Linguistics

Courses offered by the Department of Linguistics are listed under the subject code LINGUIST on the [Stanford Bulletin's ExploreCourses website](http://explorecourses.stanford.edu/CourseSearch/search?view=catalog&catalog=&page=0&q=LINGUIST&filter-catalognumber-LINGUIST=on) and the [Linguistics Course Catalog](http://explorecourses.stanford.edu/CourseSearch/search?view=catalog&catalog=&page=0&q=LINGUIST&filter-catalognumber-LINGUIST=on).

Linguistics concerns itself with the fundamental questions of what language is and how it is related to the other human faculties. In answering these questions, linguists consider language as a cultural, social, and psychological phenomenon and seek to determine what is unique in languages, what is universal, how language is acquired, and how it changes. Linguistics is, therefore, one of the cognitive sciences; it provides a link between the humanities and the social and natural sciences, as well as education, and hearing and speech sciences.

The department offers courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels in the areas central to linguistic theory and analysis. Many of them deal with the analysis of structural patterns in the different components that make up language, including sounds (phonetics and phonology), meanings (semantics and pragmatics), words (morphology), sentences (syntax), and the ways they vary and change over time. Other courses integrate the analysis of linguistic structure with phenomena that directly concern other disciplines. These include courses in computational linguistics, language acquisition, the philosophy of language, psycholinguistics, and sociolinguistics.

A variety of open forums provide for the discussion of linguistic issues, including colloquia and regularly scheduled workshops in child language, computational linguistics, phonology, psycholinguistics, semantics, sociolinguistics, and syntax.

Mission of the Undergraduate Program in Linguistics

The mission of the undergraduate program in Linguistics is to provide students with basic knowledge in the principal areas of linguistics (phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, historical linguistics, and sociolinguistics) and the skills to do more advanced work in these subfields. Courses in the major also involve interdisciplinary work with connections to other departments including computer science, psychology, cognitive science, communication, anthropology, and foreign language. The program provides students with excellent preparation for further study in graduate or professional schools as well as careers in business, social services, government agencies, and teaching.

Learning Outcomes (Undergraduate)

The department expects undergraduate majors in the program to be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes. These learning outcomes are used in evaluating students and the department’s undergraduate program. Students are expected to demonstrate:

1. the ability to formulate theoretically interesting and tractable research questions.
2. the ability to identify sources of data relevant to answering their research questions.
3. facility with methods of collecting data relevant to their research questions.
4. knowledge of analytical methods to apply to the data they have collected.
5. the ability to bring the results of their data analysis to bear on their research questions.

Graduate Programs in Linguistics

The department offers an M.A., Ph.D., and Ph.D. minor in Linguistics.

Learning Outcomes (Graduate)

The purpose of the master’s program is to develop students’ knowledge and skills in Linguistics and to prepare them for a professional career or doctoral studies. This is achieved through completion of courses, including coursework in an area of specialization within the field, and experience with independent research.

The Ph.D. is conferred upon candidates who have demonstrated the ability to conduct substantive, independent research in Linguistics. Through completion of advanced coursework and rigorous methodological and analytical training, the doctoral program prepares students to make original contributions to knowledge in linguistics, to articulate the results of their work, and to demonstrate its significance to linguistics and related fields.

Cognitive Science

Linguistics is participating with the departments of Philosophy and Psychology in an interdisciplinary program in Cognitive Science for doctoral students. The program is intended to provide an interdisciplinary education as well as a deeper concentration in linguistics. Students who complete the Linguistics and Cognitive Science requirements receive a special designation in Cognitive Science along with the Ph.D. in Linguistics. To receive this field designation, students must complete 30 units of approved courses, to be determined in consultation with the graduate studies adviser.

