

Ella McGriff, Spanish, Class of 2025

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Ella McGriff is a native of Bowling Green, KY and is studying Spanish on the Hill. Spanish is one of the languages offered in the Department of Modern Languages, with a range of faculty members with different interests and courses offered in language, literature, conversation, civilization, film, and linguistics. McGriff is majoring in Spanish because she would like to become a translator and use her professional skills and understanding to help native speakers of Spanish living in the United States.

Through her coursework in the department, McGriff says “Hopefully, I can become fluent enough to translate for natives.” She recognizes, however, that she has already grown from the Department of Modern Languages’ faculty and courses. She said, “I have more skills in approaching natives and speaking to them than I did before. The Department has helped me become more confident in my skills.” WKU Modern Languages is dedicated to helping students develop their skills by providing resources such as Spanish tutoring and language advising with Department Chair, Dr. Alex Poole.

WKU Modern Languages asked McGriff what advice she has for students interested in majoring in a language or studying a language in general. She told us that the best advice she has is for students to develop a study plan that allows them to work on their languages continuously. Practicing language even a little bit everyday is better than a few extended sessions a week, as this allows language proficiency the chance to grow regularly. According to McGriff, learning a language is not easy, so having concrete study habits is essential.

