

Preface

MÁS is an Intermediate Spanish program built on the understanding that students learn best when they are fully engaged. Each component of the *MÁS* experience is designed to spark curiosity and inspire critical thinking, from its unique and visually pleasing design to its thought-provoking readings and stunning short film collection. In addition to providing intriguing and timely cultural content and a solid review of structures covered in the first year, *MÁS* places a strong emphasis on open-ended communication, ensuring that students benefit from a wealth of opportunities for communicative practice, both in class and online. Students who need additional practice with grammar and vocabulary to meet second-year expectations can strengthen their skills using LearnSmart, an adaptive learning tool that gives them the opportunity to focus their study time where they most need it. Through its diverse and lively view of the Spanish-speaking world, *MÁS* motivates a new generation of students to be inspired to communicate in Spanish.

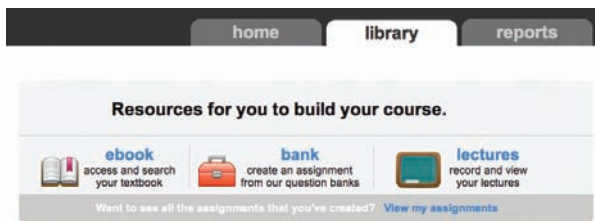
Student engagement for better learning

The leap from first-year to second-year Spanish is huge—and many students get lost in the shuffle. From the moment students pick up *MÁS*, they experience its uniquely inviting, colorful, and visually-rich design. The format draws them in as they prepare to plug in to the content and push their skills to the next level.



In a similar way, the cultural content in *MÁS* virtually pops off the page with life and intrigue, actively integrated into the core of the course. The pedagogical approach of *MÁS* is informed by content-based language learning, influenced among others, by Stephen Krashen, who proposed that learning a language is more productive when the focus is also on meaning and not just on form. The integrated cultural content of *MÁS* provides a real-life context in which to practice linguistic structures, as well as a natural motivation for students to want to know more, read more, discuss more, and write more.

In preparing for the extensive communicative practice in each chapter, students who want to bolster their confidence levels have access to a reliable online support system: Connect Spanish with LearnSmart. Connect Spanish, McGraw-Hill's digital platform housing the Workbook/Laboratory Manual activities, the eBook, LearnSmart, and other new, digital resources makes the out-of-classroom experience more effective than ever before.




In a course-wide survey of Intermediate Spanish instructors, 75% said that it is important to them to be able to assess how students are doing throughout the course. LearnSmart, the only truly adaptive learning tool on the market, is proven to significantly improve students' learning and course outcomes. With LearnSmart modules, students receive targeted feedback specific to their individual needs and additional practice in areas where they most need help. As a student works through each chapter's grammar and vocabulary modules, LearnSmart identifies the main grammatical structures and vocabulary words that warrant more practice based on that individual's performance and provides a personalized study program, one that is unique to his or her specific strengths and weaknesses.

With Connect Spanish with LearnSmart at their disposal, students can dive into communicative practice with confidence and engage with gusto in stimulating discussions on topics such as careers of the future, the effects of technology on our changing society, the benefits of bilingualism, and much more.



Integrated tools for communicative practice

In order to best support and facilitate communication practice, we have structured the *MÁS* program to leverage every opportunity for paired and group communication and collaboration. Every activity that involves communicative practice is clearly labeled with a speech bubble  so that instructors can easily prioritize communicative activities in class or online.

Thanks to reviewer feedback, we also added and expanded the discussion questions in the **Minilectura**, **Lectura**, and **Cortometraje** sections so that each and every cultural section can be easily transformed into an in-class discussion. Pre-reading and –viewing activities set the scene and help students anticipate what’s to come while simultaneously building upon previously acquired vocabulary and skills. Post-reading and –viewing activities progress from comprehension and analysis to discussion questions that encourage students to situate each work in its broader context, relate it to happenings in our society, and then draw from their personal knowledge for an even deeper appreciation.

For those teaching technology-enhanced, hybrid, or fully online courses, the Voice Board and Blackboard IM (BbIM) within Connect Spanish are two powerful tools for assigning communication practice outside of the classroom. Voice Board activities allow students to listen to each other and leave audio messages in a threaded oral discussion board, while BbIM activities facilitate real-time interaction via instant text messaging, voice or video chat. The former gives instructors the ability to listen for assessment purposes to students’ submitted oral assignments, while the latter provides a platform for real-time interaction, ideal for both monitoring students in real time as well as for partnered at-home practice conversations to prepare for in-class discussions. In addition, the white board and screen sharing tools provide opportunities for collaboration and virtual office hours so you can meet online with your students either one-on-one or in groups. Whether for an online, hybrid, or face-to-face course seeking to expand the oral communication practice and assessment, these tools allow student-to-student or student-to-instructor virtual oral chat functionality.



Intriguing and provocative cultural content for a new perspective

In a content-based text, culture is everything. Intermediate Spanish instructors consistently tell us that while exposure to authentic culture is a top goal of the course, it is challenging to incorporate it all effectively and to engage students at the same time. *MÁS* is well-known for its impressive short film collection and its abundance of authentic and varied readings, as well as its focus on more sophisticated and intriguing topics that encourage students to develop good critical thinking skills as they compare other cultures to their own and use their new language skills to go even deeper.

