

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A SPANISH MAJOR or MINOR?

While it's clear that a minor in Spanish can be combined with many different majors, many of our Spanish majors also choose to double majors. It depends on what kind of career path you are interested in. Spanish is not a 'profession' by itself but rather is a highly relevant and applicable skill that you develop and use in any number of professions. In general, we strongly encourage students to consider a secondary area in which they plan to develop their interests, so that the skill of using Spanish is complemented by knowledge and skills in that secondary area. Some of the more typical combinations at SJU involve:

Spanish + Education (graduates generally pursue teaching jobs at the secondary level, and one recent graduate is pursuing an M.A. in bilingual education)

Spanish + Linguistics (graduates have pursued M.A.'s in Speech Therapy/Speech Pathology to practice in this field, or in Spanish or in Linguistics to do research and teaching at a secondary or post-secondary level; another possibility is to pursue certification as a medical or legal interpreter/translator)

Spanish + Business, International Business, or Marketing (graduates pursue jobs in which their Spanish language skills are needed--either with a Latino population in the United States or an international position related to Spanish-speaking countries, banking, customer service/call center)

Spanish + International Relations (graduates have worked at international governmental or non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that need bilingual staff)

Spanish + Political Science (graduates have worked at international governmental or non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that need bilingual staff)

Spanish + Psychology (some graduates have been interested in clinical/counseling work with English- and Spanish-speaking clients)

Spanish + Biology or Interdisciplinary Health Services (graduates are typically planning to pursue a health-related profession, such as medical school, nursing, physical therapy since bilingual skills would be useful in these professions)

A study abroad experience is a very helpful part of achieving more advanced skills in Spanish. Some of our graduates have also applied to competitive programs to spend the year after they graduate working in a Spanish-speaking country (e.g., Cultural Ambassadors program in Spain and Fulbright English Teaching Assistantships in Argentina, México, and Venezuela), so these are also some gateway opportunities to get some practical experience out of college. An internship is also a valuable way of gaining practical experience while also learning about the options that exist in a variety of organizations where bilingual skills are needed.