

# Certificate in Spanish for Health Professionals

## Interested in This Certificate?

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## Value and Benefits of the Certificate

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, Spanish-speakers make up 14 percent of the population. As these populations grow, so does the need for health care workers who can communicate with and advocate for Spanish-speaking patients.

## Certificate Overview

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. The program prepares students by giving them:

- 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;
- knowledge of the health care concerns of many different groups of Spanish-speakers.

The curriculum is built around two specialized Spanish courses appropriate for individuals in any area of health care, and a wide spectrum of elective courses then allows students to tailor the certificate to their individual needs and interests. The program also contains a strong element of learning outside the classroom with service learning components that provide an immersion experience at the local level,

and hours of shadowing a professional medical translator or interpreter throughout the semester. Additionally, students are encouraged to participate in study abroad programs to provide them with an immersion experience at an international level.

**UWM students have used their Spanish language skills volunteering at CORE-EL Centro, Aurora's Walker's Point Clinic, and Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers.**

## Career Opportunities

This certificate will enhance the credentials of individuals seeking a career in direct patient care such as doctor, nurse, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, physical therapist, or any provider who works directly with patients. All of these professions can expect faster than average growth over the next ten years.

Additionally, the certificate can open up opportunities in health care support roles, such as health care educators, patient advocates, health care navigators, insurance customer relations, and other similar positions. All of these career paths are also expected to grow at a faster than average rate over the next ten years. Job applicants who are bilingual may have a distinct advantage over candidates who are not, particularly in urban areas or parts of the country with large Hispanic populations.

Students who are interested in becoming a medical translator or interpreter can use this certificate as a springboard for the additional study needed for these careers. Careers in translation and interpreting often require a master's degree and a higher level of fluency than is conferred by this certificate alone.

*Certificate programs are similar to minors. They are comprised of 15 to 26 credits in a specialized subject matter, and include coursework from different departments. Certificates can be combined with a degree program, or they are available as stand-alone options for individuals who already hold a bachelor's degree from any accredited college or university. Some certificates also will enroll individuals with a strong interest in the topic area but who do not have a degree.*



## Courses

There are two tracks in the Certificate:

**Language Track** - A language-intensive track for students in health professions who are interested in working with Hispanic populations

**Health Track** - 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 complete at least 18 credits, with at least 12 credits taken in residence at UWM and a minimum of 9 of the residence credits taken in Letters & Science 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 also count towards the certificate. Students must earn a 2.50 GPA in all certificate courses, including transfer work.

The required courses are:

**Language-Intensive Track** (Note: Spanish majors and minors are not eligible to take this track.)

Course #	Course Title
Spanish 308	Advanced Writing and Reading (3 cr.)
Spanish 318/319	Advanced Speaking and Listening (3 cr.)
Spanish 338	Spanish for Health Professionals I (3 cr.)
Spanish 388	Health Issues in the Hispanic World (3 cr.)
6 additional elective credits	

### Health-Focused Track

Course #	Course Title
Spanish 338	Spanish for Health Professionals I (3 cr.)
Spanish 388	Health Issues in the Hispanic World (3 cr.)
12 additional elective credits. Students in this track must choose at least 9 elective credits from a single elective cluster. The remaining 3 credits can be chosen from another cluster or from the general electives.	



Elective Clusters	
Course #	Course Title
<b>Health Communication</b>	
Commun 381	Health Communication (3 cr.)
Commun 481	Interpersonal Issues in Health Communication (3 cr.)
Commun 581	Health Communication Interventions (3 cr.)
JAMS 645	Health and the Media (3 cr.)
<b>Pharmaceuticals, Medicine, and Drugs</b>	
Anthro 443	Medicine and Pharmaceuticals in the Global Age (3 cr.)
HCA 212	Drugs Used and Abused (3 cr.)
Psych 454	Psychopharmacology and Addiction (3 cr.)
<b>Health Care Delivery and Policy</b>	
Econ 221	Health Economics (3 cr.)
HCA 502	Health Care Delivery Systems: National and International Perspectives (3 cr.)
Philos 244	Ethical Issues in Health Care: (Subtitle) (3 cr.)
Urb Std 639	Health Care and Public Policy in the United States (3 cr.)
<b>Health: A Social Science Perspective</b>	
Anthro 440	Medical Anthropology (3 cr.)
ComSDis 210	Survey of Communication Disorders (3 cr.)
Psych 555	Health Psychology (3 cr.)
Sociol 282	Sociology of Aging (3 cr.)
Sociol 331	Sociology of Health Care (3 cr.)
<b>Health: A Natural Science Perspective</b>	
BMS 232	Introduction to Nutrition (3 cr.)
HCA 101	Introduction to Health and Disease (2 cr.)
<b>General Electives</b>	
BMS 260	Introduction to Complementary and Alternative Medicine (3 cr.)
HCA 307	Epidemiology for the Health Sciences (3 cr.)
Nurs 101	Cultural Diversity in Health Care (3 cr.)
Nurs 110	Introduction to Global Health (3 cr.)
PH 101	Introduction to Public Health (3 cr.)