Linguistics, Ph.D.

The Department of Language Sciences admits students for the Ph.D. degree in linguistics, and awards a master of arts degree to students in a UW–Madison Ph.D. program upon the completion of the M.A. requirements. Students admitted to the linguistics Ph.D. program must attend the department orientation and must consult with the chair in person by the beginning of classes. All students proposing to minor in linguistics must also consult with the chair, who is the minor advisor, prior to beginning the minor.

The department focuses on research in formal theories of language (encompassing cross-linguistic studies in syntax, phonology, and morphology) and American Indian languages. Other specializations, including historical-comparative linguistics or articulatory and experimental phonetics, may be created by means of interdepartmental study. Students consult with their graduate advisors in establishing their areas of specialization and in working out a coherent program. Applied linguistic studies such as the theory and practice of language teaching or the history and structure of a particular language or language family are handled in other departments, or may be assembled as a program of individual study.

The department maintains a phonetics laboratory for teaching and research in experimental and acoustic phonetics, and also maintains a specialized library collection in the Graduate Reading Room, 1151 Van Hise Hall.

Admissions

The department admits only students whose goal is the Ph.D. degree in linguistics. Admission to the Ph.D. program does not require an undergraduate degree in linguistics. Admission is based on the applicant’s personal statement, three letters of recommendation, Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores, TOEFL scores if applicable, and transcripts of prior academic work. The personal statement is considered carefully to ensure that the applicant’s goals are compatible with the program offered by the department.

The department admits new Ph.D. students for fall term only. The deadline for receipt of all materials is December 23.

Graduate School Admissions

Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic degree programs and the Graduate School. Applicants must meet requirements of both the program(s) and the Graduate School. Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (https://grad.wisc.edu/admissions).

Funding

Graduate School Resources

Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (https://grad.wisc.edu/funding) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and processes related to funding.

Program Resources

The department currently supports teaching assistantships for LINGUISS 101 Human Language, usually awarded to graduate students after their first year of study. Project assistantships are often available from both inside and outside the department. Advanced Opportunity Fellowships are possible for targeted students who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents. A small number of fellowships are available and are administered through the Graduate School. TA appointments in other departments, for instance in language departments or in the English as a second language program, are sometimes possible based on a student’s skill set, since being a student in those departments is not a condition of employment.

Requirements

Minimum Graduate School Requirements

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirementstext), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

Major Requirements

Mode of Instruction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Face to Face</th>
<th>Evening/Weekend</th>
<th>Online</th>
<th>Hybrid</th>
<th>Accelerated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Mode of Instruction Definitions

Evening/Weekend: These programs are offered in an evening and/or weekend format to accommodate working schedules. Enjoy the advantages of on-campus courses and personal connections, while keeping your day job. For more information about the meeting schedule of a specific program, contact the program.

Online: These programs are offered primarily online. Many available online programs can be completed almost entirely online with all online programs offering at least 50 percent or more of the program work online. Some online programs have an on-campus component that is often designed to accommodate working schedules. Take advantage of the convenience of online learning while participating in a rich, interactive learning environment. For more information about the online nature of a specific program, contact the program.

Hybrid: These programs have innovative curricula that combine on-campus and online formats. Most hybrid programs are completed on-campus with a partial or completely online semester. For more information about the hybrid schedule of a specific program, contact the program.

Accelerated: These on-campus programs are offered in an accelerated format that allows you to complete your program in a condensed time-frame. Enjoy the advantages of on-campus courses with minimal disruption to your career. For more information about the accelerated nature of a specific program, contact the program.

Curricular Requirements

| Minimum | 54 credits |

Credit Requirement
The Graduate School's Academic Policies and Procedures

### REQUIRED COURSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LINGUIS 310</td>
<td>Phonology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINGUIS 322</td>
<td>Morphology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINGUIS 330</td>
<td>Syntax</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINGUIS 340</td>
<td>Semantics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINGUIS 510</td>
<td>Phonological Theories</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINGUIS 522</td>
<td>Advanced Morphology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINGUIS 530</td>
<td>Syntactic Theories</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINGUIS 800</td>
<td>Research Methods and Materials</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Seminars**

Take 3 seminars (must be 3 credits each) from the following (may repeat the same course number for credit):

- LINGUIS 977 Seminar
- LINGUIS 978 Seminar
- LINGUIS 979 Seminar

Total Credits 33

### POLICIES

**GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES**

The Graduate School's Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy) provide essential information regarding general university policies. Program authority to set degree policies beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School lies with the degree program faculty. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

**MAJOR-SPECIFIC POLICIES**

**GRADUATE PROGRAM HANDBOOK**

The Graduate Program Handbook (http://vanhise.lss.wisc.edu/ling/?q=node/15) is the repository for all of the program’s policies and requirements.

