

Born in a small town near Florence, Italy, Professor Monica Ercolani earned her bachelor's degree at the University of Florence in the History and Grammar of Italian Language. Shortly after graduating she moved to the United States and completed her Master of Arts in Italian Literature and Language at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Subsequently, she and her family moved to Houston in 2001. The year 2022 marks her 17th year as an Italian Instructional Associate Professor at the University of Houston, having assumed the position in 2005. In 2011, Ercolani received the Ross M. Lence Award for Teaching Excellence at the university because of her enthusiasm and skill when teaching foreign language.

In addition to her teaching role, she is also an advisor for the Italian studies program and the World and Cultural Literature Master's Degree Program.

Professor Ercolani has two children, a son and a daughter, that are both currently enrolled in college. Her son is a graduate student at the University of Houston studying Wealth Management, and her daughter is an undergraduate student at Rutgers University studying Korean & Global Studies. Language is an important part of the Ercolani family, and all members are polyglots. In addition to English, Ercolani and the rest of her family also speak fluent Italian and Spanish.

Ms. Ercolani's passion for teaching began early in life from helping her younger brother with schoolwork. Aiding him created a desire in her to want to pass knowledge onto the next generations. In Italy, she had originally prepared to teach younger, school age children, but after moving to America, she realized that her true calling was to teach adults. In her teaching, she works to promote and preserve the use of the Italian language and culture.

Locally, she has always been very dedicated and involved within the Houston Italian community. She has remained connected by working with the ICCC (Italian Cultural & Community Center), an organization dedicated to celebrating and preserving Italian culture and heritage. Ms. Ercolani is the current president of the group and spends much of her time volunteering with the organization in hopes to ensure that Houstonians can experience true Italian culture.

Her current affiliations include being a member of the American Association for Italian Studies, of the American Association of Teachers of Italian, the Osservatorio della Lingua Italiana as well as an Administrator of the CILS (Certificate of the Italian Language).