

Harry Barba
WLC 300

Personal Statement

Spanish has been the dominant language in my household since I was born. Both my parents are from Guadalajara, Mexico. Being born and raised in the United States has been a blessing but at the same time a challenge. I say a blessing because, I am able to speak two languages. But the challenge is bettering my Spanish. Every time I speak in Spanish, I feel as if I am constantly struggling to find the word I am looking to use. My mind is in a constant game of scrabble trying to piece together words to communicate with other Spanish-speaking individuals. It is for this reason I chose to major in Spanish. My short term goal is to one day be able to hold a consistent conversation with my mom and dad, without having trouble. But my long term goal is to become a high school Spanish teacher.

I am now a fourth year here at California State University Monterey-Bay. Since I have been here, my knowledge has expanded greatly. Thanks to Pablo Oliva and his SPAN 305 class (Spanish for the Professions), I am now able to share my abilities and weaknesses during a Spanish job interview. In example, “Esta posición es para mí porque sé cómo planificar a largo plazo, y soy una persona de rendimiento confiable”. Which translates to, “This job position is for me because I am a good long term planner and a trustworthy person. Before Oliva’s class, I was not able to even think this. Also thanks to Dr. Fernandez’ SPAN 306 class (Latin American Culture and Civilizations) I am now familiar with the different conquistadores and their colonization of lands. Who knew Doña Malinche (indigenous woman) would betray her own people and help Hernan Cortés (conquistador of Mexico) colonize Mexico.

Although my short term goal is being able to hold a smooth conversation with my parents, my long term goal after graduating from CSUMB is to be a great high school Spanish teacher. From my experience in high school, teachers were not taking the time to really connect with their students. High School is not an easy time for some, kids are attempting to find themselves, juggle school and sports, and at the same time get accepted into a good university. I hope to not only teach students Spanish, since it's a college requirement, but I hope to guide them in doing the right things in and outside of the classroom. I also want to provide students with a safe environment for learning. I'm going to set standards high for students but I am going to give them a set of tools to meet those high standards, that way they are able to become successful individuals in the field of Spanish.