**PRIOR COURSEWORK**

**Graduate Work from Other Institutions**

With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 9 credits of graduate coursework from other institutions. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a master’s degree or earned ten years or more prior to admission to a doctoral degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

**UW–Madison Undergraduate**

No credits from a UW–Madison undergraduate degree are allowed to count toward the degree.

**UW–Madison University Special**

With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 9 credits of coursework numbered 300 or above taken as a UW–Madison Special student. Coursework earned ten years or more prior to admission is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

**PROBATION**

Probation is a warning to a student who is not making satisfactory progress in the graduate program of the linguistics department. Departmental probation for grades or failure to make satisfactory progress lasts for one academic year (two consecutive semesters), while probation for an unsatisfactory prelim paper or unfinished Incompletes lasts for one semester.

If a student on probation clears up the problem that led to probation within the time period allotted, nothing else happens, and the student can continue with the program.

If the student does not resolve the problem (e.g., raise the GPA or successfully complete a prelim), the student is dropped from the program at the end of the probationary period.

**ADVISOR / COMMITTEE**

Every graduate student must have an official faculty advisor. New students are usually assigned to the chair by default, unless they come with the intention of working with a particular faculty member. By the end of the first year, students must decide whom they would like to work with, and must ask that person if they are willing to serve as advisor. If the faculty member agrees, the student is responsible for having the faculty member sign the blue advisor agreement form, and for making sure that it is placed in the student’s file. All permanent faculty members in the department (including affiliated faculty but excluding visiting faculty) may serve as advisors. Faculty from other departments may not serve as official advisors, even though they may co-chair committees.
Every faculty member has the right to refuse to become a student’s advisor. Every graduate student has the right to choose any faculty member as advisor, so long as the faculty member agrees. Students should also feel free to change advisors at any time, without fear of offending a faculty member. If a student changes advisors, a new advisor agreement form must be signed and filed, and the previous advisor must be notified by the student in writing.

The advisor guides the student in the choice of appropriate courses, in the planning of prelims and the dissertation, in choosing prelim committees and the dissertation committee, and in other professional matters. Students are reminded, however, that the fulfillment of departmental requirements is ultimately the student’s responsibility.

Each semester, the student must consult in person with the advisor about courses for the following semester. Registration is blocked until this is done, and is only unblocked when the student turns in the relevant form to the department, signed by the advisor.

**CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED**

15 credits

**TIME CONSTRAINTS**

The first prelim paper must be completed by the fourth semester, the second prelim paper must be completed by the eighth semester, all language and course requirements must be completed by the end of the semester in which the second prelim paper is defended, and a dissertation proposal must be submitted and defended within two weeks of the defense of the second prelim paper.

**OTHER**

The department does not usually have guaranteed financial aid packages to offer prospective graduate students. Most students find support of some type, usually as a TA or PA in our department or some other program. Full-time enrollment is assumed in order to satisfy requirements on satisfactory progress as defined in the graduate student handbook.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES**

Take advantage of the Graduate School’s professional development resources (https://grad.wisc.edu/pd) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Articulates research problems, potentials, and limits with respect to theory, knowledge, or practice within the field of linguistics.

2. Formulates ideas, concepts, designs, and/or techniques beyond the current boundaries of knowledge within linguistics.

3. Creates research that makes a substantive contribution to the understanding of human language.

4. Demonstrates breadth within their learning experiences.

5. Advances contributions of the field of linguistics to society.

6. Communicates complex ideas in a clear and understandable manner.

7. Fosters ethical and professional conduct.

**PEOPLE**

**Faculty:** Professors Li, Macaulay, Macken, Raimy (Chair), Salmons, Valentine; Lecturer Shields