

Mario Bravo
WLC 300
Personal Statement

Spanish

My experience as a first-generation student has been difficult. Since I didn't have anybody to help me whenever I needed help, I did not have a person to guide me towards the correct path. When I was younger, I wanted my major to be something that would take many more years of education: I wanted to become a doctor. The reason I changed my decision was that the career was too expensive, and I did not want to give all the responsibility to my parents for paying for my schooling since I knew that I was not going to be able to afford it by myself. I also had more responsibilities at that time having to pay for my phone bill, and car bill since I had recently bought a car. These expenses and the reality of my change in my career aspirations made me realize how life really is, all the struggles we go through.

Spanish has always been part of my life and I am proud of this because I know that I could help my parents when they need help. What I am trying to explain is that as an older son, I have had to translate any documents they receive, such as documents from my sibling's school, etc. Not only that, whenever I see a person at a store struggling to communicate as a customer, I seek to help them and interpret for them. I do this because, in my opinion, if I knew that somebody needed help and I chose to do nothing, this would make me an irresponsible person. I sought more information about CSUMB. For instance, what benefits will this University give me to a bright prospective student's future.

The reason I chose CSUMB is that it would be closer to home, I wouldn't be struggling with sharing rooms, and have extra responsibilities such as paying for a dorm. I also gathered information from different schools, and this reaffirmed my belief that CSUMB was the best alternative to go with. Besides, at CSUMB I would be able to achieve my goal of becoming a Spanish Teacher at a high school level. It has now become my goal to teach students the importance of taking Spanish classes and to help students to adapt and to keep their heritage language because bilingualism is very important in this country. This is one of the reasons why I have a huge ambition of becoming a teacher. In fact, I have already been moving towards this path, I have worked with students in the past and have been invited to give presentations to migrant students and this has allowed me to gather experience of what being a teacher would be like. Because of this, I know I will be able to inspire and encourage students to reach their full potential. Now that I am completing my service learning at a middle school, this experience has allowed me to see and feel the setting from a teacher's perspective. I really enjoy working with students because every single day is different, and each student is unique.

Throughout my education, I have really enjoyed Spanish, especially the analysis of the language and grammar. I also love the analysis of poems and figuring out why the writer/author wrote in that particular way. Taking Spanish courses has taught me that the journey to becoming a teacher is different from what I had expected it to be. Before I was in college, my opinion on becoming a Spanish teacher was that it would not be as difficult as it is. I thought that, since I know Spanish, it would be easy. But in reality, Spanish has many rules that need to be followed, not only when speaking in Spanish, but also when it comes to writing. After taking English in college, I found out that I was losing my first language, which is Spanish. At that very moment, I

feel really motivated to pursue this career and to continue teaching the great language and culture of Latin American countries and Spain.