



**College of Arts and Sciences**  
*Department of World Languages and Literatures*

# **Spanish for Specific Purposes Certificate**

## **Student Manual**

**<http://www.uab.edu/cas/languages/ssp>**

**The University of Alabama at Birmingham  
College of Arts and Sciences**

**Department of World Languages and Literatures**

**SPANISH FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES  
CERTIFICATE**

**Table of Contents**

**Table of Contents**

<b>1. Program description: What is the Spanish for Specific Purposes Certificate program? ....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Spanish for Specific Purposes Certificate Requirements.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3. SSPC Certificate of Completion.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4. Admission to the SSPC Program and Registration.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5. How to make sure that I register for the class that will fulfill my special needs .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>6. Student Population .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>7. SSPC courses offered .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>8. Language Tables .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>9. Advising .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>10. How to obtain more information .....</b>	<b>5</b>

## 1. Program description: What is the Spanish for Specific Purposes Certificate program?

Since 2008 the Department of World Languages and Literatures at UAB offers an undergraduate *Spanish for Specific Purposes Certificate* (SSPC). The courses are designed for traditional (degree-seeking) as well as non-traditional (non-degree seeking) candidates. The objective of this undergraduate academic certificate is not only to fulfill UAB candidates' academic needs for their future but to also reach out to local professionals. The growing Hispanic community in the Birmingham area is a reality and therefore, each day more and more professionals such as teachers, healthcare professionals, business professionals, law enforcement officers and others have the need to communicate with the Hispanic community. Besides having professionals in the classroom, the student population also consists of international studies, education, business, law enforcement, health-care students as well as Spanish majors who have anticipated the need for the Spanish language and culture in their future careers. The courses are content-, vocabulary- and culture-based. Students learn the vocabulary, language and cultural background that they will use in their professional field through extensive practice in class and, in some specific cases, beyond the classroom as well.

## 2. Spanish for Specific Purposes Certificate Requirements

Candidates who wish to obtain the UAB *Spanish for Specific Purposes Certificate* must fulfill the following requirements:

A) Regular (degree-seeking) UAB students will:

1. Have the Spanish pre-requisites specific to each SSPC class (see course descriptions in the Appendix).
2. Enter with and maintain a minimum of 2.8 GPA in Spanish courses.
3. Submit an electronic application (<http://www.uab.edu/cas/languages/ssp>) and receive formal acceptance to the SSPC program.
4. Obtain a B grade or above in all SSPC courses<sup>1</sup>.
5. Complete a minimum of six SSPC classes (18 credit hours) in the UAB Department of World Languages and Literatures, of which a minimum of 12 credits must be at the 300 level (3 SPA classes and a Spanish internship or service learning).
6. Complete a successful SSP Internship or service-learning course<sup>2</sup> (3 credit hours) as part of the credit hour requirements.
7. Complete a successful exit proficiency exam in Spanish (Intermediate-Mid or above by the ACTFL guidelines)<sup>3</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> Students will be able to retake courses for a higher grade.

<sup>2</sup> See SSP Internship/Service-Learning description in section V.

<sup>3</sup> American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages proficiency guidelines can be found at <http://www.actfl.org/files/public/Guidelinespeak.pdf>

B) In addition to the requirements specified above, non-traditional (non-degree seeking) students<sup>4</sup> will:

1. Have a minimum of 12 credit hours of successful college level work (grade C or above in all courses), with the following distribution (minimum): at least 6 credit hours in Area 1 (English Composition), at least 3 credit hours in Area 2 (Arts and Humanities), and at least 3 credit hours in Area 4 (Social Sciences).

### **3. SSPC Certificate of Completion**

Upon successful completion of all the requirements specified in section 2, candidates will receive an official UAB Certificate of Completion, which will also be recorded on their transcript. Candidates must apply for their Certificate of Completion by the official dates published by the University (Application for Degree deadlines).

