

Medical Spanish

Academic Enrichment Elective



TWO ELECTIVE OPTIONS

INTERMEDIATE SPANISH

The primary focus of this course is instruction in intermediate medical vocabulary and grammatical constructs so as to facilitate improved understanding and rapport in cross-linguistic and cross-cultural encounters.

ADVANCED SPANISH

The primary focus of this course is providing instruction in advanced medical vocabulary and grammar with an emphasis on exploring Latino culture and its relation to the delivery of effective health care among patients whose primary spoken language is Spanish.

HERITAGE SPEAKERS

If you consider yourself a heritage speaker, contact the course coordinator to develop an individualized learning plan tailored just for you.



GOAL

To provide Medical Spanish training for MCW students and promote awareness of the interface between language, culture, and health outcomes.

OVERVIEW

With the creation of the Medical Spanish Academic Enrichment Selective launched in the fall of 2008, over 350 MCW students have taken this 4-week elective to improve their Medical Spanish vocabulary and grammar. Students participate in four didactic lessons followed by four conversational practice sessions with local Spanish-speaking volunteers.

DATES

Registration is open and elective size is 25 students

Intermediate

[ACEN-D005-100-Medical Spanish](#)

Advanced

[ACEN-D005-200-Medical Spanish](#)

LEADERSHIP

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Medical Spanish Academic Enrichment Elective



IMPORTANCE

- Physicians in training have expressed an overwhelming interest in learning more about the diverse patient populations they serve
- The growth in the Latino population, in Wisconsin and nationwide, continues to be an important demographic change in the first decade of the 21st century
- There is a national prerogative for medical schools to include cross-cultural and linguistic curricula for competently prepared physicians
- Between 2000 - 2015, the Latino population grew by 95% and 381,181 residents represent 6.6% of Wisconsin's population¹
- In Milwaukee, it is estimated that 17-18% of the population is Latino¹
- One-fifth of Milwaukee Latino households are limited English speaking (Greater Milwaukee Foundation)
- In Green Bay, 1 in 8 residents identifies as Latino (Latino Wisconsin Extension)
- Around 2% of Marathon County, which includes Wausau and the rural city of Abbotsford, is Latino (NCWRPC.org). Of the town's 2,300 residents, 500 are Latinos working in dairy farms, factories, and meat processing companies

¹ Wisconsin Department of Health Services. (2016). Wisconsin's Hispanic Population: A Demographic Summary. Retrieved from <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p01697.pdf>

BENEFITS

Students have identified numerous strengths and benefits of the Medical Spanish selective:

- Opportunity to practice Spanish, particularly in small groups with native Spanish-speaking volunteers
- Focus on useful, high-yield Spanish vocabulary and grammar to achieve basic conversational skills in short time
- Emphasis on practical and relevant medical skills
- Approachable, knowledgeable, enthusiastic teachers
- Confidence and comfort to use Spanish in clinical practice



STUDENT FEEDBACK

"The course is designed in a fun and interactive way, which really facilitated conversational skills practice."

"The course director is an enthusiastic, kind, and excellent teacher!"

"The Spanish-speaking volunteers are wonderful; a huge asset to learning."

