

## **International Certificate in Cultural Competency and Communication in Spanish**

One of the goals of Vision 2020 is to “diversify and globalize the A&M community”. Two key indicators in Texas A&M’s (TAMU) Quality Enhancement Plan are specific to creating excellence in diversity of student learning and in internationalization. These two goals are stated as follows:

- Students graduating from Texas A&M University should be able to function successfully in complex, diverse, social, economic, and political contexts.
- Students graduating from Texas A&M University will be able to function effectively in their chosen career fields in an international setting.

Specifically, students who complete the BIMS International Certificate will:

1. Be functionally bilingual and employ attained language skills in both social and formal settings
2. Be able to perform linguistically and in a culturally sensitive manner within the medial and/or agricultural environment
3. Gain experiential knowledge abroad, expanding their cultural sensitivities and functionality in a foreign environment. Students should be able to compare and contrast Latin American and Spanish cultural ideas with those of the Anglo population within the United States. Students should recognize cultural differences, using language and social skills to interact effectively within a foreign environment.

The certificate has been generated with the student’s required TAMU core curriculum in mind. Many students may wish to discuss a minor in language, political science, sociology, etc. based upon the courses taken to satisfy the certificate requirements. To discuss a minor, please speak with your academic advisor as well as the college/department in which you wish to minor.

### **Requirements**

**Spanish Credit:** Students will be required to have a minimum of 9 hours of Spanish credit to include:

- SPAN 201<sup>†</sup>
- SPAN 202 or 203
- SPAN 300/400 level course of your choice<sup>‡</sup>

<sup>†</sup>*SPAN 101 and 102 credits may be gained from a departmental exam or AP credit. SPAN 221 and 222 are acceptable substitutions, when taken abroad, for 201 and 202.*

<sup>‡</sup>*See your academic advisor for courses that are acceptable choices.*

**Courses in Cultural Competency:** Students must choose one course for a total of 3 credit hours. Students should check with their individual catalogs to determine if a course has prerequisites and is included in the TAMU core curriculum as a Humanities, Visual & Performing Arts, Social Science, or International Cultural Diversity elective. Students should check with their advisor as to applicability of the cultural competency course to their degree plan.

For Catalog 137 (2014-2015) and forward:

- I – International & Cultural Diversity (ICD) credit
- B – BIMS Directed Elective (BDE) credit
- S – Social & Behavioral Sciences credit

If you are in an earlier catalog, please check with your academic advisor as to the category of the elective you choose. Pick one of the following:

- COMM 335: Intercultural Communication – I, S
- ENTO 210: Global Public Health Entomology – B
- GEOG 323: Geography of Latin America – I
- HIST 307: Latino Communities of the USA – I
- HLTH 236: Race, Ethnicity, and Health – I, S
- POLS 323: Political Systems of Latin America – I
- SOCI 317: Racial and Ethnic Relations/Minority Groups – I
- SOCI 330: Sociology of Nutrition – I
- SOCI 403: Sociology of Mexican Americans – I
- VIBS 222: Great Poisonings of the World – B (*fall only*)
- VIBS 413: Intro to Epidemiology – B (*even spring only*)
- VIBS 432: Public Health Practices – B (*fall only*)
- VTPB 221: Great Diseases of the World – I (B, I for 2014-2015 to present Catalogs only)

### **Capstone Courses:**

Students are required to complete a 5 hour experience, the goals of which are the following:

- To gain functionality in biomedical terminology in Spanish
- To gain confidence in cross-cultural communication skills
- To gain confidence in biomedical communication skills

The courses include:

- BIMS 485: Directed Study – 2 credit hours
- Medical Communication – 2-3 credit hours – Pick one from the following:
  - SPAN 1300H: Spanish for the Health Professions at Tyler Junior College
  - SPAN 289: Medical Spanish I at Texas A&M University
  - VTPB 303: Medical Communication in the International Community in Costa Rica
  - Medical Terminology in Barcelona

**International Experience:** Students are required to complete a minimum of nine (9) consecutive days abroad in a Spanish-speaking country (e.g. Spanish is the primary language).<sup>†</sup> Students who are natives of, or have first-degree relatives in a Spanish-speaking country are highly encouraged to study in a new/different location from that which they are accustomed.

<sup>†</sup>*Your academic advisor will have suggestions for finding a suitable international experience. Please also see your academic advisor for acceptable alternatives in work experiences within areas such as the Colonias of South Texas. Credit may be requested per departmental/degree plan rules. Please see your academic advisor.*

**Stipulations:** All coursework for the certificate must be completed with a “C” or better. Students must sign up for the certificate prior to receiving 75 credit hours (includes all credits passed, regardless of where taken or applicability to degree plan). Students will receive the certificate and have the denotation added to their transcript upon graduation with a degree in Biomedical Sciences. If you decide to drop the certification, you will need to meet with a Spanish Certificate academic advisor or Dr. Crouch to verify your degree progress.