

**Center for Global Education and Experience/Augsburg Mexico Program**  
**West Chester University BSW Program**  
**Spring Semester, Junior Year**

The spring semester study abroad program in Cuernavaca, Mexico is designed for juniors who are looking to improve their Spanish language skills, study and live abroad in a Latin American context, and complete their junior field placement in a Mexican social service agency. The information below is meant to help students plan for application deadlines, costs, and other WCU procedures. For more information about the program, please see

<http://wcupa.studioabroad.com/?go=AugsburgCollegeSocialWorkinMexico>

**Costs\***

The tuition for Augsburg/CGEE is equal to WCU tuition for full-time credits (approximately \$3,620, but subject to change) plus room, board, and airfare. Students pay tuition directly to Augsburg (see below). Room and board is estimated to be approximately \$2,500. Airfare will depend upon the ticket you find, but roundtrip tickets between Philadelphia and Mexico City can usually be found for under \$500.

Students whose language skills are below the SPA 201 (intermediate) level are encouraged to enroll in a winter session (January) immersion course that has an additional cost of approximately \$2000. There are scholarships available for students looking to study abroad through the WCU Center for International Programs and can be used for tuition, room and board, or travel.

*\*Please note that these costs are tentative and subject to change each year.*

**Transfer equivalencies (social work and Spanish language study)**

Students who successfully complete the program are able to transfer all of their courses to WCU and fulfill the requirements of the major for junior spring semester. Students take social work courses at the Center for Global Education and Experience in Cuernavaca, in the same building where they live for the semester. Across the street at the Universal Language School, students take their one required Spanish language course. The semester is “packaged” as 15 credits; if students withdraw from a particular course, it may affect the total number of credits they receive for the semester. The following is a grid of equivalencies for social work courses (*please note: students must have taken SWO 351 prior to junior spring semester*):

<b>CGE Course (with credits)</b>	<b>WCU Course Equivalent (with credits)</b>
SWK 294: International Social Welfare: Mexican Context (4)	SWO 395: Junior Seminar (3)
SWK 295: Comparative Social Policy (4)	SWO 432: Advanced Policy Practice (3)
<b>OR</b>	<b>OR</b>
SWK 316: Working with Families and Groups (4)	SWO 321: Generalist Practice II (3)
SWK 317: Social Work Field Experience (4)	SWO 375: Field Experience I (6)
Spanish Language Course (3)—see below	Spanish Language Course (3)—see below
<b>Total Credits = 15</b>	<b>Total Credits = 15</b>

The following is a list of equivalencies for Spanish Courses:

Universal Language School Course	WCU Course Equivalent
SPA 111, 112 Beginning Spanish I, II	SPA 101, 102
SPA 211, 212 Intermediate Spanish I, II	SPA 201, 202
SPA 311 Conversation and Composition	SPA 301 or 302
SPA 316 Conversations in Cultural Context	SPA 199
SPA 334: Contemporary Mexican Literature	SPA 456
SPA 411 Advanced Conversation and Composition	SPA 444

### **Application**

All WCU students must complete the WCU Study Abroad application online and gain WCU approval **prior to** completing the Augsburg college application. Applications for this program as well as social work candidacy applications are due no later than **September 15<sup>th</sup>**. Students must meet the minimum 2.5 GPA requirement and be accepted into candidacy. It is also recommended that students obtain a passport prior to beginning the application process. *If you are a student in campus housing (university – owned or affiliated), you will need to contact the Office of Residence Life as soon as possible to notify them of your intention to study abroad for spring semester.*

### **What Happens Next?**

1. Start WCU StudioAbroad application online ([here](http://wcupa.studioabroad.com/?go=AugsburgCollegeSocialWorkinMexico) (<http://wcupa.studioabroad.com/?go=AugsburgCollegeSocialWorkinMexico>)).
2. Complete “International Transfer Credit Approval Form” in your WCU StudioAbroad application. Social work chair signs for SWO courses and Languages and Cultures Chair signs for SPA class. Submit to Center for International Programs (Nora Maurer, 318 Mitchell Hall).
3. Complete application for social work candidacy on D2L (you do not need to apply for clearances until you return from Mexico in preparation for senior year).
4. Once your candidacy and studio abroad application are accepted, you will receive an email stating you can now apply directly to the Augsburg program.
5. For application to Augsburg, you will need to get the "Departmental Approval Form" signed by Dr. Belliveau or the Chair verifying your eligibility for the program. You will submit this with your essay and any other materials.
6. Once you are accepted by Augsburg College, forward your acceptance letter to [studyabroad@wcupa.edu](mailto:studyabroad@wcupa.edu) and complete the post-acceptance items that appear in your study abroad application checklist. If you do not have a passport, be sure to apply for one once you think you would like to study abroad as this is an item you will need to submit to both the Center for International Programs as well as Augsburg.
7. Schedule a meeting with Deven Messner ([dmessner@wcupa.edu](mailto:dmessner@wcupa.edu)) in the Financial Aid office in order to prepare for payment of tuition and room and board to Augsburg. Payment of tuition is made by the student directly to Augsburg, which is why it is important to meet with Mr. Messner as early as possible to ensure no delay in your Financial Aid disbursement.
8. Complete your registration for the spring semester via myWCU (you will receive an email from the registrar about registration for a study abroad placeholder course “CSE 199”).
9. Attend a preparatory travel meeting in November with Dr. Belliveau and Professor Bradley to review expectations for students and gear up for a wonderful, cross-cultural experience! If family members have questions and concerns, they are welcome to attend as well!