Linguistics

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The Department of Linguistics offers instruction leading to a bachelor of arts (BA), a master of arts (MA), and a doctor of philosophy (PhD) degree in linguistics. The interests of its faculty are in the documentation, preservation, and revitalization of endangered languages; historical linguistics; laboratory phonology; language acquisition and learning; language variation and change; morphosyntax; phonetics; psycholinguistics; semantics; Slavic linguistics; sociolinguistics; and typology.

Faculty


Emeriti


Participating

Gregory D. Anderson, linguistics
Dare A. Baldwin, psychology
Marjorie S. Barker, linguistics
Lucien Brown, East Asian languages and literatures
Robert L. Davis, Romance languages
Tom Delaney, American English Institute
Robert Elliott, Northwest Indian Language Institute
Andrew Halvorsen, American English Institute
Laura G. Holland, American English Institute
Koari Idemaru, East Asian languages and literatures
Zhao Jing-Schmidt, East Asian languages and literatures
Mark Johnson, philosophy
Sarah Klinghammer, linguistics
Jeffrey Magoto, Yamada Language Center
Helen Neville, psychology
Thomas E. Payne, linguistics
Trish Pashby, American English Institute
Janne Underriner, Northwest Indian Language Institute

The date in parentheses at the end of each entry is the first year on the University of Oregon faculty.

• Bachelor of Arts (p. 2)
• Minor

Undergraduate Studies

The program offers instruction in the nature of human language, the structural variety of individual languages, and the methodology of conducting a linguistic investigation. The primary aim of linguistics as a science is to study the use and organization of human language in coding and communicating knowledge. Although linguists may study
specific facts of many languages, they do so to gain insight into the properties and processes common to all languages. Such common features may in turn reflect universals of human cognitive, cultural, and social organization.

Language occupies a central position in the human universe, so much so that it is often cited as a major criterion for defining humanity. Its use in the coding and processing of knowledge makes it relevant to psychology. As a tool of reasoning, it verges on logic and philosophy. As a computational system, it relates to computer science and language-data processing. As a repository of one’s cultural worldview, it is a part of anthropology. As an instrument of social intercourse and a mark of social identity, it interacts with sociology. As a biological subsystem lodged in the brain, it is highly relevant to neurology. As the primary vehicle of learning and maturation, it is important for education. As an expressive medium, it is the crux of literature and rhetoric.

Careers

To gain understanding into the complexities of human language is thus to gain entrance into numerous fields of academic investigation and practical use. Indeed, computer programmers, conflict mediators, cryptologists, elementary school teachers, language teachers, lawyers, psychiatrists, speech therapists, and translators all depend heavily on understanding the nature and use of language.

The BA degree in linguistics provides a solid foundation for graduate studies in anthropology, communication, communication disorders and sciences, computer-science education, journalism, law, linguistics, literature and languages, philosophy, psychology, or sociology. It offers a strong entry into the applied fields listed above.

Advising

Undergraduate majors should consult one of the departmental undergraduate advisors each term about their study program.

Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements

Core Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LING 301</td>
<td>Introduction to Linguistics Analysis</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 302</td>
<td>Introduction to Linguistic Behavior</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 411</td>
<td>Phonetics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 450</td>
<td>Introduction to Phonology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 435</td>
<td>Morphology and Syntax</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 451</td>
<td>Functional Syntax I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Specialization Courses

Choose three of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LING 396</td>
<td>Language and Cognition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 415</td>
<td>Semantics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 444</td>
<td>Second-Language Acquisition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 452</td>
<td>Functional Syntax II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 460</td>
<td>Historical and Comparative Linguistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 491</td>
<td>Sociolinguistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 407</td>
<td>Seminar: [Topic] (Proseminar)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives

- Any 200-level or greater LING course (except LING 440)

Total Credits 44

Core Courses

The six core courses are designed to expose you to the analysis of linguistic data and language acquisition, variation, and change: two introductory courses, Introduction to Linguistics Analysis (LING 301) and Introduction to Linguistic Behavior (LING 302); two courses focusing on sound, Phonetics (LING 411) and Introduction to Phonology (LING 450); and two courses focusing on grammar, Morphology and Syntax (LING 435) and Functional Syntax I (LING 451).

