

## **Spanish for Medical Personnel**

**An online, 30-session, one-semester course**

### **Overview:**

Spanish for Medical Personnel is a 15-week, instructor-led introductory course designed to help participants develop basic Spanish language skills and a practical understanding of cultural factors relevant to Spanish-speaking patients in healthcare settings. The course targets ACTFL Novice Low–Mid proficiency and consists of 37.5 instructional hours. The program is intended for physicians, nurses, and other healthcare professionals who need foundational Spanish skills to support patient communication and improve day-to-day clinical interactions. It focuses on common medical situations, essential vocabulary, and communication strategies appropriate for clinical environments.

This course is not a substitute for the use of qualified medical interpreters. Rather, it supports a broader language-access strategy by helping healthcare professionals communicate more effectively with Spanish-speaking patients and work more efficiently alongside professional interpreters. It is well suited for clinicians who wish to build basic Spanish proficiency to enhance patient engagement and care delivery.

### **1. MAJOR COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be expected to:

- Develop practical communication skills to conduct basic medical interactions, including patient intake, symptom discussion, and care instructions.
- Demonstrate appropriate cultural awareness and professional communication practices that support patient trust and rapport.
- Achieve ACTFL Novice Low–Mid proficiency, as measured by the nationally recognized STAMP 4S Spanish language assessment, to document formal Spanish proficiency.

### **2. POLICIES**

#### **a. Payments:**

- i. Students have the option to pay in full or to pay for the course in three (3) installments.
- ii. Payment in full or the first of the three installments must be completed in order to register for the course.
- iii. The payment due dates for the remaining two installments are as follows:
  1. Payment #2 is due by March 20, 2026.
  2. Payment #3 is due by May 8, 2026.

- iv. Students must complete the third and final payment before they can be registered for the STAMP 4S assessment.
- b. **Attendance:**
  - i. Students are allowed up to five (5) excused absences per semester. An excused absence is an absence that you alert us of in advance.
  - ii. An absence is unexcused if you do not alert us in advance. An unexcused absence could affect your ability to continue the course.
  - iii. Students should attend each session in its entirety. A student may be counted as absent for arriving late or leaving early.
- c. **Technical Platforms:**
  - i. Matrix:
    - 1. This course utilized the training platform, Matrix, to organize the class. Matrix keeps track of all aspects of the course, including but not limited to making payments, housing course modules and materials, tracking student attendance and uploading homework assignments.
    - 2. The session numbers on Matrix do not necessarily align with the session number according to the calendar.
    - 3. Matrix can be used to communicate with instructors and course managers in addition to communication via email and phone.
    - 4. All class materials, including PowerPoint presentations, handouts and homework assignments will be available on Matrix under the appropriate module.
  - ii. Zoom:
    - 1. All classes will take place on Zoom. The Zoom link will be the same for every class and can be found on the “Welcome” section of Matrix.
    - 2. Cameras must be on at all times. Students who keep their cameras off will be considered absent, unless the student is driving or has technical difficulties.
    - 3. Please be courteous and silence your microphones when you are not speaking.
- d. **Behavior:**
  - i. Disruptive behavior or any behavior that interferes with any educational activity being performed by the instructor will not be allowed.
  - ii. The following specific rules will apply throughout the course:
    - 1. Be on time, be professional, be prepared, be respectful and courteous, and be helpful.
    - 2. Actively participate during lectures, and simulated practice and observation sessions.

3. Be willing to provide constructive feedback to colleagues and be willing and open to receive constructive feedback from colleagues.
4. Acknowledge that all participants are present to learn and develop their Spanish skills.

### **3. CONTACTING INSTRUCTORS**

- a. Students may contact course staff via email at [cipd@tennessee.edu](mailto:cipd@tennessee.edu) or by sending a message through Matrix.

### **4. COPYRIGHT STATEMENT:**

Students must comply with all laws regarding the use of copyrighted materials. They are responsible for ensuring their activities align with fair use guidelines and do not infringe on the copyrights or proprietary rights of others