

Linguistics - General Linguistics Option, B.A.

DEPARTMENT

Department of Linguistics

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MN in Linguistics, Minor
MA in Linguistics, M.A.
BA in Linguistics - Teaching English as a Second Language Option, B.A.
BA in Linguistics - Computational Linguistics Option, B.A.
MA in Linguistics - Teaching English as a Second Language Option, M.A.
MN in Computational Linguistics, Minor
BA in Linguistics - General Linguistics Option, B.A.
MN in Chinese, Minor
BA in Linguistics - Interdisciplinary Language Studies Option, B.A.
MN in Hmong, Minor
MN in Teaching English As A Second Language, Minor
BS in Cognitive Science, B.S.
MN in Cognitive Science, Minor
MN in Japanese, Minor
CERT in TESOL, Certificate of Adv. Study
Courses Offered

The Department

Linguistics is the study of the human capacity for language. Language is the defining characteristic of the human species; without language, there would be no civilization, no culture, no scientific or technological development, none of the achievements and capabilities distinctive to the human species. Therefore, the study of the nature of language is fundamental to the understanding of what it means to be human.

Students and faculty in linguistics investigate the nature of human language, its structure, diversity, universality, acquisition by children and adults, historical change, and its use in society. They study how language is processed in the human mind/brain, and how it relates to other human cognitive faculties. And they study and develop applications of linguistics to teaching, technology, and many other fields.

Degrees and Programs

Our degrees and programs develop intellectual skills that are essential to professional careers or advanced degrees and can be applied directly to various professional fields. An undergraduate or advanced degree in linguistics can prepare you for a career in a variety of different fields, including but not limited to: teaching, publishing, national security, international affairs, policy, forensics, medicine and technology. Our programs also serve as excellent preparation for pursuing advanced degrees in linguistics and other fields such as English, Anthropology, Psychology, Sociology, Computer Science, and Foreign Languages.

The B.A. Option in General Linguistics provides a broad background in the scientific study of language, including but not limited to phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, language acquisition, sociolinguistics, and related areas.

The B.A. Option in TESL provides professional training and preparation in theories and methods for teaching second/foreign languages and is especially compatible with degrees in education and liberal studies.

The B.A. Option in Interdisciplinary Language Studies is for those students interested in combining the study of a particular language or languages with the core areas of linguistics.

The B.A. Option in Computational Linguistics is for those students interested in text processing, forensic linguistics, software design, machine translation, and other professions dealing with the interface between computers and humans.

The B.S. Degree in Cognitive Science is an interdisciplinary program that combines aspects of Computer Science, Psychology, Linguistics, and Philosophy.

The M.A. degree in Linguistics is designed to increase the student's knowledge and understanding of linguistics and its applications. The M.A. degree has two options, one in General Linguistics and one in TESL. The general linguistics program is designed to train students who expect to do further graduate work, to teach linguistics at the college level, or to do linguistic field work on less-studied languages. The option in TESL prepares students for further graduate work in applied linguistics and serves those who wish to teach English to speakers of other languages at any educational level, either abroad or in this country. The TESL option specifically meets the needs of English language teachers in this region.

Minors in Chinese, Hmong, and Japanese are also available for students with plans to pursue careers in various areas, such as education, health care, international affairs, marketing, economics, national security, art and literature, etc., where a knowledge of language and culture would be useful.

The Undergraduate Certificate of Special Study in Teaching English as a Second Language is intended for local and international Bachelors students who wish to specialize in English as a Second Language methods. The Graduate Certificate in TESL is designed to train students in the theory and practice of TESL, with application to a wide variety of teaching circumstances.

Facilities

The Department of Linguistics has a computer lab for computer-assisted language learning (CALL) and for language study. The Department also has a sound booth for phonetic analysis. The Linguistics Department provides practical classroom teaching experience for qualified ESL students through internship programs at area schools and through employment with the American English Institute.

REQUIREMENTS

Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements

Linguistics Major

A B.A. with a major in linguistics requires 36-46 units completed in one of the options outlined below, the General Education requirement, specific course/skill requirements, and electives and remaining degree requirements totaling at least the 120 units required for a B.A.

The B.A. program in Linguistics is diversified but integrated. Four options are available: (1) Teaching English as a Second Language, (2) General Linguistics, (3) Computational Linguistics, and (4) Interdisciplinary Language Studies. In each option, students receive a basic grounding in the nature and structure of human language.

1. Major requirements (36-46 units)

A. Core (18 units)

LING 100, 139, 142, 143, 148, 165

B. Options (18-28 units)

II. General Linguistics (19 units)

LING 144, 145, 151, 153, 154; CGSCI 100

2. General Education requirements (49 units)

3. Other requirements (6 units)

Upper-division writing and Multicultural and International (MI)

4. Sufficient elective units to meet required total units (varies)

(See Degree Requirements); may be used toward a double major or minor

5. Total units (120)*

* G.E. and MI courses can be double-counted with major requirements. The writing requirement may be met by taking the upper-division writing exam. See advisor for details.

Advising Notes

1. CR/NC grading is not permitted in the linguistics major.

2. General Education and elective units can be used toward a double major or minor. (See double major or departmental minor.) Consult the appropriate department chair, program coordinator, or faculty advisor for further information.
3. See advisor for list of approved electives.
4. Students who have studied a language in high school or community college, or who by culture and experience have a certain level of proficiency, must consult with an advisor in the language to determine their placement in lower- or upper-division coursework.
5. Students must fulfill the 18 units by taking language courses in a minimum of two languages and not more than three languages. Students must maintain a B average in the languages taken. LING 151 is intended to be taken upon completion of Plan A or Plan B.
6. Literature courses in the language may be used with permission of advisor. Except for LING 120, courses taught in English do not count toward the required courses for Plan A or Plan B.

FACULTY

For faculty phone numbers and e-mail, see the campus directory.

For more on the faculty, see the faculty pages.

The faculty pages are updated by the department or program.