Specialization Courses

These three courses allow students to focus either on language behavior or linguistic analysis, on cognitive aspects or grammar.

Electives

Two courses complete the requirements:

- **Elective.** Any linguistics (LING) course numbered between 200 and 499, except Linguistic Principles and Second-Language Learning (LING 440).
- **Proseminar elective.** Seminar: [Topic] (LING 407). It is sometimes possible to substitute another 400-level course that has fewer students, most readings from primary literature, and discussion-oriented class periods with a rigorous term paper. Seminars typically have prerequisites, often a subset of the required courses.

For a list of preapproved non-LING courses that can serve as an elective, visit the department website (http://linguistics.uoregon.edu/undergraduate/electives).

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.

Upon fulfilling these requirements, the candidate is approved to receive a BA degree with honors in linguistics.
Minor in Linguistics

The minor grounds the student in the basics of linguistic analysis and offers the opportunity to pursue areas of special interest. The minor requires at least 28 credits in linguistics course work. Under special circumstances substitutions to courses listed below are possible. Students need permission from an undergraduate advisor to pursue an alternative program of study.

Minor Degree Requirements

LING 301 Introduction to Linguistics Analysis 4
LING 411 Phonetics 4
LING 435 Morphology and Syntax 4
LING 450 Introduction to Phonology 4
LING 451 Functional Syntax I 4
Select two of the following: 8
LING 211 Languages of the World
LING 296 Language and Society in the United States
LING 396 Language and Cognition
Other elective courses as approved by advisor
Total Credits 28

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 121 College Composition I 4
First term of first-year second-language sequence 4-5
Elective course with LING subject code 4
May be taken any term
Arts and letters group-satisfying course 4

Credits 16-17
Winter
WR 122 College Composition II 4
or WR 123 or College Composition III
Elective course with LING subject code 4
May be taken any term
Second term of first-year second-language sequence 4-5
Social science group-satisfying course 4

Credits 16-17
Spring
LING 301 Introduction to Linguistics Analysis 4
Third term of first-year second-language sequence 4-5
Social science group-satisfying course 4

Credits 16-17

Total Credits 48-51

Course Title Credits Milestones
Second Year
Fall
LING 411 Phonetics 4
First term of second-year second-language sequence 4-5
Arts and letters group-satisfying course 4
Social science group-satisfying course 4

Credits 16-17
Winter
LING 450 Introduction to Phonology 4
LING 302 Introduction to Linguistic Behavior 4
Second term of second-year second-language sequence 4-5
Science group-satisfying course 4

Credits 16-17
Spring
Third term of second-year second-language sequence 4-5
Science group-satisfying course 4
Elective course 4
Arts and letters group-satisfying course 4

Credits 16-17

Total Credits 48-51

Course Title Credits Milestones
Third Year
Fall
LING 435 Morphology and Syntax 4
Third language course 4-5
First of three specialization courses 4
Arts and letters group-satisfying course 4

Credits 16-17
Winter
LING 451 Functional Syntax I 4
Third language course 4-5
Second of three specialization courses 4
Social Science group-satisfying course 4

Credits 16-17

Spring
LING 407 Seminar: [Topic] 4
Can be taken any term; required for graduation

Credits 16-17

Total Credits 48-51
Graduate Studies

Solid preparation in linguistics is indispensable to any specialization at the graduate level. Although the courses deal with a variety of linguistic topics, three facets of linguistics are strongly emphasized in the graduate program:

1. A pragmatic approach to the study of language structure and use, variation and change, and acquisition and learning
2. An empirical, live-data, fieldwork, experimental, and cross-linguistic approach to the methodology of linguistic research
3. Interdisciplinary emphasis on the place of human language in its wider natural context

Advising and Review Practices

Graduate students meet regularly with the departmental director of graduate studies. In addition, students are assigned a faculty member to advise them in the areas of their academic interest. The faculty reviews the performance of each graduate student at the end of each academic term. In case a student falls below what the faculty considers minimal standards of performance, a representative of the faculty notifies the student and suggests appropriate remedial steps.

