

CAL POLY HUMBOLDT

University Senate

Resolution to Recommend Approval of the Spanish Healthcare Interpretation Minor

14-25/26-ICC – December 9, 2025 – Curriculum Reading

RESOLVED: That the University Senate of Cal Poly Humboldt recommends to the Provost that the Spanish Healthcare Interpretation Minor - New Minor (15-18 units), detailed in proposal [25-2771](#), be approved.

RATIONALE: The Spanish Healthcare Interpretation Minor prepares students to support culturally and linguistically appropriate healthcare services in a region where Spanish-speaking communities continue to grow and where interpreter shortages directly affect access to care. The minor integrates Spanish language proficiency with translation and interpretation coursework and community health education, offering students both practical skills and a justice-oriented understanding of health systems.

The Health Task Force identified this minor as a priority to meet local needs, and its creation aligns with Cal Poly Humboldt's mission as a Hispanic-Serving Institution by expanding institutional capacity to serve Latine and multilingual communities. The curriculum draws upon existing strengths in Spanish, Health Education, and Kinesiology and includes service-learning components that provide meaningful, hands-on experience for students preparing for careers in medical interpretation.

Graduates will be well positioned to pursue national certification through organizations such as the Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters (CCHI) or the National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters (NBCMI), depending on their professional goals and the requirements of the certifying body.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

Program Type: Minor

Total Units: 15–18

Prerequisites: None; Students must have appropriate Spanish proficiency for upper-division coursework, see details below

- As part of the SHI minor, students are required to complete advanced coursework in Spanish (see: Required Coursework). Students entering the minor without sufficient language proficiency to succeed in advanced Spanish coursework should enroll in Spanish coursework appropriate to their language background and proficiency level.
- The Spanish program's **Language Placement and Proficiency Guidance: is as follows:**
 - To ensure readiness for upper-division coursework, the following placement guidelines apply:

- **Lower-Division Course Requirement:** All students must complete at least one lower-division Spanish course (SPAN 207, SPAN 108, or SPAN 208).
- **For Non-Heritage Beginner or Intermediate Speakers:** Students should take the appropriate sequence from the following courses based on their proficiency: SPAN 105, SPAN 106, SPAN 107, SPAN 207
- **For Heritage and Native Spanish Speakers:** Students should complete the Heritage Speakers sequence: SPAN 108, SPAN 208
- **Spanish Advanced Placement (AP):** Students with AP Spanish credit should enroll in:
 - **SPAN 207** (non-Heritage speakers), or
 - **SPAN 208** (Heritage speakers).
 - Students should consult with a Spanish program advisor regarding course selection and the possibility of applying AP credit toward a Spanish minor or, in special cases, the major.
- **California Seal of Biliteracy (CSB):**
Students who have earned the CSB should enroll in:
 - **SPAN 207** (non-Heritage speakers), or
 - **SPAN 208** (Heritage speakers).
 - Students are encouraged to meet with a Spanish program advisor to determine the appropriate Spanish coursework to support successful progression into the minor.

Program Description: The minor in Spanish Healthcare Interpretation combines expertise in Spanish language and multilingual translation and interpretation with a justice-oriented approach to community health. Students gain the knowledge and skills needed to interpret effectively in clinical settings while examining the structural, social, and cultural determinants of health that shape patient outcomes and community wellbeing.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of the minor, students will be able to:

1. Explain how healthcare interpreting affects patient outcomes.
2. Understand scope-of-practice expectations and apply ethical standards in healthcare interpretation.
3. Communicate community health information effectively in Spanish and English across oral, written, and multimodal forms.
4. Locate, evaluate, synthesize, and apply community health information to support patient and provider communication.
5. Guide individuals and families in navigating healthcare systems and community resources, supporting empowerment and self-efficacy.
6. Identify barriers to healthcare access and engage with community members to generate potential solutions.

7. Recognize cultural differences, critique biased and ableist definitions of health, and advance health equity through stewardship and advocacy.
8. Demonstrate awareness of structural and social determinants of health and their impacts on marginalized communities.

REQUIRED COURSEWORK (15–18 units):

Spanish (7–10 units)

Choose one:

- SPAN 310 – Advanced Oral Skills (3 units)
- SPAN 311 – Level V Advanced Grammar and Composition (3 units)

Take all of the following:

- SPAN 308S – Introduction to Translation and Interpretation (3 units)
- SPAN 408S – Field Experience: Translation and Interpretation (1–4 units)

Health Care Systems (6 units)

Choose two:

- HED 210 – Health Care Systems and Health Policy (3 units)
- HED 211 – Health Advocacy Justice (3 units)
- HED 350 – Ethical, Legal, and Financial Concerns in Health Advocacy (3 units)
- ENGL 309W – Narrative Medicine: Communication in Health Care (3 units)

Medical Terminology (2 units)

Taken concurrently:

- KINS 244 – Medical Terminology (1 unit)
- SPAN 244 – Medical Terminology in Spanish (1 unit)

PROGRAM IMPACT AND BENEFIT:

This minor provides Humboldt students with a professionally relevant, skill-building program that responds directly to local workforce needs. The healthcare and social assistance sector is projected to grow significantly nationwide, and Humboldt County's expanding Hispanic/Latine population further increases the demand for healthcare interpreters.

The program strengthens community health infrastructure by preparing students to support equitable, culturally responsive care. It also enhances Cal Poly Humboldt's academic offerings by bridging language proficiency, applied interpretation practice, and community health knowledge in a cohesive and accessible minor. No additional resources are required; the curriculum draws on existing courses and faculty expertise.

Related Proposal: [SPAN - 244 - 25-2748 - New Course - Medical Terminology in Spanish](#) New course proposed as part of new Spanish Healthcare Interpretation Minor.

- **Description:** Students develop a medical vocabulary in Spanish. Students will learn about roots

and affixes as well as correct spellings and pronunciations of medical terms. The course also develops the required linguistic skills to communicate with patients regarding test results and doctor's orders. Corequisite: [KINS 244](#).

Note on Document Preparation: *Portions of this resolution were developed with the support of artificial intelligence tools to enhance consistency, formatting, and clarity. All content originates from the official proposal documents and aligns with Chancellor's Office documentation standards. Each resolution is reviewed and finalized collaboratively by the Integrated Curriculum Committee Chair, committee members, and the proposal authors, with opportunities for revision prior to submission for Senate consideration.*