

Linguistics

College of Letters and Science (<http://ls.berkeley.edu>)

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Department Website: Linguistics (<http://linguistics.berkeley.edu>)

Overview

Linguistics is the general study of language. It addresses those features that all languages have in common, the ways in which languages may differ from one another, and the ways in which languages change over time. The undergraduate major in Linguistics introduces students to sounds and their patterns (phonetics), word structure (morphology), sentence structure (syntax), meaning (semantics), how languages evolve over time (comparative and historical linguistics), how language is processed in the brain (cognitive science), and how language is used in society (sociolinguistics).

Major Requirements

The major consists of a four-course core (Linguistics 110, 115, 120, and 130), which includes phonetics and phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics, and language history.

Three or four other courses totaling a minimum of 10 additional upper division units are added to the core through consultations between students and major advisers to complete the major's minimum degree requirements. Of these units, five must be selected from upper division and graduate-level offerings within the Department of Linguistics. The remaining five upper division units may be courses from outside the department, but must be strongly related to linguistics. A list of pre-approved courses can be found on the Department of Linguistics (<http://linguistics.berkeley.edu>) website (<http://linguistics.berkeley.edu>) . (<http://linguistics.berkeley.edu>) Courses not on the pre-approved list *require the prior written consent* of an undergraduate adviser to be counted in fulfillment of Department of Linguistics requirements.

Because the major varies greatly from student to student, each student is encouraged to plan a program of study with an undergraduate adviser and to see the adviser on a regular basis (at least once a semester).

Prerequisites

Linguistics 100 with a minimum grade of C.

Honors Program

With the approval of the major adviser, a student with a grade point average (GPA) of 3.5 or higher, both overall and in the major, may apply for admission to the Honors Program. This consists of 2-4 units of Linguistics H195A/B units per semester for at least two semesters. Under the direction of a faculty member, students carry out an approved program of independent study in which they attain a reasonable mastery of an appropriate linguistic topic. As evidence of this work, students must submit an acceptable thesis summarizing critically the material they have covered and are invited to give a brief synopsis of their research at the undergraduate honors colloquium held in early May each year.

Minor Requirements

Many students not majoring in Linguistics find it useful to take several courses in linguistics during their undergraduate careers to complement their major work. A minor in Linguistics gives students official recognition for having completed a Linguistics sub-specialization.

Prerequisites

Linguistics 100 with minimum grade of C.

Upper Division Requirements

Four courses in linguistics. Two of the four must be from the core list: Linguistics 110, 115, 120, 130. The third must be taken in the department and may but need not be on the core list. The fourth may be taken outside the department as long as it is on a list of pre-approved linguistics electives.

Graduate Programs

The Department of Linguistics takes a broad approach to the study of language. The department covers not only the standard "core" areas of phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics, but also historical linguistics, field linguistics and language documentation, cognitive linguistics, psycholinguistics, and language in society. The Graduate Program trains students to do the kind of research that seeks to discover and provide explanations for general properties of linguistic form, meaning, and usage. The department has a strong commitment to language documentation as well as to cutting edge theoretical training.

Preparation for Graduate Study in Linguistics

Graduate students in Linguistics should have an undergraduate major in Linguistics, or some equivalent acceptable to the department. They should be prepared to pass the required foreign language reading examinations early in their graduate career.

Master's Degree in Linguistics

Students may follow either Plan I or Plan II for the master's degree. Plan I requires 25 units plus a thesis. (No course units are granted for the thesis itself.) Plan II requires 30 units. The vast majority of students follow Plan II. Both plans require one pass a two-hour comprehensive oral examination. Required courses for the linguistics MA are 110, 200, 201A, 211A, 220A, 230, one course from the Structures set [211B, 215, 220B], one course from the Ecologies set [C105, 123, 181, 205, 210, 250A-E, 255], and either the yearlong sequence [240A-B] or one course from the Advanced Analysis set [205, 210, 211B, 215, 220B, 221, 222, 231, 234, 245, 250A-E, 270, 275, 290A R]. Note that the course used to satisfy the Advanced Analysis requirement can not also be used to satisfy the Structures or Ecologies requirement.) Students must satisfy at least one of these two requirements - Field Methods or Advanced Analysis - for the MA degree. Students who pass the MA exam and are recommended to continue into the PhD program are required to satisfy both of these requirements by the end of their third year.

Doctoral Degree in Linguistics

The doctoral program requires an MA in Linguistics from UC Berkeley, and follows the requirements described in the doctoral section of this catalog with some augmentations. For information on the further requirements, go to the Department of Linguistics website. (<http://linguistics.berkeley.edu>)

Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute

In the United States, the principal scholarly organization representing the field of linguistics is the Linguistic Society of America. (<http://www.linguisticsociety.org>) The organization sponsors a six-week summer institute in linguistics every other year, in collaboration with some co-sponsoring university. Both graduate and advanced undergraduate-level students are strongly encouraged to take part in these programs, which—through a wide range of courses, seminars, conferences, workshops, lecture series, and talks—provide exposure to developments in the field and areas of interest that no single university can offer.

LINGUIS 1A American Sign Language I 5 Units

Department: Linguistics

Course level: Undergraduate

Terms course may be offered: Fall and spring

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 4 hours of language instruction and 1 hour of laboratory per week.

Prerequisites: Not open to native signers.

Introduction of the fundamentals of American Sign Language: comprehension skills, grammatical structures, practice in the production aspects of the language, and exposure to Deaf culture.

LINGUIS 1B American Sign Language II 5 Units

Department: Linguistics

Course level: Undergraduate

Terms course may be offered: Fall and spring

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 4 hours of language instruction and 1 hour of laboratory per week.

Prerequisites: Linguistics 1A; not open to native signers.

Continuation of the study of the fundamentals of American Sign Language: comprehension skills, grammatical structures, practice in the production aspects of the language, and exposure to Deaf culture.

LINGUIS R1B Endangered Languages: What We Lose when a Language Dies 4 Units

Department: Linguistics

Course level: Undergraduate

Terms course may be offered: Fall, spring and summer

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 3 hours of Lecture per week for 15 weeks. 8 hours of Lecture per week for 6 weeks.

In this course, we will investigate such questions as: What causes language endangerment and death, and why does it matter? Can dying languages be revitalized? How are thought, identity, and culture influenced by language, and vice versa? The course is designed to hone students' reading, writing, and research skills. Satisfies the second half of the reading and composition requirement.

Satisfies the second half of the Reading and Composition requirement Formerly known as R6.

LINGUIS 3 Linguistic Diversity 3 Units

Department: Linguistics

Course level: Undergraduate

Terms course may be offered: Fall and spring

Grading: Letter grade.

(For students with no previous background in linguistics.) Introduction to the scope of human linguistic diversity. Concepts for understanding in what ways human languages can vary and how such variation is constrained. Overview of how linguistic structures are distributed among the world's major linguistic families, and how these linguistics structures cluster geographically. Theories of how and why languages change, diverge, diversify, and in some cases, become extinct.

Student Learning Outcomes: Gain introductory familiarity with Phonetics and phonology (sounds and sound systems), Morphology (word structure), and Historical linguistics (language change) to gain a foundation for the mastery of linguistic knowledge.^Possess a working knowledge of sources of reliable information about languages and linguistics (typological databases), understand and evaluate current linguistic issues in the world at large (language diversity and endangerment, language politics) to acquire Lifetime Learning Skills.^Understand Sociolinguistics (language variation within and across speech communities, social relations and language shift), Language and the natural sciences (animal communication, evolution of language) to know how language interfaces with other fields.

LINGUIS 5 Language and Linguistics 4 Units