

## Personal Statement

My name is Guadalupe Zaragoza and I'm a very motivated person, pursuing my goal to become a teacher in the near future. My family and I are from Mexico City and grew up with my mother and aunts, who shared that they did not have the opportunity to go to school and that's when I started having interest in school. I grew up with my grandparents as if they were my students. I'm a first-generation college student, graduating from a community college and still moving forward to pursue higher education. Before coming to California State University, Monterey Bay, I graduated from Alisal High School 2012 and I got my AA in Spanish from Hartnell College in 2016.

I chose Spanish Language and Hispanic Cultures as a major because in high school I had a wonderful Spanish teacher. Thanks to the way she taught her Spanish classes, I decided that I wanted to be a Spanish teacher too. I was also interested because when I moved to the United States I realized that some students who already spoke English said "I don't speak Spanish" even though their parents are Spanish speakers. Many students did not want to help me understand the teachers' instructions in English and it made me sad that a Spanish class was not offered to students in elementary school. Spanish is such a lovely language, as it is spoken by millions of people both in the United States and abroad. I want new generations to learn Spanish and become bilingual or even multilingual.

Before California's Assembly Bill 540 (AB540) was signed into law, I was unsure if I was going to be able to attend a university, but Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) made it possible for me to study at CSUMB. This university is affordable and close to my home as it only requires a 30-minute commute. Professors are very supportive and knowledgeable and are impacting my life and education. So far the classes that I have taken have molded me into a more secure person, to be able to push myself out of my comfort zone, especially when it comes to public speaking. I've expanded my knowledge of other cultures and I have

gained new perspectives on a variety of topics. Being able to make connections with other students made me choose CSUMB as the institution in which I would pursue my educational goals.

My main goal is to become a middle or high school Spanish teacher at the high school that I graduated from. After obtaining my bachelor's degree, I am planning to obtain my teaching credential and my Master's degree in education. I will choose the co-teaching path because, even though I have some experience in the classroom, I am not ready to do the internship pathway, as it would require beginning to teach independently from the start of the program. I also would like to open a small business that helps Spanish speakers to translate documents to English, as well as help them fill out administrative forms such as medical, DMV, etc. If I am able to help someone in need I will do it without expecting anything in return. With this in mind, I hope to use my higher education in order to give back to my community every way I can.