The University of Alabama at Birmingham
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

Application Process and Procedures

I. Program Description

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures offers a Spanish for Specific Purposes Certificate. The courses are designed for traditional (degree-seeking) as well as non-traditional (non-degree seeking) candidates. The objective of this certificate is not only to fulfill 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 214-Introduction to Translation and Interpretation
SPA 304-Phonetics and Phonology¹ (required)
SPA 313-Advanced Business Spanish
SPA 314-Spanish Translation and Interpretation
SPA 380/NUR 481-Advanced Spanish for Health Professionals
FLL 333-Foreign Language Internship-Service Learning² (3 credits) (required)
SPA 390/490-Study Abroad³
SPA 399-Medicine and Literature

¹ SPA 304-Phonetics and Phonology is mandatory for all SSPC candidates.
² FLL 333-Foreign Language Internship/Service-Learning is mandatory for all SSPC candidates.
³ Study Abroad courses may only be approved if they are directly related to SSP topics. Regular Study Abroad programs or courses will not count towards the SSPC.
III. 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 must:
   1. Have the Spanish pre-requisites specific to each SSPC class.
   2. Enter with and maintain a minimum of 2.8 GPA in Spanish courses.
   3. Submit an electronic application (www.uab.edu/cas/languages/ssp) and receive formal acceptance to the SSPC program.
   4. Obtain an A or B grade in all SSPC courses.
   5. Complete a minimum of six classes (18 credit hours) of SSPC classes in the UAB Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, of which a minimum of 12 credits must be at the 300 level (3 SPA classes from the SSPC list and a foreign language internship).
   6. Complete a successful SSP Internship (3 credit hours) as part of the credit hour requirements.
   7. Complete a successful exit interview in Spanish (Intermediate-Mid in the OPIc or above by ACTFL guidelines) to be scheduled by the candidate during the last semester of the SSPC.

B) In addition to all the requirements specified above, non-traditional or non-degree seeking students 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. Have the status of a regular UAB student or a non-degree-seeking or temporary UAB student.
2. Submit the SSPC Application electronically at www.uab.edu/cas/languages/ssp.
3. Accepted students will receive an official acceptance letter. Traditional UAB students will maintain their status as regular students. Non-traditional students will enroll as temporary or non-degree-seeking students at UAB through the UAB Admissions office.

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4 Students will be able to retake courses for a higher grade.
5 See SSP Internship description in section V.
6 American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages proficiency guidelines can be found at http://www.actfl.org/files/public/Guidelinesspeak.pdf
7 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.
8 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.