If you are fully bilingual in Spanish and English, Northwestern’s translation and interpretation major can prepare you for a career in this growing and well-paying profession—working for government and diplomatic offices, faith-based agencies, courts, hospitals and other organizations across the U.S. and overseas.

El idioma del éxito
In addition to 35 credit hours in Spanish, translation and interpretation, the program also includes:

- Practice in our world-quality simultaneous interpretation laboratory and experience translating at live events
- A senior-year practicum in which students serve as professional translators and interpreters
- Courses in public speaking, linguistics and the law
- Liberal arts courses that prepare graduates with wide-ranging knowledge, essential for excelling as a professional translator and interpreter

Excelencia en la enseñanza
Program director Professor Piet Koene has a master’s degree in translation and interpretation—as well as professional certification in both areas—from the Monterey (California) Institute of International Studies. Koene is a nationally certified medical interpreter and state-certified court interpreter, one of only 16 Class A certified interpreters for Iowa’s courts. Koene was named the Iowa Professor of the Year for the ways he involves students in extensive hands-on learning among Hispanics in our region. Koene has lived in Honduras, and Spanish is the primary language spoken in his home.

Valor adicional
Just 4 colleges and universities in the U.S. offer bachelor’s degrees in translation and interpretation. Northwestern is the only college in the Midwest to offer the major and the only Christian college, which means this is the sole place where your career preparation will include a faith-based values perspective.

Hablar español
Bilingual students feel at home on campus and in our community. First- and second-language Spanish speakers can be found:

- Participating in or leading Spanish worship on campus
- Volunteering among our region’s Hispanic people with Northwestern’s Enlaces en Cristo ministry
- Attending and serving at Amistad Cristiana, a nearby Spanish-speaking church
- Tutoring Hispanic community members in English and other subjects
- Traveling on short-term mission trips to Spanish-speaking communities in the U.S. and abroad

To learn more about our professors and students, and see what graduates are doing:

nwciowa.edu/foreign-language