

## Higher Education Heritage Language Program Profile Colorado Mountain College

College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Spanish

Address: 150 Miller Ranch Road, Edwards, CO 81632

Contact: Sara Ann Smith, PhD  
Associate Professor of Spanish  
Email: [sasmith@coloradomtn.edu](mailto:sasmith@coloradomtn.edu)  
Telephone: (970) 569-2933  
Web address: <http://www.coloradomtn.edu/>

Type of institution: Community college

Languages taught: Spanish

Undergraduate level courses: 2 course sequence—Spanish 211/212 for Heritage Speakers

### **Program Description**

**Purposes and goals of the program:** AA or AS program that prepares students to transfer to other universities at the junior level.

**Type of program:**

Part of a foreign language program. We offer both non-transfer conversational Spanish classes and academic transfer classes at the first- and second-year level. Heritage Spanish is taught at the second-year level and consists of two courses.

**Program mission statement:** The primary goals of the course are to develop cultural awareness and proficiency in Spanish literacy, including grammar, reading, writing, and vocabulary.

**Program origin:** The program was founded in the fall of 2006 due to an instructor's proposal.

**Faculty's and administration's expectations for the program:** To increase and retain Latino student enrollment, to develop bi-literacy in students, and to help in the acquisition of English

### **Students**

Since this is a new program, we aren't sure what the ethnicity of the students will be. We expect the majority to be first- and second-generation immigrants.

**Countries of origin:** Mexico and Central America

**Total student enrollment:** About 30

**Age of students:** 17-24

**Identification of heritage speakers:** The class description states, "This course is designed specifically for native or heritage speakers of Spanish with some oral proficiency and little or no formal training in the language. Generally, these are learners who were raised in homes where Spanish was spoken."

- Self-identification
- Home language survey: E-SCAPE and oral interviews

### Faculty

**Total number of faculty teaching in the program:** 2

**Number of tenure-track professors:** 1

**Number of part-time instructors:** 1

**Languages in which faculty members are proficient:** Spanish and English. They are fluent and bilingual.

#### **Credentials**

- Teacher certification: ESL and Spanish
- MA: Education
- Doctorate: Spanish

**Professional development opportunities faculty have:** Conferences and other training

**Professional development opportunities faculty need:** Since this is a new course offering, the faculty need more information on teaching heritage Spanish speakers.

### Instruction

**Student grouping:** Students are not grouped according to level.

**Face-to-face course title:** Spanish 211/212, Intermediate

**Number of hours:** 3 hours per week during 15 weeks

### Language Skills

#### **Heritage Skills**

- Listening
- Speaking
- Reading
- Writing
- Culture

**Skills and levels of language proficiency students reach by the end of the program:** Our expected goal: academic proficiency in Spanish

### **Culture**

- History
- Festivals
- Customs
- Traditions/beliefs
- Religion
- Folktales
- Arts and crafts
- Songs
- Social and cultural norms
- Cultural appropriateness
- Literature

**Kind of student identity the program fosters:** We hope to foster positive self-esteem, which stems from pride in one's language and cultural heritage.

### **Methodologies**

**Methodologies and instructional strategies:** Emphasis on the four skills, communicative approaches, and a strong student-centered philosophy

### **Materials**

**Textbook:** *Nuevos Destinos para Hispanohablantes* (McGraw-Hill, 1998)

**Other materials are used for instruction:** Workbook and CD-ROM

**Technology used in the program:** Internet research, videos, and CD-ROM resources are used to enhance cultural projects and homework. In addition, we use email, telephone, and other online resources.

### **Assessment**

- Chapter tests
- Final exams

- Student self-assessment instrument
- Performance-based tasks

### **Articulation**

#### **Local connections:**

- Local high schools: We receive students from Battle Mountain High School.
- Other colleges or universities

**Opportunities heritage students have outside the college to use their heritage language or develop their cultural knowledge:** There is a large heritage community in the Vail-Eagle Valley.

**How the program promotes involvement:** Interviews with community members for local Spanish language papers; service projects

### **What the program has in place**

**Financial support:** Institutional support

### **Special Challenges and Comments**

**Special challenges:** Unknown. This program is a new course offering.