Master of Arts

For those who intend to complete the PhD, the MA is not necessary and may delay completion of the advanced degree. While not necessary, the option of completing a terminal theoretical MA may be appropriate for some whose goals are, for example, professional work in a language community. Prospective students who are unsure which program would be appropriate are encouraged to consult with the department's director of graduate studies.

Prerequisites

Students may be required to take and pass (with grades of B– or better) certain prerequisite courses, typically an introductory course, such as Morphology and Syntax (LING 535) and Phonetics (LING 511).

Master of Arts Degree Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LING 550 Introduction to Phonology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 551–552 Functional Syntax I-II</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 507 Seminar: [Topic] or LING 607 Seminar: [Topic]</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 614 Linguistic Theory: Phonology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 615 Linguistic Theory: Syntax</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 616 Linguistic Theory: Semantics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Elective Courses

Graduate-level linguistics or other relevant courses 1 20

Total Credits 48

1 Select electives in consultation with department's director of graduate studies and the student's faculty advisor.

No course with a grade lower than B– may be used to satisfy degree requirements.
Second-Language Requirement
Candidates for the MA are required to have taken at least two years of one second language within the past seven years. At the MA level, any foreign language is acceptable, including English for an international student whose first language is not English. It should be noted that the MA language may count toward the two language requirements for the PhD program if the language is used as a research language (see PhD requirements below).

MA Thesis or Substitute
Students in good standing may form an MA committee consisting of two linguistics faculty members who indicate their agreement to serve by signing a standard form and who share equal responsibility for directing the thesis. For the MA to be granted, both members of the committee must approve the thesis and the main content of the thesis must be presented as a departmental colloquium.

Students who elect not to write a thesis or who are unsuccessful in forming the two-member thesis committee may complete the degree by taking an additional 8 credits of course work approved by the director of graduate studies.

Specialization in Language Teaching
The specialization in language teaching requires a background in basic linguistics and courses specifically designed for second-language teaching preparation.

Prerequisites
It is preferred that students should have a BS or BA degree in linguistics or a related field.

Master of Arts in Linguistics: Specialization in Language Teaching Degree Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Courses</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminar (chosen in consultation with advisor)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LT 528 Teaching English Culture and Literature</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LT 535 Second-Language Teaching Methods</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LT 536 Second-Language Teaching Planning</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LT 437 Second-Language Teaching Practice</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 540 Linguistic Principles and Second-Language Learning</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LT 541 Teaching English Pronunciation</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LT 548 Curriculum and Materials Development</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LT 549 Testing and Assessment</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 594 English Grammar</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LT 608 Workshop: [Topic] (Computer-Assistant Language Learning, two terms)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LT 608 Workshop: [Topic] (Language Teaching Specialization Orientation)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LT 611 Terminal Project (two terms)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elective Courses</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ELD 510 Experimental Course: [Topic] (Comparative Education)</td>
<td>1-4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Credits** 58-61

1 Students who have already taken any of the required courses or their equivalents should replace them with elective course work in consultation with their advisor.

Only graded courses may be used to satisfy degree requirements.

Exceptions must be approved by the department. No course with a grade lower than B– may be used to satisfy degree requirements.

Master's Project
Students working toward an MA degree with the language-teaching specialization must complete a master's project over two consecutive terms. The project topic must be approved by the faculty advisor, and be presented in a Terminal Project (LT 611) class session during the final term.

