

From an early age I knew that teaching was something I was passionate about, but I never could imagine how the future would change for me. I grew up in El Salvador, meaning my whole life was around the Spanish language, what I thought back then, was to be an English teacher to learn a new language and be able to teach to other people, but fate took an unexpected twist for me. In 2015 I immigrated to the United States, and my life changed completely. I had a lot of cultural shocks, starting with the language in which I did not have the enough proficiency to express myself in. While attending high school I found my Spanish classes to be delightful and I learned about more cultures than ever before. That is when I understood what I wanted to do as a career.

After graduating from high school, I decided to attend college. It was not easy, but I kept going and learned more about different perspectives of the Spanish-speaking world. I was given the opportunity to share about my first language in a different country, something that I had never dreamt of, but I knew that was the right decision. Living in California has opened my eyes to a diversity of Spanish dialects and cultures, and most importantly, non-English speakers made me realize that teaching Spanish in the future would be so beneficial for this region, and that I would be helping the community that received me with open arms

When I graduated from Hartnell College, I was not sure which UC or CSU was right for me and I applied to six, but I was hoping to be accepted in CSUMB and UCLA, and I was, but I made the decision to stay in the Bay Area. The Spanish major at CSUMB offered me better options and allowed me to stay close to my family. So far, I have enjoyed all my classes and the professors. I have improved my Spanish abilities since I started the program and I hope to continue growing until I finish it.

My short-term goal is to work toward a bachelor's degree in Spanish Language and Hispanic Cultures. Afterwards, I plan to obtain a teaching credential and a Master's degree in order to become a high school teacher in this community. The opportunity to study at CSUMB has taught me about different perspectives and pathways that have helped me appreciate being part of the Hispanic community and having the ability to speak Spanish. Thanks to this ability and my studies, I realized that I can support those who need it the most in my community in the future. Life gives surprises and changes plans, but for me it has been the best experience to study at CSUMB, as it has been the best path for my life.