

I remember back in high school I didn't even know where I was going to go after I graduated. I looked and looked at all my possible destinations for school. After searching I finally found a school I thought would work for me even though it was far from home. I still gave it a chance because I knew this school would give me a chance for me to be myself and do everything in my power to succeed. For my first two years at Cal State Monterey Bay my major was not Spanish, as it is now, but instead it was Biology. After seeing and experiencing all the different tasks that were set out for me I came to the conclusion that this might not be the path for me and it was time to choose a different path to lead me forward. During the summer going into my third year I spoke with the advisor for the Spanish department and that is when I switched my major to Spanish. I didn't just change my major for no reason, I gave it a lot of thought as to why I wanted my major to be Spanish. From being raised in a Spanish-speaking household, I realized that my Spanish was not at the level I would want it to be. I also found it difficult to talk to my own dad in full sentences without saying words in English when I don't know how to say them in Spanish. I switched majors because I wanted to be able to talk to, not only my dad, but to all Spanish speakers in complete sentences, in ways that I now can.

Throughout all of last year and this semester I have learned so much with the help of all of my professors and classmates together. I have learned how to use appropriate words when talking to people in Spanish that I didn't know before. Expanding my vocabulary also helped me increase my ability to respect different views and evaluate or comment objectively on them. I also learned how to translate words and sentences from both English to Spanish and vice versa. In one of my classes this semester which is SPAN 345: Bilingualism in the Spanish World, the major concept that stood out to me was that having a basic understanding of two or more languages makes you bilingual. In my service learning class I have learned the importance of working with your community as one. By doing this we can work together to create change in the things that we want to see change. I still have a couple more semesters to go here at Monterey Bay. I hope, no I know, that there is still more to be learned for me.

I always get asked the same questions nowadays, either by my friends here at college or my family back at home: "What do you plan to do after you graduate college? What do you want to do?" Every single time my response is that I don't know because I can not see the specifics of a life after college. I don't know what life has in store for me. After many nights of thinking, and thinking, and thinking, I have some ideas as to what I would like to do as a career where I would actually like my job. One of the careers that keeps coming up in my head is being the interpreter of a professional baseball team/player because I really enjoy watching baseball, so working in what I love would be a dream come true. I see many of these interpreters on television when I watch games and it looks like so much fun to work in that field because, when they translate for the team/player, they have the biggest smiles on their faces and it really looks like they are enjoying what they are doing. Another career I would enjoy doing is being a teacher and teaching either English or Spanish to students in other countries that are interested in learning either language. I especially would love to teach in Japan, because I am very interested in visiting Japan in my life. If I can teach there and live there it would also be a dream come true for me. Even if I had to move to another state here in the United States, that would also be great. I just want to teach kids new languages they are interested in. In the end I just want to get a career/job that I would enjoy doing and live a good life.