

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 almost 20% percent of the population (2020 Census). 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.

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

The Certificate in Spanish for Health Professionals is for both students in health professions who are interested in working with Hispanic populations and students with some Spanish competency who wish to develop 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 credits in residence 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 2.00 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:

Code	Title	Credits
Required		
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
Electives		
Select 6 credits in health-focused electives listed below in any combination		6
Total Credits		18

Health-focused Electives (by interest area)

Select at least 6 credits from courses below. Please note that most courses listed are 3-credit courses but a few are not.

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
BMS 260	Introduction to Complementary and Integrative Health Approaches	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
PH 408	Comparative Health Systems: A Social Determinants Approach	3
PHILOS 244	Ethical Issues in Health Care: (subtitle)	3

Health: A Social Science Perspective

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

Health: A Natural Science Perspective

Code	Title	Credits
BMS 232	Introduction to Nutrition (NS GER)	3
CHPS 101	Introduction to Health and Disease	2
PH 303	Climate Change, the Environment and Human Health (NS GER)	3

Global Health

Code	Title	Credits
ANTHRO/GLOBAL 439	Culture and Global Health	3
NURS 101	Cultural Diversity in Health Care ¹	3
NURS/GLOBAL 301	Introduction to Global Health	3
NURS 380	Honors Seminar: ¹	3
NURS 401	Global Patterns of Disease	3
NURS/GLOBAL 575	Global Health: Ethics and Human Rights	3
PH 142	Exploring Global Environmental Health	3

¹ Students who take NURS 380 cannot take NURS 101 for credit (NURS 380 is the Honors version of this course).

Public Health

Code	Title	Credits
PH 101	Introduction to Public Health	3
PH 302	Health and Disease: Concepts and Contexts	3
PH 319	Introduction to Health Disparities	3
PH 327	Foundations for Action in Public Health	3
PH 427	Strategies for Action in Public Health	3
HCA 307	Epidemiology for the Health Sciences	3

Study abroad courses in Spanish-speaking countries or other courses relevant to Spanish for Health Professionals may be accepted with the approval of the Spanish Undergraduate Advisor, in consultation with advisors and/or faculty from other programs..

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 Spanish Undergraduate Advisor.