

## Ashley Austin, Spanish and Performing Arts (Acting), Class of 2024

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Ashley Austin is a Hilltopper from Mount Juliet, Tennessee. She is enrolled in the Bachelor of Fine Arts program in the Performing Arts (Acting) through the WKU Potter College of Arts and Letters, and is also majoring in Spanish in the WKU Department of Modern Languages. Therefore, in addition to her coursework in the arts, she is also developing her Spanish language skills and learning to connect with a new culture.

Austin comments that her future career goals include both acting and translating. She explains, “As an aspiring actress, being bilingual will be a huge asset. Knowing Spanish will give me the ability to perform in significantly more productions, work in many theaters abroad, and cater to a much broader audience.” In this way, she is making her BFA degree more internationally oriented by studying a second language. Additionally, Austin commented upon Spanish drama in the canon of Spanish literature and how there exists a lack of faithful English translations for these classic works. “Therefore,” Austin added, “I hope to work in both Latin America and the United States in order to create these translations. That way, we in the States can better understand and appreciate the culture of those around us.”

Austin acknowledges that language learning can be a timely process, but that it is important to keep working on building skills in proficiency. Her advice for students interested in becoming a language major is, “Be patient with yourself! Learning a new language is a very long process that takes time, dedication, and many, many mistakes. Even when it feels like you’ll never be anywhere near fluent, you are inevitably improving as long as you keep trying and learning anyway.”