Linguistics Course Catalog Numbering System

Courses numbered under 100 are designed primarily for pre-majors. Courses with 100-level numbers are designed for majors, minors, and M.A. and Ph.D. minor candidates in Linguistics. Those with numbers 200 and above are primarily for graduate students, but with consent of instructor some of them may be taken for credit by qualified undergraduates. At all levels, the course numberings indicate a special area, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Special Area</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>00-04</td>
<td>General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05-09</td>
<td>Phonetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-14</td>
<td>Phonology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-19</td>
<td>Morphology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-29</td>
<td>Syntax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39</td>
<td>Semantics, Pragmatics, Discourse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-49</td>
<td>Language Acquisition, Psycholinguistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-61</td>
<td>Sociolinguistics, Language Variation, Change</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics

The undergraduate major stresses the study of language both as a fundamental human faculty and as a changing social institution. At the core of the program is a set of departmental courses on the nature of human language; the major also draws on courses offered by other departments and programs.

The Linguistics major cuts across the humanities and the social and physical sciences. It provides a solid general education as a background for advanced studies in such disciplines as anthropology, cognitive science, communication, computer science, education (language, literacy, and culture), hearing and speech sciences, languages, law, linguistics, philosophy, and psychology.

Degree Requirements

Requirements for the B.A. include at least 50 units of course work in Linguistics and approved courses in related fields. Of the 50 units required for the major, no more than 12 may be below the 100 level. No more than two courses, neither of which can be a core course, may be taken on a credit/no credit basis. Students must receive a ‘C-’ or better in courses used towards the requirements.

Core Courses

The core courses are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LINGUIST 1</td>
<td>Introduction to Linguistics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINGUIST 110</td>
<td>Introduction to Phonetics and Phonology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINGUIST 120</td>
<td>Introduction to Syntax</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINGUIST 130A</td>
<td>Introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or LINGUIST 130B</td>
<td>Introduction to Lexical Semantics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINGUIST 150</td>
<td>Language in Society (which fulfills the Writing in the Major requirement (WIM))</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LINGUIST 160</td>
<td>Introduction to Language Change</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

or, in advance consultation with the Linguistics undergraduate studies adviser, a course in historical linguistics or the history of a language.

All majors must complete at least five core courses, including LINGUIST 150 Language in Society.

Other Courses

Other courses counting toward the unit requirement should form a coherent program with emphases from among the areas of concentration listed below. Students should consult with the Linguistics undergraduate studies adviser when declaring the major, and maintain regular contact during the remainder of their Stanford career. Each student’s major program must be approved by the Linguistics undergraduate studies adviser, or approved department adviser.

Other Requirements

1. Foreign language: majors must have competence in at least one language other than English as part of their understanding of the field of linguistics and its study. This is usually demonstrated by the completion of six quarters of language study at Stanford or equivalent; level of proficiency is determined by the Language Center or the relevant language department. Students may petition to be exempted from the Language Requirement if they have grown up speaking a language other than English and can use it for everyday purposes and for linguistic analysis.

Areas of Concentration

Students select an area of concentration or develop one themselves in advance consultation with the Linguistics undergraduate studies adviser. These areas of concentration are not declared on Axess, and they do not appear on the transcript or diploma.

Honors Program

Students who wish to undertake a more intensive program of study, including independent research, should pursue departmental honors. Students should apply for honors by the end of Spring Quarter of their junior year. As part of the application, the student must write a research proposal describing the honors project which must be approved by the faculty adviser. Approval is given only to students who have maintained a grade point average (GPA) of 3.3 (B+) or better in the courses required for the major.

Honors students complete a total of 60 units including the 50 units for the major, plus 10 additional units of independent study and Honors Research. In addition, they must complete an honors thesis based on research conducted with a principal adviser who must be a member of the Linguistics faculty, and a secondary faculty adviser who may, with the approval of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, be a member of another department. In the Autumn Quarter of the senior year, honors students enroll in LINGUIST 199 Independent Study, to work closely with one of their advisers on the research project. In Winter and Spring quarters, honors students enroll in LINGUIST 198 Honors Research, with the student’s principal adviser for close supervision of the honors thesis. The thesis must be submitted in final, acceptable, form by May 15. The thesis topic is presented orally at a department Honors Colloquium late in Spring Quarter.

