

Linguistics (BA/BS)

Language is with you all day, every day of your life—it is central to the human experience. You use language to think, to learn new things, to get things done, to share your heart, and to engage with others more generally. In the Linguistics Department, you will be introduced to the science of language in a high-powered and welcoming research community. You will learn all about how language works, how it is learned, how it varies from society to society, and how it changes over time.

Work in linguistics cultivates key intellectual abilities: analytical skills, data analysis skills, reasoning and argumentation, and written and oral communication skills. A degree in linguistics prepares students for professions and further training in any number of areas that value these abilities. Those who pursue degrees in linguistics frequently go on to pursue careers in teaching (e.g., foreign language or ESL teaching in the US or abroad), the tech industry (e.g., software development and testing, speech analysis and synthesis), health sciences (e.g., speech-language pathology), or national security.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Perform basic acoustic analyses of recorded speech sounds.
- Discover the phoneme inventory and basic phonotactic structure in a sufficiently large set of phonetically transcribed words.
- Analyze the morphological and syntactic constructions in a sample of glossed linguistic data.
- Design a laboratory or field research project in some area of linguistics.
- Read and demonstrate an understanding of current research literature in areas of linguistics taught in our program.

Linguistics Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Core Courses		
LING 301	Introduction to Linguistics Analysis	4
LING 302	Introduction to Linguistic Behavior	4
LING 311	Phonetics and Phonology	4
LING 312	Morphosyntax	4
Specialization Courses		20
Five courses from LING 411 or above ¹		
Seminar		4
EALL 407	Seminar: [Topic]	
LING 407	Seminar: [Topic] (Proseminar)	
Electives		4
Any 200-level or greater LING course ²		
Total Credits		44

¹ Selected from the department's list of approved specialization courses.

² Excludes LING 403.

Additional Requirements

Two years of one second language and one year of another.

Courses applied to the major in linguistics must be taken for letter grades. A course in which a grade of D+ or lower is earned cannot count toward the major.

The study program of undergraduate linguistics majors must be approved by a departmental undergraduate advisor.

Honors in Linguistics

By fulfilling the following requirements, any linguistics major may graduate with honors.

Grade Point Average

On entry to the honors program at the end of the junior year, a grade point average (GPA) of 3.75 or better in linguistics courses and at least 3.50 overall is required. At the end of the senior year, a GPA of 3.75 or better in linguistics courses is required.

Senior Thesis

Write an original honors thesis under the guidance of a thesis advisor from the linguistics faculty, chosen in consultation with the undergraduate advisor. The thesis must be a substantial piece of work; it may be a revised and expanded term paper. The thesis advisor determines whether the thesis is acceptable; the student is required to register for at least 6 credits in Thesis (LING 403), taken pass/no pass, over the course of at least two terms.

Four-Year Degree Plan

The degree plan shown is only a sample of how students may complete their degrees in four years. There are alternative ways. Students should consult their advisor to determine the best path for them.

Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
First Year			
Fall			
WR 121Z	Composition I	4	
First term of first-year second-language sequence		4-5	
Elective course with LING subject code (200-level)		4	
Arts and letters area-satisfying course		4	
Credits		16-17	
Winter			
WR 122Z or WR 123	Composition II or College Composition III	4	
LING 302	Introduction to Linguistic Behavior	4	
Second term of first-year second-language sequence		4-5	
Social science area-satisfying course		4	
Credits		16-17	
Spring			
LING 301	Introduction to Linguistics Analysis	4	Complete before Fall 2nd year
Third term of first-year second-language sequence		4-5	
Social science area-satisfying course		4	

Science area-satisfying course	4
Credits	16-17
Total Credits	48-51

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
Second Year			

Fall			
LING 311	Phonetics and Phonology	4	
First term of second-year second-language sequence		4-5	
Social science area-satisfying course		4	
Arts and letters area-satisfying course		4	
Credits		16-17	

Winter			
LING 312	Morphosyntax	4	
Second term of second-year second-language sequence		4-5	
Science area-satisfying course		4	
Elective course		4	
Credits		16-17	

Spring			
Any 400-level LING specialization course		4	
Third term of second-year second-language sequence		4-5	
Social science area-satisfying course		4	Complete cultural literacy requirement
Science area-satisfying course		4	
Credits		16-17	
Total Credits		48-51	

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
--------	-------	---------	------------

Third Year

Fall			
Any two 400-level LING specialization courses		8	
First term of a third-language sequence		5	
Arts and letters area-satisfying course		4	
Credits		17	

Winter			
Any two 400-level LING specialization courses		8	
Second term of a third-language sequence		5	
Social science area-satisfying course		4	
Credits		17	

Spring			
LING 407	Seminar: [Topic]	4	
Third term of a third-language sequence		5	
Science area-satisfying course		4	
Elective course		4	
Credits		17	
Total Credits		51	

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
--------	-------	---------	------------

Fourth Year

Fall			
Arts and letters area-satisfying course		4	
Elective courses		12	
Credits		16	

Winter			
Elective courses		16	
Credits		16	

Spring			
Elective courses		16	Apply for graduation
Credits		16	
Total Credits		48	