

# Linguistics

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Linguistics is the systematic study of human language. Linguistics studies how language works: how it is produced and processed in the mind, how it develops in children, how it is used in society, and how it changes over time. Linguistics also looks at the structures of the thousands of spoken and signed languages used throughout the world. The undergraduate major in Linguistics introduces students to many of the key areas of linguistics and offers a program of study leading toward an understanding of phonological, grammatical, and semantic structure and various approaches to descriptive, experimental, computational, and historical linguistics. Majors take a flexible combination of courses across subfields of linguistics and go into depth in one or more areas. Students learn about the many ways that language interfaces with questions in the social sciences, humanities, and sciences, and they often take complementary coursework in other departments or programs. All students write a senior essay and many make use of their linguistics work in future careers. Interested students should consult the director of undergraduate studies (DUS).

## COURSES FOR NONMAJORS AND MAJORS

Students with no previous background in linguistics are encouraged to approach the field by taking a 1000-level course. All 1000-level courses are accessible to students with no prior background.

## REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR

See Links to the attributes indicating courses approved for the Linguistics major requirements.

The major requires twelve term courses in linguistics and related areas, distributed as follows:

1. Breadth requirement (four courses). All majors must take one course in the areas of phonology (LING 2320) and syntax (LING 2530). In addition, at least one course must be taken in any two of the six remaining foundational areas of linguistics: phonetics, morphology, semantics/pragmatics, computational linguistics, language and mind/brain, and historical linguistics.
2. Depth requirement (two courses). In one of the eight areas of linguistics, students must take two additional courses beyond the introductory level.
3. Electives (four courses). Four additional courses relating to linguistics are required, at least one of which must be at the 2000 level or above. Electives may be chosen from courses offered by the Linguistics department or, with approval of the DUS, from related courses in programs such as Anthropology, Classics, Cognitive Science, Computer Science, English, Philosophy, Psychology, or foreign languages. No more than two foreign language courses can count toward the major without specific DUS approval.
4. Senior research requirement (one course). LING 4900, Research Methods in Linguistics, is required and is typically taken in the fall term for those students graduating in the spring. Students graduating in the fall may take it in the fall term of their junior year. This course prepares students for the senior essay.

**Credit/D/Fail** No courses taken Credit/D/Fail, Pass/Fail, or any scale other than the standard letter-grade scale, may be applied toward the requirements of the major without specific DUS approval.

**Outside credit** Courses taken at another institution or during an approved summer or term-time study abroad program may count toward the major requirements with DUS approval.

#### SENIOR REQUIREMENT

**Senior requirement (one course).** Students attend a research colloquium and write a senior essay in LING 4910 during the final spring term of the senior year.

#### ADVISING

**Combined B.A./M.A. degree program** Exceptionally able and well-prepared students may complete a course of study leading to the simultaneous award of the B.A. and M.A. degrees after eight terms of enrollment. See Academic Regulations, section L, Special Academic Arrangements, “Simultaneous Award of the Bachelor's and Master's Degrees.” Interested students should consult the DUS prior to the sixth term of enrollment for specific requirements in Linguistics.

### SUMMARY OF MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

**Prerequisites** None

**Number of courses** 12 term courses (incl senior req)

**Specific courses required** LING 2320 (phonology), LING 2530 (syntax), LING 4900

**Distribution of courses** 1 course each in 2 foundational areas other than phonology and syntax (breadth req), as specified; 2 addtl courses beyond intro level in 1 foundational area (depth req); 4 electives, at least 1 at the 2000 level or above

**Substitution permitted** Electives from related programs with DUS approval

**Senior requirement** LING 4910

#### FACULTY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS

**Professors** Claire Bowern, Veneeta Dayal, Robert Frank, Laurence Horn (*Emeritus*), †Frank Keil, †Joshua Knobe, Maria Piñango, Fernando Rubio (*Adjunct*), †Jason Stanley, †Zoltán Szabó, Raffaella Zanuttini (*Chair*)

**Associate Professors** Athulya Aravind, Simon Charlow, Jason Shaw, Jim Wood

**Assistant Professors** Tom McCoy, Augustina Owusu (*Visiting*), Natalie Weber

**Lector** Julia Silvestri

**Lecturer** Lydia Newkirk

†A joint appointment with primary affiliation in another department.