Spanish Language Program

If you would like to live in a residence with other Spanish-speaking students who are passionate about Hispanic cultures, the Thatcher Spanish Program is perfect for you!

We are a diverse residential academic community of language learners, heritage and native speakers. We are engaged in exploring the many cultures of the Spanish-speaking world in order to learn about the customs, celebrations and struggles in diverse Spanish-speaking communities.

Thatcher Spanish offers students an awesome opportunity to use their language skills in a relaxed, familiar environment. It is also a great way to improve your speaking skills before studying abroad, or keep them sharp after coming back from a study abroad program in Spain or Latin America.

Students in Thatcher Spanish meet in the classroom once a week for a specially-designed, two-credit conversation/culture course to discuss historic and current social, economic, and political issues in Spanish-speaking cultures.

Outside of the classroom, Students in Thatcher Spanish engage in social and academic activities designed to increase their cultural fluency. For example, inside Thatcher Hall, you may find Thatcher Spanish students watching Spanish-language films, learning to dance salsa and merengue, or cooking arepas, tortilla española and other Latin American and Spanish foods together.

Thatcher Spanish students also attend social and academic events on and off campus, including those hosted by the Latin American Cultural Center (LACC), Latinos Unidos, the Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies (CLACLS), as well as others at the Five Colleges and in our local Latinx communities.

¿Qué esperas? ¡Únete a nosotros!

If you are interested in being part of this exciting program, please click here for the Program Explanation and Application.

Be sure to complete the application prior to the February 19th deadline.

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Read on to see what Thatcher Spanish Program students have to say:

"I liked volunteering with MIRA, I liked watching documentaries in class about current issues, I like getting involved with the local Spanish speaking community."
"The program is community-based and the course is low-stress."

"I love getting to have a two-hour class every week that is in Spanish. I've learned so much just from being so immersed in the language."

"I would highlight the Citizenship Training and the Community Night. The Citizenship training was a great way to incorporate the community and relevant issues with Thatcher. The Community Night was a lot of fun and I was able to learn more about the other cultures in Thatcher. Each event made me grow as an individual."

"I have told people that the Thatcher Spanish program is a warm environment with a group of students speaking Spanish at around the same fluency level. It is a very comfortable place to practice speaking."

"I enjoyed being exposed to various Spanish-speaking cultures, especially through the movies and short films we watched. Being a part of the Thatcher Spanish program also gave me the opportunity to discover Spanish and Latin American related events at UMass in general which I didn't know about before."

"I would mention the volunteering we did together, the discussions we have in class, and the fun activities outside like the comedy show and salsa classes."

*The goal of the many opportunities offered in the Spanish Language and Culture Program is to foster students’ cultural and language competency and build strong and meaningful connections. While Thatcher Spanish brings together a group of individuals with a shared interest in Hispanic Language and Cultures, students further expand their cultural horizons within the Thatcher residential community, comprised of our six Language and Culture Programs as well as our Global Culture Program. Students will also have opportunities to share their expertise, dialogue with and learn from others at UMass, through events designed to positively impact the greater campus community.*