

Jocelyn Chavez  
WLC 300-01  
Personal Statement  
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It all began my first day of seventh grade at Gavilan View Middle School. It was my first day of school and I had made it through all six periods of the day. My last period of the day was Spanish for Heritage Speakers, and I was ready to get the day over with. I walked into the classroom and felt an instant gust of wind and relief. That classroom felt familiar, it felt like home somehow. Everyone in the classroom spoke Spanish, and it was so welcoming and relieving even though I was a new student. Mr. Magaña was my first Spanish teacher that sparked my interest in studying the Spanish language. Spanish class was my favorite class with my favorite teacher. I felt so comfortable presenting and learning in the classroom, and I felt like myself. This was something that I had been searching for, my favorite subject, and my favorite class, my home. I was so interested in learning about myself and seeing parts of myself in the textbooks we read. I had never been drawn to anything like this before. Since my classroom in seventh grade, I continued studying Spanish through my senior year of high school. In high school, I took the AP Spanish Language and Culture and AP Spanish Literature and Culture courses and exams offered at the school that proved to me I was going to study Spanish. I was always meant to be a teacher considering I was a natural-born leader being the oldest sister of four, always taking initiative in the classroom, and striving for leadership in anything I did. This was all a sign that led me to choose my Spanish Language and Hispanic Cultures major at California State University Monterey Bay.

In the Fall of 2020, I took my first course in the major. I decided to take Spanish 316 which is a course that studies the development of Spanish culture & civilizations through geography, religion, sociology, and the arts. My experience in the Spanish major has been wonderful and full of new learning experiences. I have grown to become open-minded about where the Spanish culture and civilizations stem from. This course has taught me plenty of valuable information regarding research and technology, which are skills I will need for the rest of my time at CSUMB. I have been exposed to many wonderful and different skills that I will continue to develop throughout my stay here. I hope that by the end of my studies within the Spanish major I have a different outlook on the Spanish language and cultures.

After my Bachelor of Arts from CSUMB, I plan on pursuing graduate school. I would like to continue to develop my academic skills and knowledge of the Spanish language by pursuing a Master's degree in Spanish. After my Master's degree in Spanish, I would like to teach abroad as a Language and Culture Assistant in Spain and/or apply to the Fulbright Student Program for the English Teaching Assistant Program and Study/Research Award. My travel experience around the world with knowledge of the Spanish language will allow me to be a more understanding, knowledgeable, and adaptive person. After my traveling abroad I would like to come back to the United States and apply for teaching positions at the community college and

university level. After teaching with my Master's I will then go on and study for a Ph.D. in Spanish where I will then become a doctor of philosophy for Spanish. It is a dream of mine to prove to my parents and family that everything is possible, and with a doctorate, I feel that I would have fulfilled my life's educational journey. Teaching wonderful students of my community who are first-generation students like myself would allow me to complete my life's purpose to give back.