

Spanish for the 21st. Century

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As interest in Second Language Studies has increased in the US, in part due to the realities of a global workforce, universities have developed new and innovative ways to attract students to their language programs. In this presentation, we will present some of the ground-breaking developments within the University Foreign Language Programs in the last decade. Due to the growth of the Spanish speaking population, and the students' desire to communicate with members of this population, the Spanish programs have been hard pressed to build a wide range of useful courses that go beyond the introductory and intermediate courses. Foreign language methodologies, mode of delivery, and curriculum have been designed to meet the needs of the new foreign language students of the 21st. century. Use of technology, virtual reality, and emphasis on communication are just a few of the hallmarks of the focus in the Foreign Language Programs of the 21st century. Research centered on the cognitive, metacognitive, communicative and social development skills of the language learner has fostered the development of renewed efforts for language programs and curriculum that address these areas of language learning. The reality of the job market and the palpable benefits of mastering a foreign language have increased the desire of the student to pursue advanced studies in foreign languages.

Introducing an Inter-Disciplinary aspect to the University Foreign Language Program allows for a wider range of expertise and gives students skills that make them more marketable. A variety of majors can benefit from Foreign Language classes for the Professions. We will concentrate on the courses that we've designed which advance students' practical experience in the areas of Medical Spanish, Translation, International Business, and Commercial Spanish.

This presentation is beneficial for professors and teachers in Language Departments at community colleges, colleges and universities and certain high schools.