WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN … SPANISH & PORTUGUESE

PROFESSION OVERVIEW:
A liberal arts degree in general, reflects a comprehensive education emphasizing analytical skills, critical thinking and communication skills; abilities in high demand for all employers. Concentrating your studies in a major allows you to also gain specific transferable skills of interest to particular employers and industries. Proficiency in a foreign language can be a vital element of a successful career, so it is important that students think about enhancing their language study by combining it with fields that will complement their future career goals. Employers in many global industries, including business, international, education, and government, seek out graduates who are cultural awareness and sensitivity, as well as being proficient in multiple languages.

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENT:
A bachelor's degree is the minimum formal education required and is excellent preparation for occupations that require excellent writing skills, analytical skills, and interpersonal skills. Some areas may require a graduate degree, or may assist employment in highly competitive areas. Consult O*Net for more information on the specific KSAs (Knowledge, Skill, Ability) that are required for this career.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO:
The University of New Mexico's department of Spanish and Portuguese offers Bachelor of Arts degrees in Spanish and Portuguese, as well as MA and PhD graduate programs. Check out the department’s website more for information http://spanport.unm.edu/.

INDUSTRIES & TARGET EMPLOYERS:
A variety of employers specifically recruit UNM students and alumni. Consult UNM’s Lobo Career Connection for a complete list of employers and current job postings. Speak with a Career Development Facilitator at the UNM Office of Career Services for help with identifying employers or additional resources for your occupation of choice.

Government:
Translation/interpretation, Journalism, Diplomacy, Civil Service, Foreign Service, Immigration/Naturalization, US Customs, Intelligence/Law Enforcement (e.g., FBI, CIA, DEA)

Arts, Media, Entertainment:
Advertising, Translation/Interpretation, Journalism/Broadcasting, Publishing/Editing, PR

Industry & Commerce:
Translation/Interpretation, Banking/Finance, Sales, Customer Services, Manufacturing, Engineering/Technical, Research, Operations Manage, Consulting, Import/Export, Administrative Services

Travel & Tourism:
Translation/Interpretation, Airlines, Management, Booking/Reservations, Travel Services/Guidance

Interpretation/Translation:
Interpretation (simultaneous, consecutive, conference, escort/guide, judiciary), Translation (literary, localization, medical), Freelance, Education, Business services, Government agencies, Healthcare, Courts, Publishers

Service & Education:

SAMPLE OCCUPATIONS:
Announcer
Anthropologist
Audiologist
Bilingual Educator
Buyer
Copy Editor
Customs Inspector
Diplomat
Flight Attendant
Foreign Language Teacher
Foreign Student Advisor
Health Administrator
Historian
Hotel Manager
Immigration Inspector
Import/Export Manager
International Banker
Journalist
Lawyer
Librarian
Linguist
News Correspondent
Peace Corps Volunteer
Producer
SUGGESTED STRATEGIES:

• Consider enhancing your degree with a double major or minor in another area.
• Gain professional experience in your area of interest through involvement in internships, student employment, co-ops, and/or volunteer opportunities.
• Shadow professionals in your field of interest to gain a better understanding of their occupation and to build relationships with professional mentors.
• Build your network and get involved on campus through student organizations and campus events. Here are a couple of related student organizations that you may find interesting: Resolanas and Spanish and Portuguese Graduate Student Association.
• Find more organizations and events at the Student Activities Center website.
• Attend career-related campus events such as career fairs, company information sessions, and/or career workshops.
• Spend time working or studying abroad. Read international newspapers to keep abreast of world affairs.
• Students who are interested in graduate school should maintain a high undergraduate GPA and develop relationships with faculty and community leaders.
• Speak with mentors and faculty about career opportunities.
• Job leads can be found on your department’s website, list-serv, newsletters, and social media sites.

INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:

CDS International Inc. http://www.cdsintl.org/
Study Abroad Programs http://www.studyabroad.com/
Transitions Abroad http://www.transitionsabroad.com/
Job Search for Language Professionals Worldwide http://www.languagejobs.org/
American Association for Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese http://www.aatsp.org/
Association of Hispanic Arts http://www.latinoarts.org/
Latin American Studies Association http://lasa.international.pitt.edu/
The Spanish Resource Center http://dce.unm.edu/spanish-resource-center.htm
Department of Spanish & Portuguese http://spanport.unm.edu/

INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:

http://online.onetcenter.org http://www.bls.gov/oco

REFERENCES

University of New Mexico, Department of Spanish & Portuguese (2013). Retrieved from http://spanport.unm.edu/