

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[†]
- SPAN 202 or 203
- SPAN 300/400 level course of your choice[‡]

[†]*SPAN 101 and 102 credits may be gained from a departmental exam (see Hispanic Studies advisor in the Academic Building Room 205) or AP credit. SPAN 221 and 222 are acceptable substitutions, when taken abroad, for 201 and 202.*

[‡]*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 – I, 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 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*)
- VTPB 221: Great Diseases of the World – I, B
- VTPB 411: One Health and Ecology in the Tropics – B (*Fall, Costa Rica Study Abroad*)

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

-minimum 90 shadowing hours in a Spanish speaking medical setting

-at least 75% of the shadowing hours must be using Medical Spanish

- Medical Communication – 2-3 credit hours – Pick one from the following:
 - SPAN 208, SPAN 218, or SPAN 318: at Texas A&M University
 - VTPB 303: Medical Communication in the International Community in Costa Rica
 - Medical Terminology in Sevilla Spanish for Medical Professions (approved by the Hispanic Studies Department)

International/Study Abroad 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).[†] 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.

<http://studyabroad.tamu.edu/>

[†]Your academic advisor will have suggestions for finding a suitable international experience. Credit may be requested per departmental/degree plan rules.

A&M Costa Rica Biomedical Science Faculty-led – Fall Semester

BIMS majors must have completed their Common Body of Knowledge (CBK) courses before leaving for this program. Applicants should verify with their academic advisor to ensure that they've completed the required coursework.

Credit

All students are required to take a total of 16 credit hours to participate on this program.

- **VTPB 411:** One Health and Ecology in the Tropics (3 cr)
- **VTPB 405 :** Biomedical Microbiology (4 cr.)
- **BIMS/GENE 320 :** Biomedical Genetics (3 cr.)
- **VIBS 310 :** Biomedical Writing (1 cr.) (W course).
- **VTPB 303 :** Medical Communication in the International Community (2 cr.) – (C/W course, and CD course for Fall 2019 and forward).
- Spanish Language by transfer credit (3 cr.)*
 - No prior Spanish experience is required.

Eligibility

- Open to ALL majors with a minimum GPA of 2.5
- Approval of faculty
- CBK Complete
- Junior or Senior classification
- Must attend ALL program-specific orientations

A&M Costa Rica BIMS Field Trip – Spring Break

Texas A&M and Sol Education Abroad are offering an innovative undergraduate program in Medical Spanish and community service to provide cultural immersion. Travel to Costa Rica for Spring Break! Fulfill your study abroad requirement for the BIMS International Certificate in Cultural Competency and Communication in Spanish.

This is a 9-day meaningful spring break program to immerse yourself in the wonders of tropical Costa Rica. This program is open to all Texas A&M students and in particular, it is aimed at allowing BIMS students an experience to complete their 9-day international requirement for the BIMS Spanish Certificate. This program is an amazing week full of language and cultural immersion activities, medical Spanish, terminology, community service, homestay, and excursions. Sol Education Abroad coordinates the program in association with Texas A&M University. Sol Education Abroad organizes all on-site programming aspects such as housing, meals, cultural activities, excursions, community service, resident director support, and much more.

A&M Sevilla – Summer 1 only or Summer 10-week options

The program is offered in conjunction Sevilla, Spain to offer students the option to take 6 credits for summer 1 session or to do a summer 10-week option by combining the summer 1 program with a summer 2 pre-med internship placement in Barcelona.

Credit

Summer 1 (first 5 weeks):

All students are required to take a total of 6 credit hours to participate on this program.

- **Health System & Public Health:** An international perspective (taught in English) (3 cr. - 45 contact hours)
- **Spanish for Medical Professions:** (3 cr. - 45 contact hours)

Students will receive a transcript upon completion of coursework and the coursework (pre-approved prior to departure) will apply to their Texas A&M transcript as transfer (pass/fail) credit.

Summer 2 (second 5 weeks):

- **BIMS 485:** Directed Studies (3 cr.) - Students will be placed in primary care physician practicums (for pre-med & pre-nursing students) or vet clinics (for pre-vet students). **3 credit hours of tuition and fees paid to Texas A&M University are not included in the program fee.** A letter grade will be awarded for the 3-credit hour course and factor into the Texas A&M GPA.

Eligibility

- Open to ALL majors with a minimum GPA of 3.0
- Have completed up to SPAN 202 or equivalent
- Meet with and receive approval of faculty leader
- Must attend ALL program-specific orientations

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.

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Name: _____ UIN: _____

Catalog: _____ Expected Graduation: Spring Fall Summer , 20____

Permanent Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ TAMU email: _____

I request that the following courses be allowed to satisfy the optional Spanish Certificate.

COURSE NUMBER	HOURS	SEMESTER TAKEN & GRADE
SPAN 201 or 221	3	_____
SPAN 202, 203, or 222	3	_____
Cultural Competency course	3	_____
SPAN 300/400 level course	3	_____
Medical Communication course	2-3	_____
BIMS 485	2	_____

Not to exceed 17 hours total credit

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE COMPONENT: International experience is a required component of the program. Students are required to complete a minimum nine (9) consecutive days abroad in a Spanish-speaking country (i.e. Spanish is the primary language).* 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 which they are accustomed.

*Your academic advisor will have suggestions for finding a suitable international experience.

*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 hours of credit passed (includes all credit passed, regardless of where taken or applicability to degree plan). Students will receive the certificate and the denotation added to their transcript upon graduation with a degree in Biomedical Science. If you decide to drop the Spanish Certificate, you will need to meet with either a Spanish Certificate academic advisor or Dr. Crouch to verify your degree progress.

Reviewed and approved:

Student’s Signature: _____ Date: _____

Spanish Certificate Academic Advisor – Biomedical Sciences Program

Signature: _____ Date: _____

- OR -

Dr. Elizabeth Crouch, Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Education
College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

Signature: _____ Date: _____