Doctor of Philosophy
The doctor of philosophy (PhD) program in linguistics is individually tailored to meet the needs and professional goals of the student, drawing strong interdisciplinary support from related fields at the university. These fields may include—but are not limited to—anthropological linguistics, cognitive science, communication disorders and sciences, discourse and text analysis, English linguistics, first- and second-language acquisition, language-data processing, neurolinguistics, and sociolinguistics.

Residency Requirement
The Graduate School requires at least three years of full-time work beyond the bachelor’s degree for the doctorate, with at least one year spent in continuous residence on the Eugene campus. The Department of Linguistics interprets the latter requirement to mean that at least six courses, including seminars, must be taken in the program while the student is in continuous residence for three academic terms.

Doctoral Advisor
The department head appoints a doctoral advisor for each student upon admission to the PhD program.

Second-Year Review
By the end of a doctoral student’s second year, he or she shall be given a review by the faculty members at a department meeting. Materials submitted by the student to the department for this review must include the following:

1. A report that includes a research plan for the next year’s course work, potential topics for the two qualifying papers, a statement about the student’s career plans beyond the doctoral degree (and how the specific qualifying paper and thesis topics are relevant), and any other details worked out in consultation with the student’s advisor

2. A curriculum vitae (CV)

3. Written evidence of research progress and scholarly potential, such as a substantive term paper or revision of a term paper that demonstrates excellence of original research or a linguistics master’s thesis; the materials must be submitted to the Department by April 15

Following review of these materials, the faculty members decides either to accept or deny the student for continued study in the PhD program. In some cases, a probation year may be granted for a student’s third year of study; the review process is repeated at the end of the third year with an accept outcome the only possibility for continued study.
As soon as possible after completion of the review, a letter to each graduate student under review is issued by the director of graduate studies informing the student of his or her status and, in the case of a one-year probation, specifying the conditions that must be met for a successful outcome during the additional third-year review. The language of the probation conditions is drafted by the student’s doctoral advisor and the director of graduate studies. The director may also meet with any students who are denied continued study or who are granted probation.

**Annual review**

Beginning in the third year of the program, each graduate student must submit an annual report and CV to his or her advisor by April 15 of each year. The report should be no more than one page in length and should detail what the student has accomplished over the past year in the program.

**Doctoral Examination and Advancement to Candidacy**

**Requirements for the Qualifying Paper**

The doctoral examination consists of two original publishable papers of substantial length and quality in different subfields of linguistics. The term “different subfields” may include two different methodological approaches to a single broad topic. A qualifying paper is considered publishable if the review committee deems it to stand a reasonable chance of acceptance by a refereed venue such as a peer-reviewed journal, although the paper itself is not required to be accepted for publication, and may be submitted to a nonrefereed venue.

An unmodified MA thesis cannot serve as one of the qualifying papers. A qualifying paper may be, however, a publishable expansion or revision of an MA thesis or publishable term paper written for a course conducted by any faculty member in the department or, where deemed reasonable, for a course conducted by a faculty member outside the department. The paper may be written under the supervision of either the student’s advisor or another faculty member in consultation with the student’s advisor, who approves the topic and the final version.

On submitting each paper to the committee, and after consultation with the student’s advisor, the student indicates in a cover note or e-mail to the coordinator the intended publication venue for the paper. In reviewing the paper, the committee takes into consideration the appropriateness of the proposed venue for the content of the paper.

Submission of both papers to the proposed venue or venues is required before the student can advance to candidacy. Before applying to the Graduate School for advancement to candidacy, the student must submit to the coordinator either his or her cover letter to the venue to which each of the two qualifying papers was sent or, in the case of invited publications, the invitation letter. The publishing venue may be a refereed journal, a refereed or nonrefereed conference proceedings volume, an online publication, or another venue. While submission of each qualifying paper to a publishing venue is required for advancement to candidacy, acceptance for publication is not a requirement.

