

**The University of Alabama at Birmingham**  
*School of Arts and Humanities*  
**Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures**

**SPANISH FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES CERTIFICATE**

**Application Process and Procedures**

**I. Program Description**

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures offers a new *Spanish for Specific Purposes (SSP) Certificate*. The new certificate will be built upon the already existing program and course offerings with modifications and additions. The courses are designed for traditional as well as non-traditional candidates. The objective of this certificate is not only to fulfil UAB candidates' academic needs for their future but also to reach out to local professionals. 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 beyond the classroom as well.

**II. Course Offerings**

The UAB *Spanish for Specific Purposes Certificate* offers the following courses:

SPA 180-Elementary Spanish for Health Professionals  
 SPA 280/NUR 380-Intermediate Spanish for Health Professionals  
 SPA 206-Intermediate Spanish for the Professions  
 SPA 304-Phonetics and Phonemics<sup>1</sup>  
 SPA 313-Advanced Business Spanish  
 SPA 314-Spanish Translation and Interpretation  
 SPA 380/NUR 480-Advanced Spanish for Health Professionals  
 FLL 333-Foreign Language Internship<sup>2</sup>  
 SPA 390/490-Study Abroad<sup>3</sup>

**III. SSP Certificate Requirements**

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

A) Regular UAB students must:

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<sup>1</sup> SPA 304-Phonetics and Phonemics is mandatory for all SSP candidates.

<sup>2</sup> FLL 333-Foreign Language Internship is mandatory for all SSP candidates.

<sup>3</sup> Study Abroad courses may only be approved if they are directly related to SSP.

1. Have the Spanish pre-requisites specific to each SSP class.
2. Enter with and maintain a minimum of 2.8 GPA in Spanish courses.
3. Submit an application (HB 407) and receive formal acceptance to the SSP program.
4. Obtain a B grade or above in all SSP courses<sup>4</sup>.
5. Complete a minimum of 18 credit hours of SSP classes in the UAB Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, of which a minimum of 12 credits must be at the 300 level (3 regular classes and a foreign language internship)
6. Complete a successful SSP Internship<sup>5</sup> (3-6 credit hours) as part of the credit hour requirements.
7. Complete a successful exit interview in Spanish (Intermediate-Mid or above by ACTFL guidelines)<sup>6</sup>.

B) In addition to all the requirements specified above, non-traditional students<sup>7</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).

#### **IV. Admission to the SSP Certificate Step by Step**

1. Submit the SSP Certificate Application form (below) with a copy of the latest transcript to the following address:

Spanish for Specific Purposes Certificate  
 UAB Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures  
 HB 407  
 1530 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave South  
 Birmingham, AL 35294-1260

2. After the SSP Certificate applicant has received formal acceptance to the SSP Certificate Program by the UAB Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, candidates must register for the SSP Certificate in the UAB Undergraduate Admissions (Office of Undergraduate Admissions, Suite 260, Hill University Center, 1400 University Boulevard, Birmingham, Alabama 35294-1150, telephone (205) 975-5433). Traditional UAB students will maintain their status as regular students and non-traditional students<sup>8</sup> will register as temporary or non-degree students<sup>9</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> Students will be able to retake courses for a higher grade.

<sup>5</sup> See SSP Internship description in section V.

<sup>6</sup> American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages proficiency guidelines can be found at <http://www.actfl.org/files/public/Guidelinespeak.pdf>

<sup>7</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>8</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.

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**Application for Spanish For Specific Purposes Certificate**

*(Please, type and print)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student I.D.: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

**Educational Background:**

Degrees

Dates


**Work Experience:**

Location

Dates


**Please, attach a paragraph stating why you want to earn this certificate.**

Signature	Date

**PLEASE, ATTACH TRANSCRIPT AND SEND TO:**

Spanish for Specific Purposes Certificate  
 Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures  
 The University of Alabama at Birmingham  
 HB 407 1530 3rd Ave S  
 Birmingham, AL 35294-1260

Physical Address:  
 407B HB  
 900 13th St S  
 Phone (205) 934-4652 Fax (205) 934-19

