

ECU SEEKS PARTNER TO LICENSE Modified Foreign Language Program

What is it?

This program was designed to facilitate education of students learning the Spanish language. The product consists of a set of flashcards that contain a Spanish vocabulary word on one side of each card and a corresponding descriptive picture on the other. The cards utilize a method of color-coding letters to help with the pronunciation of words in Spanish. Flashcards are used to help with spelling, pronunciation and vocabulary retention, while staying in the target language. Also, interactive software is currently being designed to reinforce the vocabulary words in a similar manner. A set of smaller sized flashcards could be developed for students to use on their own to enhance their learning of the Spanish language. This program uses a multi-sensory approach to teaching the Spanish language, while completely avoiding any English interference that occurs when traditional methods are used to teach the Spanish language.

Who will it benefit?

The program can be used in any elementary and intermediate Spanish classes or at the elementary school, middle school, high school, or university level. This program was designed to help students struggling with the dramatic differences between the English and Spanish languages, but is now being used by teachers of a variety of Spanish classes at the college level. The large flashcards and CD-ROM could also benefit homeschool students. A set of smaller flashcards could also be developed to help students practice the Spanish language on their own.

Most colleges and universities require foreign language study for graduation, it is estimated that over 50,000 students enrolled in higher education will take Spanish each year. In addition, high school students are typically required to study a foreign language. It is estimated that 7.2 million students, grades 7-12, will take Spanish as a foreign language. Therefore, techniques to make foreign language learning easier for all are a good investment. This program was originally developed to assist learning-disabled students, but now is recognized as a useful tool for Spanish language learners of all ages and abilities who want to retain the language more quickly and easily.

How is this program different from similar programs?

The Modified Foreign Language Program's flashcards differ dramatically from other similar products in several ways:

- ◆ This program uses a color coded letter system to depict the featured words, which are commonly used Spanish nouns, adjectives, and verbs.
- ◆ The vowels on each card are color coded to help students remember the Spanish pronunciation of each vowel sound. For example, "a" is pronounced like the letter *o* in the word *coffee*, so it is coffee colored. Letters that are not pronounced when words are spoken appear as outlined letters.
- ◆ The flashcards also differentiate verbs from nouns and adjectives as all verbs appear in *italicized* letters. This technique makes the verbs easily recognizable.
- ◆ The flashcards do not contain an English translation of the Spanish vocabulary word so as to avoid any prior language interference when students learn the Spanish language.
- ◆ The CD-ROM is an interactive tool that students can use to learn the Spanish language. It contains an auditory component that allows students to hear the pronunciation of vocabulary words multiple times.