

Linguistics

The Field of Linguistics

Language is an essential part of our lives. Nothing characterizes humanity more than the ability to use language. Linguists analyze sounds, words, sentences, and texts. Linguists also make valuable contributions to practical fields such as K-12 teaching, second and foreign language teaching, language planning, translation, computer science, forensic linguistics, and language disorders.

Computational applications of linguistics — such as speech synthesis, speech recognition, and machine-assisted translation — have also become increasingly important.

Our undergraduate and graduate programs develop intellectual skills that are essential to professional careers or advanced degrees. Our courses provide analytical tools that can be applied to virtually any subject. They also help enhance critical thinking, satisfy broad intellectual interest, and enrich personal knowledge.

Our students in teaching English as a second language (TESL) should know that our program is especially compatible with degrees in education and liberal studies. Our option in interdisciplinary language studies, a Chinese minor, and a Japanese minor can be profitably combined with majors in such areas as business, international relations, linguistics, and literature.

Our majors can be applied directly to various professional fields. They also serve as excellent preparation for pursuing advanced degrees in linguistics and other fields such as English, education, anthropology, psychology, sociology, computer science, and foreign languages.

The Department of Linguistics

The Department of Linguistics at California State University, Fresno is the oldest in the CSU system. At a recent program review, an outside reviewer stated that the Fresno State linguistics program is “... the best in the California State University System.” The research interests of the faculty range from artificial intelligence to the history of the English language. Teaching English as a second language (TESL) is a specialty of many of the faculty. All faculty members have published books and articles in the field and regularly present scholarly papers. The department works with the Forensic Linguistics Institute and the American English Institute, a pre-university intensive English instructional program for international students. Advanced undergraduate and graduate students obtain valuable experience through working in these programs.

Facilities

The Department of Linguistics has a computer lab for computer-assisted language learning (CALL), for language study, for the analysis of speech sounds, and for displaying the operation of the organs of speech. Computers are used for simulating speech and for mapping the geographical extent of language features, as well as for storing the data needed for the making of grammars and dictionaries. The department provides practical classroom teaching experience for qualified TESL students through volunteer opportunities, teaching associate positions, and through employment in the American English Institute.

Career Options for Linguistics Majors

The options in General Linguistics and Interdisciplinary Language Studies prepare students for employment in any field where the ability to analyze human language is required.

Special programs are designed to train students who expect to do further graduate work, to teach linguistics at the college level, or to do linguistics field work on less-studied languages.

Career options are as follows:

- Interpreting/translating
- Publishing and editing
- Teaching foreign languages

California State University, Fresno

Department of Linguistics

559.278.2441

B.A. in Linguistics

Options:

- *Computational Linguistics*
- *General Linguistics*
- *Interdisciplinary Language Studies*
- *Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL)*

M.A. in Linguistics

Options:

- *Linguistics*
- *Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL)*

Minor in Linguistics

Minor in

Computational Linguistics

Minor in English as a Second Language

Minor in Chinese

Minor in Japanese

FRESNO STATE

Discovery. Diversity. Distinction.

Linguistics

- FBI, CIA, NSA, foreign service
- Law
- Language consultant

Career Options in TESL

This option prepares students for further graduate work in applied linguistics and for ESL/EFL teaching and related careers. Career options are as follows:

- Teaching ESL/EFL
- Working for a test preparation company such as Education Testing Service (ETS)
- Teaching for test preparation academies
- Supervising tutors
- Managing language or computer labs
- Directing intensive English programs
- Teaching foreign languages

Career Options in Computational Linguistics

This option prepares students for well paid industry jobs or further graduate work in computational linguistics. Career options are as follows:

- Text processing and data mining company positions
- Speech-enabled software company positions
- Grammatical resource development

Future Education

A teaching career at the university level may require a doctorate. Linguistics students from Fresno State have been accepted into the graduate programs of major universities in this country and many foreign universities.

General Preparation

Linguistics majors are fascinated by language. They should be conscious of dialects and accents, like to play language games and experiment with sound production, and be intrigued by the novelty of the languages around them. Along with foreign languages, coursework contributing to success in linguistics includes literature, psychology, social science, mathematics, and computer science.

High School Preparation

Students should meet California State University's admission requirements in terms of college preparatory course requirements, grade point average, and test scores.

College Program

Students should consult the university's *General Catalog* for specific major and university requirements. Community college transfers should consult their catalogs to ensure that courses taken are CSU transferable (baccalaureate level).

General Education

Students should complete as many of the Fresno State General Education requirements as possible during the freshman and sophomore years, whether they are attending Fresno State or a community college.

Scholarships - Keiko H. Weitzman Memorial Scholarship

The purpose of this scholarship fund is to (1) encourage students to continue their study of the Japanese language and (2) to encourage students to continue their graduate study of linguistics.

A total of two scholarships will be awarded for each academic year. The amount of each award is expected to be \$600. Please inquire about requirements and the application from the Web site. Students interested in our graduate program should check our Web site for additional details about financial aid.

For additional information, write

California State University, Fresno Department of Linguistics

5245 North Backer
M/S PB92
Fresno, California
93740-8001

Visit or call

Department of Linguistics

Peters Business Building,
Room 383
559.278.2441

www.csufresno.edu/linguistics

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PLEASE NOTE: This document is for general informational purposes only. The information is subject to change; consult the appropriate department or an academic adviser. Entering freshmen must follow the revised General Education program effective fall 1999 and thereafter. The university catalog and schedule of courses are available online at www.fresnostate.edu/ClassSchedule and www.fresnostate.edu/catalog.

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