### **4. Admission to the SSPC Program and Registration**

Regular (degree-seeking) UAB students and non-traditional (non-degree seeking students) must submit an online application for the SSPC program through the SSPC website. Non-traditional or non-degree seeking students must be accepted as a UAB Temporary student prior to applying for the SSPC program (the UAB Blazer ID Number is necessary for the application form). Traditional UAB students will maintain their status as regular students and non-traditional students<sup>5</sup> will register as temporary or non-degree students<sup>6</sup>.

### **5. How to make sure that I register for the class that will fulfill my special needs**

If you are not sure that the class that you registered for is the appropriate one for you, please call the department of World Languages and Literatures (205-934-4652) and make an appointment with the program director to discuss your specific language needs or make an appointment with the CAS Academic Advisor.

### **6. Student Population**

SSPC candidates will consist of regular UAB students and local professionals who would like to advance and expand their careers. Both student groups must meet the requirements specific to their category described in section 2 above.

---

<sup>4</sup> In this program we use the term “non-traditional student” with the meaning of “enrichment enrollee”, as opposed to “regular student”, who is the one who is seeking a degree as well as a certificate.

<sup>5</sup> Non-native speakers of English will be required the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language, <http://www.toeflgoanywhere.org/>) examination or equivalent to enter the program.

<sup>6</sup> Since students can take up to 12 credit hours as non-degree seeking students, overrides may be granted by the SSPC program director, the Department Chair or the Academic Advisor to ensure that SSPC candidates can fulfill the 18 credit-hour requirement.

## 7. SSPC courses offered

The Department of World Languages and Literatures at UAB offers the following Spanish for specific purposes courses<sup>7</sup>:

- \_\_\_\_\_ SPA 206-Intermediate Spanish for the Professions
- \_\_\_\_\_ SPA 214- Introduction to Translation for the Professions
- \_\_\_\_\_ SPA 280/NUR 380-Intermediate Spanish for Health Professionals
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ SPA 304-Phonetics and Phonology (*required*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ SPA 313-Advanced Business Spanish
- \_\_\_\_\_ SPA 314-Applied Spanish Translation and Interpretation
- \_\_\_\_\_ SPA 320- Hispanic Cultures through Culinary Art
- \_\_\_\_\_ SPA 380/NUR 481-Advanced Spanish for Health Professionals
- \_\_\_\_\_ WLL 333-World Language Internship/Service-Learning (3 credits) (*required*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ SPA 390/490-Study Abroad (valid only if directly related to Spanish for Specific Purposes)
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ SPA 404-Medicine and Literature in the Spanish-speaking World
- \_\_\_\_\_ SPA 450-Pop Culture in Translation
- \_\_\_\_\_ SPA 460-Globalization in the Hispanic World
- \_\_\_\_\_ SPA 480 SL: Applied Spanish and Medical Interpreting
- \_\_\_\_\_ SPA 485-Spanish for Leadership in the Workplace

Visit the UAB Undergraduate Catalog for course descriptions and prerequisites. Visit the UAB schedule for a current listing of course offerings.

## 8. Language Tables

SSPC candidates are encouraged to participate in the weekly Spanish conversation tables and other language practice opportunities offered by the Department of World Languages and Literatures (please, see schedule in the DWLL website).

## 9. Advising

SSPC candidates are encouraged to schedule at least one advising session per year with the SSPC Director or with the CAS Academic Advisor.

## 10. How to obtain more information

Please, visit our website at: <http://www.uab.edu/cas/languages/ssp>, contact the SSPC program director, the Department Chair or the CAS Academic Advisor.

---

<sup>7</sup> The Spanish for Specific Purposes Certificate must be completed with 6 classes (18 credits) from this list only (6 credits at the 200 level and 12 credits at the 300 level – The 400 level classes are for the Applied Professional Spanish major, but are available to students in the SSPC provided they have completed the 300 level or with permission of the chair.) We strongly encourage students to schedule regular (once a year) advising sessions with the SSPC Director.