Minor in Linguistics

Requirements for the minor include at least 28 units of course work (typically seven courses) in Linguistics and related fields, approved in advance by the Linguistics undergraduate studies adviser. No more than two courses, neither of which can be a core course, may be taken on a credit/no credit basis. The courses counting towards the minor must be incremental units beyond those needed to satisfy the student’s major course of study. The minor consists of:

1. LINGUIST 1 Introduction to Linguistics 4

Select two of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LINGUIST 110</td>
<td>Introduction to Phonetics and Phonology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINGUIST 120</td>
<td>Introduction to Syntax</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 Linguistics
Master of Arts in Linguistics

The University’s basic requirements for the master’s degree are discussed in the "Graduate Degrees (http://exploredegrees.stanford.edu/archive/2012-13/graduatedegrees)" section of this bulletin. The following are additional departmental requirements. Candidates should review the department’s Guidelines for the M.A. Degree in Linguistics for further particulars concerning these requirements.

1. Courses: candidates must complete 45 units of graduate work in Linguistics. Individual programs should be worked out in advance with an adviser in Linguistics. The majority of courses should be chosen to provide a broad foundation in Linguistics. Candidates should also develop an area of specialization; at least four courses should be in this area. No more than two courses should be at the 100 level. The overall grade point average (GPA) must be at least 3.0 (B) for all degree program course work.

2. Language: reading knowledge of a non-native language in which a substantial linguistic literature is written, with sufficient facility to understand and interpret linguistic research published in that language, or in-depth research on the structure of a non-native language.

3. Thesis or Thesis Project: a research paper supervised by a committee of three faculty (normally fulfilled by up to 6 units of LINGUIST 398 Directed Research).

Doctor of Philosophy in Linguistics

The following requirements are in addition to the basic University requirements for the degree sought; see the "Graduate Degrees (http://www.stanford.edu/dept/registrar/bulletin/4901.htm)" section of this bulletin. Candidates should review the department’s Guidelines for the Degree of Ph.D. in Linguistics, downloadable at https://linguistics.stanford.edu/department-resources/ for further particulars concerning these requirements.

1. Language—candidates must demonstrate the ability to read at least one foreign language in which a substantial linguistic literature is written, with sufficient facility to understand and interpret linguistic research published in that language. (Particular areas of specialization may require additional research languages.) In addition, each candidate must demonstrate an explicit in-depth knowledge of the structure of at least one language (normally neither the candidate’s native language nor the language used for the reading exam). This requirement is fulfilled by writing an original research paper on a language.

2. Courses—a minimum of 135 units of graduate work beyond the bachelor’s degree, or 90 units beyond the master’s degree. The course requirements detailed in the Guidelines for the Degree of Ph.D. in Linguistics guarantee that each student covers a sufficient set of subareas within the field. Candidates must maintain a satisfactory record in the number and distribution of units completed. The overall course work GPA must be at least 3.0 (B), and all of the basic courses should be completed with at least a 'B.'

3. Research—the prospective Ph.D. candidate is expected to complete two substantial qualifying papers. The deadline for completion of the first qualifying paper is the end of Autumn Quarter of the second year; the deadline for completion of the second qualifying paper is the end of Autumn Quarter of the third year. The subject matter of the two papers, although it may be related (for example, same language), must be clearly distinct. The requirement is fulfilled by two quarters of LINGUIST 395 Research Workshop (1-2 units each), and by oral discussion with a committee of at least three faculty members selected by the student and the faculty.

4. Candidacy—students must complete a prescribed portion of the basic course requirement (see item 2 above), one foreign language requirement (see item 1 above), and one qualifying paper (see item 3 above) by the end of their sixth academic quarter, normally the Spring Quarter of the second year. The department faculty reviews each sixth quarter student and votes on whether to admit the student to candidacy. A student is only admitted to candidacy if, in addition to the student’s fulfilling the specified department prerequisites, the faculty makes the judgment that the student has the ability to complete the remaining stages of the Ph.D. program at a level of superior quality. Students who are not admitted to candidacy will be terminated from the program; at the department’s discretion, they may be allowed to complete any requirements that remain for the M.A. degree and receive this degree.

