

## Lindsey Fannin, Spanish, Class of 2023

Written: Fall 2022

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*"I hope to use Spanish to make a difference in the medical field... Spanish speakers deserve the right to communicate comfortably with their physicians, and I hope to make this a reality for my own future patients as a bilingual doctor."*



Lindsey Fannin is a senior at WKU originally from Nicholasville, Kentucky. In the spring, she will receive her Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish; in the fall, she will attend the University of Kentucky College of Medicine at the Bowling Green campus. Lindsey says she hopes to use her degree in Spanish and the skills she has gained to make a difference in the medical field. Most doctors use interpreters to communicate with patients who speak another language, which Lindsey believes takes the personability out of medical care. She hopes to create this physician-patient connection with Spanish-speaking patients as a bilingual doctor and give them the care and attentiveness they deserve.

Lindsey has gained many skills throughout her time as a Modern Languages student. Due to the difficulty of learning a language, Lindsey says she has learned to have patience and stop demanding perfection from herself. She has also learned the importance of boldness. Improvement in a second language does not come naturally; students must seek out opportunities to practice the language and embrace another culture. Lindsey says she got the most out of her language learning experience when she pushed herself while studying abroad in Spain this past summer: "It is through boldness that real progress comes."

Lindsey advises other students studying a language to embrace their mistakes, be bold, and go outside of their comfort zones. She encourages second language learners to be open minded. She says learning a language takes commitment and willingness to be challenged, and it is taxing; but it is exciting, eye-opening, and rewarding in the end.

