

Maira Gomez

B.A. Spanish, 2012

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“Learning a second language is so critical because it gives you the opportunity to communicate and interact with others who do not speak your language.”



Maira Gomez graduated from Western Kentucky University in 2012 with a major in Spanish, which she initially considered teaching at the university level. However, when she completed her graduate program at the University of Kentucky in 2021, her plans changed. Today, she is not only practicing law as an associate attorney, but also getting to accustomed to communicating professionally with clients with Hispanic backgrounds. Gomez’s dream is to specialize on immigration law and help all people with their legal needs.

One fond memory Gomez has from the time of her program at WKU is her study abroad experience in Spain. According to Gomez, “Studying abroad not only helps you learn the language more, but it also helps you learn the culture and traditions... Plus, you get to travel!” During her time in Spain, she studied Spanish with knowledgeable and excellent faculty, and on weekends, she visited several cities near Segovia and augment her understanding of the local culture and history. Because of the skills and knowledge Gomez gained from her time in Spain, she recommends study abroad to all students, regardless of their academic major.

However, pairing a second language with your major can be a critical in the twenty-first century. According to Gomez, who has had more personal experiences in communicating with clients of a Hispanic background, language proficiency gives a student the power to communicate with someone from a different background. In this way, students become more appreciative of ideas of diversity and conclusion, while being greeted with more professional opportunities. For this reason, Gomez

recommends that no matter how long the journey is to proficiency, do not be afraid to approach it. She advises students to speak and practice as much as they can and make steps towards their personal futures.