5. Teaching—at least three quarters serving as a teaching assistant in Linguistics courses.

Coterminal Bachelor’s and Master’s Degree Program in Linguistics

The Department of Linguistics admits a limited number of undergraduates to the coterminal degree program. Students are required to submit to the department a complete application, which includes a statement of purpose identifying a thesis topic, a Stanford transcript, three letters of recommendation (at least one of which must be from a faculty member in Linguistics), and a proposed course of study (worked out in advance with a Linguistics adviser). Applicants for the coterminal degree may apply as early as their eighth quarter and no later than early in the eleventh quarter of undergraduate study. Decisions on admission to the coterminal degree program rest with the Graduate Admissions Committee of the Department of Linguistics. For further application information, see the department’s web pages.

For University coterminal degree program rules and University application forms, see the Publications and Online Guides (http://registrar.stanford.edu/shared/publications.html#Coterm) web site.
6. **Colloquia**—two oral presentations exclusive of the public portion of the University oral (see item 7b below). This requirement is satisfied by class presentations, conference papers, or colloquium talks. Normally, both should be given during the first four years of study.

7. **Dissertation**—
   A. appointment of a dissertation committee.
   B. an approved written dissertation proposal is required by the end of the Autumn Quarter of the fourth year.
   C. oral discussion of the dissertation proposal with an augmented dissertation committee.
   D. passing a University oral examination on the dissertation and related areas which includes a public presentation of the dissertation research.
   E. dissertation (up to 15 units of LINGUIST 399 Dissertation Research).

**Ph.D. Minor in Linguistics**

1. Courses: the candidate must complete 30 units of course work in linguistics. The University requires that at least 20 of these units be at the 200 level or above; the remaining 10 units must be at the 100 level or above. The course work for the minor must include LINGUIST 110 Introduction to Phonetics and Phonology, LINGUIST 120 Introduction to Syntax, and either LINGUIST 130A Introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics or LINGUIST 130B Introduction to Lexical Semantics or 200-level introductory courses in the same areas and at least three courses related to the area of specialization. Courses submitted for the minor must be incremental units beyond those used to satisfy the major. Individual programs should be worked out in advance with the student’s Ph.D. minor adviser in Linguistics.

2. Research Project (optional): the candidate may elect to present a paper which integrates the subject matter of linguistics into the field of specialization of the candidate.

3. The Linguistics minor adviser or designee serves on the candidate’s University oral examination committee and may request that up to one-third of the examination be devoted to the minor subject.

**Emeriti:** (Professors) Joan Bresnan, Clara N. Bush, Shirley Brice Heath, William R. Leben, Stanley Peters, Elizabeth C. Traugott

**Chair:** Thomas A. Wasow

**Professors:** Eve V. Clark (on leave), Penelope Eckert, Daniel Jurafsky (on leave), Martin Kay (leave Fall), Paul Kiparsky, Beth Levin, Christopher Manning, John R. Rickford (leave Fall/Winter), Ivan A. Sag (leave Fall/Spring), Thomas A. Wasow

**Associate Professors:** Arto Anttila, Christopher Potts

**Assistant Professors:** Vera Gribanova, Robert Podesva, Meghan Sumner

**Courtesy Professors:** Herbert H. Clark, Kenji Hakuta, Yoshiko Matsumoto, James McClelland, Orrin W. Robinson III, Chao Fen Sun

**Courtesy Associate Professors:** H. Samy Alim, James A. Fox, Miyako Inoue,

**Courtesy Assistant Professor:** Michael C. Frank, Noah Goodman

**Senior Lecturer:** Philip L. Hubbard, Language Center

**Lecturers:** Bill MacCartney (Winter), Kamal Mansour (Spring), Asya Pereltsvaig

**Consulting Professors:** Jared Bernstein, Ronald Kaplan, Lauri Karttunen, Paul Kay, Livia Polanyi, Annie Zaenen, Arnold Zwicky