

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY IS A

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# SUPERPOWER

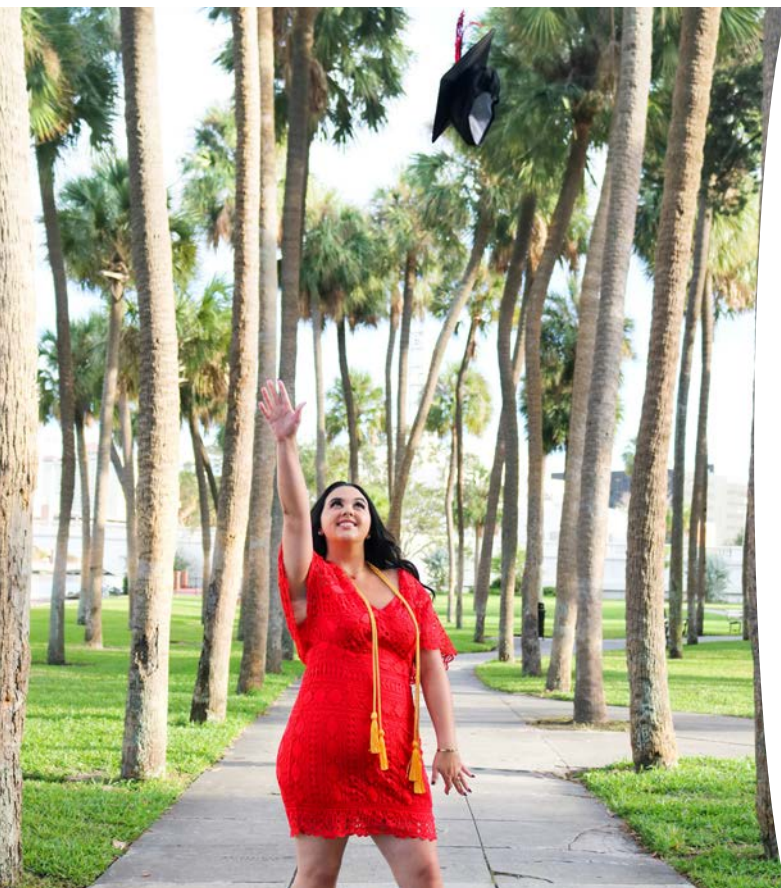
A LANGUAGE-LEARNING JOURNEY

- **ASHLEY COUNAHAN'S DUAL DEGREES CAREER STRATEGY**
- **PLANNING FOR SUCCESS WITH SPANISH PROFICIENCY**
- **MASTERING LANGUAGE SKILLS AND TECH TO TEACH**
- ***AND SO MUCH MORE!***

When you think about a creative individual that is passionate about foreign language education, intercultural communication, educational leadership, and cultural awareness, Ashley Counahan comes to mind. A graduate of the University of Tampa who earned dual BA degrees in Advertising/Public Relations and in Spanish, Ashley has masterfully coupled her academic achievements with her experience in tutoring Spanish, both privately and at the University of Tampa, to pursue a career using her language skills as a conduit to supporting educational advancement.

Growing up with an extended family that only spoke Spanish, Ashley always had a strong desire to be able to effectively communicate with her loved ones and share important moments together. As a result, she decided to major in Spanish at the University of Tampa, and she says it was the best decision she has ever made. "Not only am I able to communicate with my family now, but I am also able to engage in meaningful discussions with my community and appreciate all the wonderful aspects of another culture," she affirms.

experience as another opportunity for her to grow in her language-learning journey, adding, "I was definitely very nervous before taking my OPI test. I think that the idea of being tested on how you speak a new language can be scary for many. However, my advice is to stay calm and have confidence in your skills and abilities. They want you to succeed!"



Upon taking the ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview® (OPI) in Spanish and earning a rating of Advanced Low, Ashley was able to certify her communication abilities, encouraging her to continue learning and improving her language skills. She describes her testing

Professionally, learning a second language has fueled Ashley's passion to teach others the importance of learning a second language. She is currently a Concept Coach and is hyper-focused on leveraging technology to grow as a bilingual professional in the education industry. "Being bilingual has enriched my life in so many ways and has opened my eyes to new cultural perspectives! I look forward to building out my career, teaching others the irreplaceable value of the Spanish language and culture," she shares. As a Concept Coach, Ashley delivers on-demand, individualized course guidance in both Spanish and English to students in secondary courses including, but not limited to, ELA (English Language Arts), Social Studies, and Spanish. She effectively demonstrates and expands upon course concepts with the use of digital technology tools to foster student success.

Ashley now plans to work toward furthering her education with the hopes of one day becoming a language professor. Through her language-learning journey, both her high school Spanish teacher and her college professors always motivated her and taught her that learning a another language requires passion, patience, and perseverance. She states, "I believe that learning Spanish has changed my life for the better and has shaped me into the person that I am today. Learning another language is a never-ending journey and I am so very grateful to be on it."