Linguistics

Undergraduate Study

Linguistics is a cross-disciplinary program in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences designed to meet the needs of students interested in various aspects of language—its structure, history, varieties, meanings, and uses. The program includes courses in anthropology, communication disorders, computer science, English, psychology, and speech communication and world languages and cultures, thus providing a multi-disciplinary approach to the study of human language.

Courses in linguistics serve as background for students interested in any career that involves working with language, such as teaching English both as a first and as a second language, second language studies, psycholinguistics, cross-cultural communication, linguistic anthropology, computational linguistics, speech-language pathology, and audiology.

In the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, courses in linguistics can be applied as electives or as part of the group requirements. They may also be used in a minor or in a major.

Majors in linguistics complete a minimum of 36 hours in linguistics with a grade of C or better in each linguistics course. Courses specifically required are:

LING 119 Introduction to World Languages 3
LING 120 Computers and Language 3
LING 207 Introduction to Symbolic Logic 3
LING 219 Introduction to Linguistics 3
LING 220 Descriptive English Grammar 3
LING 309 Introduction to Culture and Language 3
LING 371 Phonetics and Phonology 3
LING 413 Psychology of Language 3
LING 420 History of the English Language 3
LING 437 Grammatical Analysis 3

In addition, linguistics majors must choose 6 credits of courses from one or more of the following areas:

Communication Disorders
LING 275 Introduction to Communication Disorders 3
LING 286 Communicating with the Deaf 3
LING 471 Language and Reading Development in Children 3

Computers and Linguistics
LING 510 Introduction to Computers in Applied Linguistics 3
LING 520 Computational Analysis of English 3
LING 526 Computer-Assisted Language Learning 3

Second Language Studies
LING 425 Second Language Learning and Teaching 3
LING 518 Teaching English as a Second Language Methods and Materials 3
LING 519 Second Language Assessment 3
LING 524 Literacy: Issues and Methods for Nonnative Speakers of English 3
LING 525 Methods in Teaching Listening and Speaking Skills to Nonnative Speakers of English 3

Sociolinguistics and Language
LING 305 Language, Thought and Action 3
LING 422 Women, Men, and the English Language 3
LING 514 Sociolinguistics 3
LING 527 Discourse Analysis 3

Spanish Linguistics
LING 352 Introduction to Spanish Phonology 3
LING 462 Contrastive Analysis of Spanish/English for Translators 3
LING 463 Hispanic Dialectology 3

Additional courses in linguistics are available through study abroad, especially LING 395X. Majors in linguistics must show proficiency in a foreign language equivalent to that achieved after two years of university-level study. Alternatively, majors in linguistics can demonstrate university-level study in two foreign languages of at least one year each.

See also the 4-year plan grid for Linguistics showing courses by semester.

Minors in linguistics are individually tailored to the interests of the student, who consults with the linguistics adviser to develop the minor program of study. All minors must have a minimum of 15 credits in linguistics, of which 6 must be in courses numbered over 300. All programs must include LING 219 Introduction to Linguistics.

Communication Proficiency requirement: The linguistics program requires grades of C+ or better in each of the following:

ENGL 150 Critical Thinking and Communication 3
ENGL 250 Written, Oral, Visual, and Electronic Composition 3
or ENGL 250H Written, Oral, Visual, and Electronic Composition: Honors
LIB 160 Information Literacy 1

Continuing ENGL Proficiency is based on one course from ENGL 305, ENGL 314, a WLC 370-379 course, or a CL ST 370-379 course.

For information about using linguistics courses in an interdisciplinary studies major, see Liberal Arts and Sciences, Cross-Disciplinary Studies.

Graduate Study

A graduate minor in linguistics permits students to investigate various aspects of linguistics, emphasizing the ability to think about language in a systematic and disciplined way and to apply the methods of the field to research problems in their own disciplines. Graduate courses for the minor may be cross-listed with courses in Anthropology, Communication Disorders, Computer Science, English, Psychology, and World Languages and Cultures.

For the master’s degree, a declared minor consists of 9 credits in linguistics including two foundation courses:

LING 511 Introduction to Linguistic Analysis 3
One of the following: 3
LING 514 Sociolinguistics
LING 527 Discourse Analysis
LING 537 Corpus Approaches to Grammatical Analysis
And one elective from the list of courses approved for graduate credit 3

Total Credits 9

For the Ph.D. degree, the minor consists of 12 credits in linguistics including:

LING 511 Introduction to Linguistic Analysis 3
LING 537 Corpus Approaches to Grammatical Analysis 3
And two electives from the list of courses approved for graduate credit 6

Total Credits 12

Additional courses beyond those listed below may be used as electives. The chair of the supervisory committee can provide information about these.

At least one member of the linguistics faculty will serve on a student’s program of study committee. A list of faculty members may be obtained from the Linguistics program website. Ph.D. candidates will write one section of the preliminary examination on an area of linguistics. Students in Teaching English as a Second Language/Applied Linguistics are not eligible for a graduate minor in linguistics.