

Brisa Rosiles  
20 Nov. 2022  
WLC 300

### Personal Statement

My life has taken many turns since the day I set foot in this country. I never imagined I would find a way to make sense of my identity as a migrant by studying my first language and my own culture. I started my academic journey without knowing what direction it would take. I had convinced myself that I wanted to study architecture. However, due to personal circumstances, that option could not be fulfilled. One day, trying to decide what to do with my life, my dad came up to talk to me about how important Spanish was here in California, that my mother tongue could help many people who needed my bilingual skills. He said that I should take advantage of that knowledge for the good of the local migrant community to which I belong. I remembered all the difficult moments my brother and I went through when we had just arrived from Mexico. Our English was not good enough to communicate with people, as we became shy and would not speak up. I didn't want anyone else to experience what we suffered. So, from that day on, becoming someone that migrant children and children of Hispanic heritage can lean on is my goal. I want to be a Spanish teacher to fight for the preservation of Spanish, raise awareness of the importance of bilingual education, and celebrate the multicultural identity of my community.

When I started my classes at CSU Monterey Bay as a Spanish major, I thought my education would only take a linguistic approach, where I would only learn the structure of the language, but I found much more than that. Through my literature classes, I have discovered a world of stories and new voices from Spanish-speaking countries that I had not been given the opportunity to explore. Thanks to my amazing professors, my love for reading was reborn, and this time accompanied by a great interest in Mexican contemporary literature. I also gained valuable knowledge and understanding of other cultures through their written works, by analyzing their socio-political contexts, and their relevance and connections with today's history. I have learned a lot about the Chicana and Latina communities, about the struggles we often face, and how to overcome them with my education, my gifts, and abilities. I understand that it's my responsibility to pass this philosophy to next generations in hopes for a brighter future for people like me, whose first languages have been suppressed to give way to English, often risking the loss of the mother tongue. By becoming a teacher, I hope to prevent that from happening by offering a space where people feel welcome to express themselves in the language they prefer.

In the near future, I would like to honor my parents and myself by obtaining my bachelor's degree in Spanish, and to later obtain my Single-Subject Teaching Credential to become a high school teacher. After concluding my studies at CSU Monterey Bay, I would like to pursue a doctoral degree in Spanish to teach at a college level.