	3
NURS 380	Honors Seminar	3
PH 101	Introduction to Public Health	3

Study abroad courses in Spanish-speaking countries may be accepted with the approval of the Certificate Program Committee. Other courses not on this list but relevant to Spanish for Health Professionals may be accepted with the approval of the Certificate Program Committee.

Credits earned at other institutions equivalent to courses in the certificate program may be accepted in partial fulfillment of the program requirements, subject to review by the Certificate Program Committee. Students currently enrolled at UWM who have fulfilled some of the program's requirements prior to the program's approval may have their credits applied retroactively to the certificate program.

**Contact Information**

Current Students contact, [sadvisor@uwm.edu](mailto:sadvisor@uwm.edu)  
Prospective Students contact a Letters & Science Admissions Counselor at  
(414) 229-7711 or [let-sci@uwm.edu](mailto:let-sci@uwm.edu)

<http://uwm.edu/spanish-portuguese/undergraduate/spanish-program/>