Frequently Asked Questions: Bilingual Spanish

Q: Am I applying for a Bilingual Credential?
A: You are applying for a Bilingual Authorization. The Authorization is in addition to your Multiple or Single Subject Credential. That is why when you apply to the program you will either choose our Multiple Subject or Single Subject program.

Q: How will I demonstrate my Spanish fluency?
A: You will demonstrate your Spanish fluency in two ways. First, you must pass a written examination administered by the School of Education that will assess your knowledge of written Spanish. Second, during your interview you must pass an oral interview, which focuses on your ability to communicate effectively in Spanish. You will also be asked during the interview to present a short lesson that demonstrates your ability to deliver content information in Spanish.

Q: Are there any additional course requirements for a Bilingual Authorization?
A: Yes, there are additional courses that satisfy state requirements for the Bilingual Authorization that you must complete during your Credential year.

Q: What is the additional cost to get a Bilingual Authorization?
A: You will need to pass an additional CSET exam: CSET Spanish subtest V (history, geography, politics, and culture-test code 258). We recommend (but do not require) taking it before the start of the program. The fee for this subtest is $99*. For more information on the CSET Spanish subtest V and how to register, please click here. UC Davis does not charge an additional fee for the bilingual course(s) as they are taken along with your regular credential coursework.

Q: Will I be placed in a bilingual student teaching setting during the Credential year?
A: Yes, you will be placed in a classroom setting to practice your Spanish skills. Multiple Subject candidates will be placed in a bilingual classroom for the long-term placement. Single Subject Candidates must teach in a Spanish setting during their short-term placement or for a minimum of 3 weeks, when possible.

Q: Does my Spanish need to be perfect? Do I need to be a native-Spanish-speaker?
A: You do not need perfect Spanish (there is no such thing!) and you do not need to be a native speaker. There are many kinds of bilinguals. Some grew up speaking Spanish, but never studied it in school, while others learned Spanish living abroad or as Spanish majors in college. If you can read, write, speak, and understand advanced Spanish and communicate clearly, you may be eligible for a Bilingual Authorization.

*Please note: the CSET exam fees are waived as of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Students will need to pay for the exams when they register but will receive a refund after taking the exam.