

Néstor Jeronimo
WLC 300
Personal Statement

From my early memories, Spanish was my first language and the language I loved using, but slowly my Spanish was fading away because my elementary school only taught in English and did not like when I spoke Spanish. Slowly I would lose my Spanish vocabulary and conversation with my parents and family would be a struggle and awkward. It was not until I reached my high school years when I finally had Spanish classes and was able to have conversations with friends and staff in Spanish. Finally I was able to have conversations with my parents and family without struggling to find the right words.

I chose the Spanish Language & Hispanic Cultures program at CSU Monterey Bay as my major because I wanted to challenge myself both academically and personally. In the former case, I felt driven to build upon my two years of study in Spanish during high school. Not only was Spanish my first language, it was my favorite class during high school in which I learned the most about the Spanish language . Learning Spanish allowed me to connect more with my parents and my family in México through speaking the same language.

The amazing thing about the Spanish program is that we did not just learn about critical studies in the Spanish language. While we were able to greatly improve our interdisciplinary communication skills, every class from literature to linguistics had the lingering question of how it impacts ourselves personally. My initial goal was to just improve my Spanish communication skills. I am most proud of my work in my linguistics, literature, and culture classes (MLO 2 & 3). Linguistics, while complex, explained the functions of the language of study but also how that applied to cultural impacts. Literature explained to me both the pain and beauty of human existence, which took me into an endless amount of literary works.

In the future, I aspire to continue to improve across the board in terms of communication. Through practice and immersion, I hope to strengthen my confidence so that I can focus on communication. My goal in pursuing my bachelor's degree in Spanish Language and Hispanic Cultures is to provide the gateway into becoming a community college Spanish instructor in the United States or move to México and become a teacher there. Beside the bachelor's degree, I would love to go to graduate school, hoping to study in a university in Michoacán México. In short, my journey here at CSU Monterey Bay has been very positive and has opened doors to allow me to pursue my dreams.