

Spanish



As a Spanish student at Westmont, you'll not only become proficient in the language, you'll also develop intercultural competencies so you can live and work effectively in a Spanish-speaking environment, whether abroad or at home.

Majors spend a semester off campus studying at an approved university and becoming immersed in the culture. At Westmont, you take small classes in language, literature, civilization, and culture. You work closely with professors who draw on their own personal knowledge and experiences to make the material come alive. You leave Westmont with a wider perspective, greater appreciation of different cultural heritages, and the ability to engage our increasingly interconnected world.

SELECTED COURSES

- Advanced Fluency and Communication
- Hispanic Cultures: Latin America or Spain
- Introduction to Hispanic Literature
- Cross-Cultural Studies
- Cervantes's Don Quijote de la Mancha
- Contemporary Latin American Poetry
- Seminar in Magic Realism
- Spanish Capstone Seminar

CAREER PATHS

- International Business
- Education
- Social Services and NGOs
- Law
- Foreign Missions
- Speech and Language Pathology
- Government Services
- Health and Medicine

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



MARY DOCTER, Ph.D.

Teaches students to be more interculturally competent abroad and at home



LEONOR ELÍAS, Ph.D.

Speaks four languages and grew up in Mexico with parents from two cultures

OFF-CAMPUS OPPORTUNITIES



- Westmont in Mexico
- Semester in Seville
- Semester in Quito, Ecuador
- Internship opportunities in schools, social service agencies, hospitals, and more

ALUMNI

Kyle Mayl '21: "I came to Westmont with a love for learning Spanish, but I was initially unsure about majoring in it. After I met the faculty and took my first class in the department, I was more than convinced to jump in! My professors took a direct interest in my well-being, asked me questions I had never considered, encouraged me to apply my learning in our community, and cultivated a lively atmosphere of discussion. From the cities of central Mexico to the hilarious life lessons of Don Quijote to the nuances and persistent legacy of colonization, my time as a Spanish student introduced me to perspectives I would not have otherwise explored. Majoring in Spanish also opened a series of unique international leadership and career opportunities, leading me to my current position as a Fulbright grantee in Spain. As I've transitioned between roles in human services, education, and nonprofit administration, my degree in Spanish has always amply prepared me to serve well."

Mercy Milliken '23: "Being a Spanish major was the great unexpected gift of my Westmont experience. Initially aiming to fulfill a language requirement, the department quickly became a home, as I was enveloped in grace and the rich knowledge of the Spanish professors who invest in students in deep, dignifying ways. Amidst pre-medicine and kinesiology classes, my small Spanish courses were a breath of fresh air, where I learned how to discover humanity, my own and others', with honesty and curiosity. I've learned to trace the histories of Spain and Mexico, discuss complicated social topics, read and write poetry and literature, and gained confidence, particularly while participating in Westmont in Mexico, where my growth was catalyzed by a loving host-family, local professors, internship opportunities, and a freedom to explore. This learning has come to life in Santa Barbara, where I've found it easy and fulfilling to use my Spanish every day. Surrounded by some of the most talented and dedicated students and learning from professors so knowledgeable and kind, I have never questioned the value of pursuing Spanish at Westmont. I have no doubt I am a better person and learner, more marketable employee, and more faithful follower of Christ because of this program."



WESTMONT

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