Can I combine SPAUD with a Spanish major or minor?

The number of persons in the United States who speak Spanish as a first language has doubled in the past 20 years, reaching nearly 12% of the current population. Speech pathology and audiology specialists will find that an ability to communicate in Spanish will greatly increase their effectiveness and rapport with Spanish-speaking clientele.

Communicating effectively in Spanish involves more than a single elementary course to build a vocabulary and grammar base; it requires significant study and practice. An intermediate-high level of oral proficiency or higher (according to the scale of ACTFL, the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) is usually obtained by Spanish minors at Calvin, with competency in using a large vocabulary and forming varied types of statements and questions—as well as understanding the responses. A Spanish major at Calvin usually results in a professional competency at the advanced level, including the ability to resolve unexpected complications and to speak and write accurately in all major time frames.

The study abroad requirement for Spanish minors and majors at Calvin helps to ensure adequate experience with both the Spanish language and Hispanic culture. Semester language immersion programs are offered in Peru, Honduras, and Spain, and a January interim program in Mexico is also available, as well as various other interim options depending on the year. Although minors are required to do only an interim abroad, many minors choose to study a full semester abroad in order to finish up their minor requirements and to increase their fluency. Spanish majors are required to do a full semester abroad. The department offers two courses in Spanish linguistics: 340 “Spanish Phonology and Dialectology;” 341 “Advanced Spanish Syntax and Sociolinguistics.” Spanish majors are required to take one or the other, but both would enhance the program for SPAUD students.

Important considerations for SPAUD students

- Begin planning how you will complete the requirements BEFORE you start your freshman year.
- Be sure to meet with a Spanish advisor, even if you want only a minor, to map out your plan as early as possible. If you don’t have a Spanish advisor, call Nora at x-66354 (526-6354) to find an advisor or email mpyper@calvin.edu.
- Check out the Spanish Department website for sample 4-year plans combining a Spanish major with the SPAUD program: http://www.calvin.edu/academics/departments-programs/spanish/academics/how-to-double-major/. These plans assume you are starting at SPAN 301; if you are starting at 203 or 201, we can help you figure out your plan.