



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

College of Medicine

MD 8040: MEDICAL SPANISH

Syllabus/Handbook
2023 - 2024

"If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart."

—Nelson Mandela

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Clerkship Director's Welcome

Welcome to your fourth year elective, “Medical Spanish”! We are excited to guide you through learning of the basics of the language and terminology vital for successful patient encounters. That being said, we acknowledge that these are just the basics. Spanish (and other foreign languages), much like medicine, is truly a life-long learning experience. This course will play only a small role in your personal development, and it is up to you to invest the time and energy into mastering this beautiful language.

The first question we must ask and answer is, “Why learn Spanish?” As a senior medical student, time spent on rotations is extremely valuable, and can be your last opportunity to delve into topics and areas that you may not get a chance to see for the rest of your training. There is no question that taking the time to pursue fluency in a language may be one of the most significant investments: You unlock doors to the helping and healing of countless people. With Spanish you can communicate with nearly 500 million people! That makes it the second most widely spoken language in the world, and the number one most widely understood tongue in the western hemisphere. It is the primary language of the majority of Central and South American countries, including Mexico, Argentina, Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, and so on. The increasing Hispanic demographics, especially amongst patient populations in major states such as Florida, Texas, California, and New York, make a proficiency in the language beneficial if not vital for career opportunities in many areas.

This rotation is a four-week experience for the fourth year medical student. It is designed to introduce students to the basics of Spanish medical interviews and interactions. As such, it is primarily intended for students with beginner to intermediate backgrounds in the language. If you have never studied Spanish or a similar language in the past, this amount of time will likely not be enough to provide you with a solid foundation. If you are an advanced or native speaker, it may not effectively challenge you. Please speak with me if you are interested in the elective but are not sure of your qualifications.

During the rotation, you will participate in a variety of methods of learning and assessment to push you towards your full potential. This includes online materials and coursework, self-study, small group meetings, standardized patient experiences, and teaching opportunities. This module is intended for you to have the freedom, with guidance and resources, to mold your own experience best suited to incorporating Spanish into your medical education. Skills in performing and interpreting the comprehensive medical history, understanding and respecting cultural sensitivities and effectively counseling patients in Spanish will be emphasized.

Taking on a new language is a very challenging, but even more rewarding endeavor. Congratulations on taking your first steps in learning a new language or polishing your current language skills in Spanish, and we look forward to working with you to ensure that you get the most out of this experience.

Sincerely,

Analia Castiglioni, MD

“The limits of my language are the limits of my world.”

–Ludwig Wittgenstein

Faculty

This is primarily a self-study based module; however, faculty will be available to guide and support you through, and will be present to supervise simulated patient experiences. The faculty members listed below are actively involved in the module, but you are actively encouraged to reach out to as many resources as possible, from faculty to other experienced students for help, encouragement, and practice of the Spanish language.

Spanish Speaking Faculty/Preceptors

- Analia Castiglioni, MD
- Vanessa Perez, MD, FAAP

Clinical Simulation Center

- Analia Castiglioni, MD

Academic Program Coordinator II and Certified Healthcare Interpreter

- Brenda L. Pérez, MA, CHI™ - Spanish

Key Elective Contact Personnel

Analia Castiglioni, MD, Clerkship Director

Health Sciences Campus at Lake Nona
6850 Lake Nona Blvd.
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Elective Overview

During this elective, students will be actively involved in furthering their medical Spanish aptitude through a variety of methods. In this four-week block, the bulk of the material will be presented through online self-study modules provided through the Canopy Medical Spanish platform.

University Course Catalog Description

Students will learn the basics of Spanish medical terminology and phrasing in order to carry out a successful interview with a Spanish-speaking patient.

Prerequisites

Successful completion of M3 year
Basic or intermediate background in Spanish

Credit Hours

4 Weeks

Clerkship Objectives and Goals

By the end of the clerkship students will be able to:

1. Understand basic Spanish grammar including sentence construction and common phrases
2. Carry out a simple patient interview in Spanish with limited need for outside interpretation

3. Complete a focused history in Spanish with a standardized patient as part of a telehealth encounter
4. Understand the role of medical interpreters and how to effectively work with them during a triadic interview
5. Reflect on cultural barriers to healthcare delivery in limited English proficient patients (LEPs)

Required Texts and Materials

Required:

Language Mate's Canopy Medical Spanish

Provided through the UCF COM Library

[Canopy Medical Spanish](#). LanguageMate (Please contact library to create an account)

Recommended:

[English and Spanish Medical Words and Phrases, 4e](#). Springhouse Publishing Company Staff. ProQuest Ebook Central (Limited to 3 users at a time).

Clerkship Design

“To have another language is to possess a second soul.”
–Charlemagne

Primary Assignments:

CanopyLearn Modules:

- Each lesson should take between 1.5 - 2 hours
- Take the opportunity to review as frequently as necessary
- This is for your benefit and growth - spend the time learning, not just finishing
- Completion of these modules is the basis for the majority of your grade
- Beginner level students will complete Levels 1 & 2 of CanopyLearn
- Intermediate level students will complete Levels 2 & 3 of CanopyLearn

Reflective Essay:

- Completion of an essay no greater than two pages in length with a topic of the student's choice focusing on cultural barriers to healthcare delivery in Spanish-speaking patients or other patients of limited English proficiency
- Personal experiences with reflection are welcomed

Simulated Patient Experience:

- At the end of the module, the student will participate in a virtual simulated patient encounter with a bilingual standardized patient at UCF COM or remotely via zoom
- The student will be expected to take a complete history and provide counseling to the patient as needed
- Scenarios will be common and straight forward. The goal of this exercise is not to test your medical knowledge but to help you practice incorporating Spanish into your normal interview
- Grading will be formative and based on active participation and completion of this activity
- We will inform you of the date of your practical session based on the block you are assigned to. This date might not necessarily occur at the end of your block.

Self-learning module on use of an interpreter:

- You will need to complete a short SLM on how to work with medical interpreters

Conversation Sessions:

- These are scheduled via Zoom on weeks 2, 3 and 4 of each block
- Students are required to attend two (2) conversation sessions out of the three we post to the calendar
- Our conversation sessions are designed to give students a chance to practice their language skills prior to the SP virtual encounter
- We engage through different role-play dialogues and students will get a chance to ask any questions they might have related to the course
- We will offer two types of dialogues - history and physical, and based on the specialty of the participating students
- Conversation sessions are always facilitated by faculty members who are fluent in Spanish

Grading and Evaluation Policies

This elective is designed for the benefit of our M4 students, with the goal of providing the resources and structure needed to facilitate active learning on the student's part. With that said, the grade of this elective (Pass/Fail) will be based on the students participation in and completion of all required activities.

Learning a new language can be an exceedingly challenging endeavor, and some will certainly pick it up faster than others. The goal of this module is not to differentiate between these groups, but to provide a solid framework for all. Students should be focused on their personal development rather than a summative grading.

That being said, evaluation, insight, and instruction are all key features of a structured learning curriculum, so the clerkship director will be in regular contact with the rotating student. The director will expect feedback on progress being made throughout, and will help to identify deficiencies so that students may adjust to get the most out of their time invested.