**Composition of the Qualifying Paper Committee**

A committee of three faculty members is drawn up to review each qualifying paper. The committee is composed of two faculty member reviewers and the student’s doctoral advisor. In cases where the qualifying paper supervisor is not the student’s doctoral advisor, the doctoral advisor will be one of the two reviewers and the supervisor will be the third member of the committee. The advisor sits on both of an individual student’s committees, whereas at least one of the two faculty reviewers serves on only one of the two committees. One of the two faculty members on the committee may be from another department, where appropriate.

Upon completion and documented submission to a publisher of both qualifying papers and completion of all required course work and the research language requirement, the student advances to candidacy for the PhD degree. The student and the department must electronically submit the advancement to candidacy to the Graduate School for approval.

**Qualifying Paper Coordinator and Reviewers**

The qualifying paper coordinator is a member of the faculty who

- receives papers submitted by the graduate student (after approval of the qualifying paper by the student’s doctoral advisor)
- selects reviewers for the paper in consultation with the doctoral advisor
- sends the paper to the reviewers and sets a deadline for review (typically six weeks)
- receives the reviewers’ comments and decisions
- sends a summary of the comments and decisions, together with the reviewers’ specific comments, to the doctoral advisor and the student
- notifies the department when the qualifying paper is submitted and when it is accepted by the reviewers

In the event that one or both of the reviewers requests revisions, the student (after the doctoral advisor approves the revised version of the paper) submits the revision to the coordinator. A reviewer may choose whether or not to review the revised version. If a reviewer chooses to review the revision, the coordinator sends the revised version to the reviewer and sets a deadline for review (typically four weeks). Any further comments or revision requirements from the reviewer or reviewers are sent by the coordinator to the doctoral advisor and the student for further revision.

In the event that both reviewers reject a qualifying paper, the student may submit a substitute paper with the approval of the doctoral advisor. Except by petition to the faculty and subsequent faculty approval, there may be no third submission of a qualifying paper.

**Doctoral Dissertation**

A doctoral committee must include at least three linguistics faculty members and one outside member, and must be either chaired or cochaired by the student’s doctoral advisor in linguistics. A dissertation prospectus must be submitted to and approved by the doctoral committee before the writing of the dissertation commences. The PhD will be granted upon completion of the preceding requirements, the writing of an original dissertation acceptable to the doctoral committee, and an oral examination on the dissertation.

**Required Courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LING 614–616</td>
<td>Linguistic Theory</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 507</td>
<td>Seminar: [Topic]</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 607</td>
<td>Seminar: [Topic]</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equivalent seminar courses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select one of the following:</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 617–619</td>
<td>Field Methods I-III</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sequence of courses in quantitative methods</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sequence of courses in philological methods</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combination of courses from two of these areas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td>32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The course work must be approved by the student's doctoral advisor. Even those students who have already earned an MA degree are typically expected to complete all of the MA degree course work requirements at Oregon as part of the normal progress toward the PhD.

For each student, the specific course requirements in courses the student selects are to be determined by the student’s advisor and the department’s director of graduate studies, as are all other courses required for the PhD. No course with a grade lower than B– may be used to satisfy degree requirements. Candidates for the PhD must demonstrate proficiency equivalent to two years of college-level study of a second language and either proficiency equivalent to one year in a third research-related language or proficiency in programming or statistics in order to be advanced to candidacy.

**Certificate in Second-Language Acquisition and Teaching**

In collaboration with several UO departments, the Department of Linguistics offers an undergraduate certificate that focuses on the theory of second-language acquisition and teaching and its application in pedagogical settings. The certificate complements any other major. Specific course requirements may be found at slat.uoregon.edu.

**Certificate Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three courses in second-language acquisition theory and language-teaching methodology</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three courses in linguistic description of target language</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One practicum, internship, supervised tutoring</td>
<td>2-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>26-28</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional Requirements**

College-level second-language study (two years of any second language if the certificate target language is English; three years for any other target language).