

Bethany Wadley, Spanish, Communication Disorders, Class of 2023

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“Take advantage of every opportunity here at WKU! You will not regret it.”

Bethany Wadley is a current senior at WKU who is graduating with degrees in both Communication Disorders and Spanish. Through studying a language, Bethany has expanded her career opportunities, broadened her worldview, and discovered her passions.



During her time at WKU, Bethany studied abroad in Spain on the KIIS Spain II trip. She says this was truly a life-changing experience. Not only did she get to see and experience things she had been learning about in Spanish classes since middle school, but she also got to practice the Spanish language constantly and improve her language skills. Her biggest takeaways from this trip were increased confidence and willingness to try new things. During this study abroad experience, Bethany also realized that she wants Spanish to be an integral part of her future career as a speech-language pathologist (SLP).

Through the Mahurin Honors College, Bethany had the opportunity to complete a Capstone Experience/ Thesis project entitled, “Improving Diagnostic Outcomes for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders Within the Hispanic Community in Bowling Green, Kentucky”. For this project, Bethany translated the Autism Spectrum Knowledge Scale- General Population Version into Spanish, administered this survey to the Hispanic population of Bowling Green, and created and distributed resources about autism spectrum disorders (ASD) in both English and Spanish to organizations that have an impact on the Hispanic population of Bowling Green. This project was the perfect intersection of her two fields of study, and, following a successful defense of her work, she passed with distinction.

Upon graduation, Bethany will be attending the University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill (UNC) to pursue a master’s degree in Speech-Language Pathology. At UNC,

Bethany will be able to study under bilingual faculty, complete clinical externships with bilingual SLPs, continue research regarding bilingualism and communication disorders, and pursue her passion to become a bilingual SLP.

Bethany's biggest advice to other students studying a language is to embrace it! Don't be afraid to speak in class or ask questions when you do not understand. Lean on your professors; they care about you and want to see you succeed. Study abroad; there are so many scholarship opportunities that are easily accessible, and it truly is the best experience. Take advantage of every opportunity that you can. WKU has incredible resources and truly prepares you to be a future world leader. When she was a freshman, Bethany never imagined completing a thesis, studying abroad, or getting accepted to UNC, but it all became possible throughout her time on the hill.