In an effort to bring students consistently in contact with the many facets of the Spanish-speaking world, this edition's **Cortos hispanos** welcomes four (4) new, even more accessible, contemporary short films (**Capítulos 1, 8, 9, 11**). Each of the collection's twelve (12) films is accompanied by pre- and post-viewing activities in the text, as well as complementary online activities that provide students practice with vocabulary, comprehension, analysis, and communicative synthesis of the material.

Most readings in *MÁS* draw from authentic sources in Spanish that include newspaper and online journal pieces, magazine articles, essays, short stories and poetry, and now even song lyrics. This new, stronger edition of *MÁS* welcomes six (6) new **minilecturas** and seven (7) new **lecturas** that address a variety of engaging social, historical, political, and scientific topics. Each work has been considered carefully for its ability to introduce an important element of the Spanish-speaking world, while simultaneously to illustrate the numerous mediums of authentic content we can bring to the classroom to intrigue and encourage our students.



We are excited about the many new learning opportunities we have brought to this edition of *MÁS*, and we hope that it pushes our students to explore the Spanish-speaking world beyond the classroom, always seeking to learn and do more.

About the authors

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Agredecimientos

A todos los estudiantes que nos inspiran con su ilusión por aprender castellano,
a todos los profesores de español que con su paciencia, entusiasmo e imaginación hacen de la enseñanza un arte,
a todos los colegas y compañeros que con sus comentarios y consejos tanto nos han ayudado, a nuestros seres queridos que en todo momento nos han apoyado para que pudiéramos escribir este libro,
gracias de todo corazón.

Thank you for helping shape MÁs: Eloísa Alcocer, University of California, Santa Barbara | Frances Alpren, Vanderbilt University | Maira E. Álvarez, University of Houston | Pedro Arana, University of California, Santa Barbara | Rosalind Arthur, Clark Atlanta University | Elizabeth Augspach, New York University | Mónica Barba, University of Houston | Flavia Belpoliti, University of Houston | Karen Berg, College of Charleston | María Elena Bermúdez, Georgia State University | Emily Bernate, University of Houston | Robert Henry Borrero, Fordham University | Nancy Broughton, Wright State University | Eva P. Bueno, St. Mary's University | María Inés Canto, University of California, Santa Barbara | Isabel Castro, Townson University | Rosa Chávez-Otero, The University of Georgia | Diane Ceo-Difrancesco, Xavier University | Daniel Chui, University of California, Santa Barbara | Chyi Chung, Northwestern University | Kellye Church, University of North Texas | Ame Cividanes, Yale University | Rifka Cook, Northwestern University | Carolyn R. Crocker, Samford University | María Dorantes, University of Michigan | Carol J. Evaul, Kaskaskia College/Lake Land College | Julia L. Farmer, University of West Georgia | Jason Fetters, Purdue University | Diana Frantzen, University of Wisconsin-Madison | Omar Gil-Pérez, The University of Georgia | Dennis C. Harrod, Syracuse University | Florencia Henshaw, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign | Todd Hernández, Marquette University | Julio F. Hernando, Indiana University South Bend | Lourdes N. Jiménez, Saint Anselm College | Aviva Kana, University of California, Santa Barbara | Myriam King-Johns, Citadel | Michael A. Kistner, University of Toledo | Karina Kline-Gabel, James Madison University | David Knutson, Xavier University | Sara L. Lehman, Fordham University | Laura Marqués-Pascual, University of California Santa Barbara | Carlos Martínez, University of Houston | Carlos Martínez Davis, New York University | Mary McDermott-Castro, UNC Charlotte | Bridget M. Morgan, Indiana University South Bend | Rebekah Morris, Wake Forest University | Marta Nunn, Virginia Commonwealth University | Sharon M. Nuruddin, Clark Atlanta University | Bertín Ortega, Texas A&M University | Cristina Pardo, Iowa State University | Carmen Pereira-Muro, Texas Tech University | Teresa Pérez-Gamboa, The University of Georgia | Derrin Pinto, University of St. Thomas | Anne Porter, Ohio University | Marta Q-Schwank, Virginia Commonwealth University | Alicia Ramos, Hunter College (CUNY) | Lucía Robelo, Oregon State University | Noris Rodríguez, University of Cincinnati | Leticia I. Romo, Towson University | Eugenia Ruiz, University of Houston | Anne Rutter Wendel, The University of Georgia | Daniel Sánchez-Velásquez, The University of Georgia | Jacquelyn Sandone, University of Missouri | Vivián Santana, University of Houston | Erika Sutherland, Muhlenberg College | Julie A. Szucs, Miami University | Ian Tippetts, St. Mary's University | Toni Trives, Santa Monica College | Encarna Turner, Wake Forest University | Renée Turner, Saint Anselm College | Edgar Vargas, University of Houston | Barry Velleman, Marquette University | Stephen Watson, University of California, Santa Barbara |

*Special thanks to The University of Georgia, University of Houston,
and Northwestern University.*