

LINGUISTICS MAJOR (B.A.)

<https://cola.unh.edu/linguistics/program/ba/linguistics>

Description

Linguistics is the study of one of the most important characteristics of human beings—language. It cuts across the boundaries between the sciences and the humanities. The program is an excellent liberal arts major or preprofessional major for education, law, medicine, clergy and others. It is a particularly appropriate major for students who want to teach English as a second language. Dual majors with a foreign language, international affairs, business administration and the like are quite feasible.

Students interested in the major should consult with the program coordinator or with any professor who teaches linguistics courses. To declare a major in linguistics, a student must meet with the linguistics coordinator to design a course of study. Information is available from the University Advising Center, 101 Hood House, and at cola.unh.edu/linguistics.

Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
LING 405	Introduction to Linguistics	4
LING 605	Intermediate Linguistic Analysis	4
LING 793	Phonetics and Phonology	4
LING 794	Syntax	4
Select one course in historical linguistics or sociolinguistics from the following:		4
ENGL 752	History of the English Language	
ITAL 733	History and Development of the Italian Language	
LING/ENGL 719	Sociolinguistics Survey	
RUSS 733	History of Slavic Languages and Culture	
SPAN 798	Topics in Hispanic Linguistics and Cultural Studies (Subtopic A)	
Two years of college study (or equivalent) of one foreign language		4-16
Select one of the following cognate specialties:		8
One year study (or equivalent) of a second foreign language from a different language family or subfamily ¹		
PSYC 712	Psychology of Language ²	
Select two elective courses from list below, one of which must be a 600- or 700- level LING or ENGL course ³		8
Discovery Program Capstone Experience:		
LING 779	Linguistic Field Methods	4
	or LING 695 Senior Honors	
Total Credits		44-56

¹ Old English may count as the second foreign language if the first foreign language is not in the Germanic family.

² With its prerequisite, either PSYC 512 Psychology of Primates or PSYC 513 Cognitive Psychology

³ History of the English Language or Sociolinguistics can be used as an elective if the other one is used for the Variation/Historical requirement.

Elective Courses

Code	Title	Credits
Anthropology		
ANTH 795	Reading and Research (Subtopic B)	1-8
ANTH 796	Reading and Research (Subtopic B)	1-8
Communication		
CMN 572	Analysis of Language and Social Interaction	4
CMN 666	Conversation Analysis	4

English		
ENGL 606	Languages of the World	4
ENGL 715	Teaching English as a Second Language: Theory and Methods	4
ENGL 716	Curriculum, Materials and Assessment in English as a Second Language	4
ENGL 717	Languages in Contact	4
ENGL 718	Morphology	4
ENGL 719	Sociolinguistics Survey	4
ENGL 727	Issues in Second Language Writing	4
ENGL 752	History of the English Language	4
ENGL 790	Special Topics in Linguistics	4
ENGL 791	English Grammar	4
LLC		
LLC 791	Methods of Foreign Language Teaching	4
Italian		
ITAL 733	History and Development of the Italian Language	4
Linguistics		
LING 606	Languages of the World	4
LING 717	Languages in Contact	4
LING 718	Morphology	4
LING 719	Sociolinguistics Survey	4
LING 790	Special Topics in Linguistics Theory	4
LING 795	Independent Study	1-4
Psychology		
PSYC 512	Psychology of Primates ¹	4
PSYC 513	Cognitive Psychology ¹	4
PSYC 712	Psychology of Language	4
Russian		
RUSS 733	History of Slavic Languages and Culture	4
Spanish		
SPAN 641	Spanish Language Variation & Change	4
SPAN 645	Intro to Spanish Linguistics	4
SPAN 798	Topics in Hispanic Linguistics and Cultural Studies (Subtopic A)	4

¹ Students may count either PSYC 512 Psychology of Primates or PSYC 513 Cognitive Psychology toward the linguistics major or minor, but not both.

Other courses may be substituted, with the permission of the student's adviser and the linguistics committee, when they are pertinent to the needs of the student's program.

The required minimum overall GPA in major coursework is 2.0.

Candidates for a degree must satisfy all of the University Discovery Program requirements in addition to satisfying the requirements of each individual major program. Bachelor of arts candidates must also satisfy the foreign language proficiency requirement.

Linguistics majors may use one major-required course to satisfy one Discovery category requirement.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will understand and be able to deploy the analytical tools, modes of critical thinking, and types of writing that are used in studying languages and linguistics. Students will be able to analyze sets of data and make arguments concerning the theoretical analysis of those data. Core areas:

- **Phonetics:** Students will understand the acoustic and articulatory properties of speech sounds both for English and for other languages. Students will be able to transcribe and read the International Phonetic Alphabet.
- **Phonology:** Students will display knowledge of phonological analysis including identifying phonemes and allophones in languages, writing

phonological rules using distinctive features, and understanding phonological processes such as assimilation, epenthesis, vowel harmony, etc.

- Morphology: Students will be able to analyze word structure (inflection, derivation, compounding) both in English and in unfamiliar languages. They will understand key concepts concerning the mental lexicon.
- Syntax: Students will be able to analyze the structural properties of sentences in English and in other languages and be familiar with the principles of generative grammar.
- Sociolinguistics, Historical Linguistics, and Typology: Students will understand processes of language change over time, language variation according to region, social class, gender, and education, and the effects of language contact.
- Field Methods: Students will be able to work with a native speaker of an unfamiliar language to collect and analyze data from that language. They will understand the ethical and logistical issues involved in documenting languages.
- Applications: Students will have an understanding of practical applications of linguistic knowledge to daily life, including political issues regarding language (e.g., bilingual education, official languages), language acquisition, disorders that can affect language.