SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION, PH.D.

Second language acquisition (SLA) is the systematic study of learning, using, and sometimes losing any form of language beyond the mother tongue. SLA is a burgeoning research field because today there are more people on the planet who use at least two languages than there are monolinguals. For individual learners and for every community in diaspora, second language acquisition is an experience that challenges their knowledge of language, their understanding of different cultures, and their personal identities. The experiences and challenges surrounding SLA are studied by scholars whose training is in a variety of fields—linguistics, psychology, sociology, education, anthropology, and communication arts—a variety that makes the study of SLA richly interdisciplinary.

The Ph.D. Program in Second Language Acquisition at the University of Wisconsin–Madison is a rigorous interdisciplinary academic program that embodies the university’s mission to foster the study of globally important issues. In their coursework, students in the program learn from and collaborate with experienced and distinguished faculty in many departments and, through their original dissertation research, students generate and contribute new knowledge to the field. Students develop a thorough understanding of the scope of SLA as a field of inquiry, and develop and refine research skills that will serve them as they define and pursue their own research agenda. A Ph.D. in SLA opens the door to scholarly and professional careers as university faculty, directors of foreign language programs, educational policy makers, and multilingual specialists.

ADMISSIONS

Please consult the table below for key information about this degree program’s admissions requirements. The program may have more detailed admissions requirements, which can be found below the table or on the program’s website. Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic programs and the Graduate School. Applicants must meet the minimum requirements (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements) of the Graduate School as well as the program(s).

Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Detail</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall Deadline</td>
<td>December 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Deadline</td>
<td>The program does not admit in the spring.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Deadline</td>
<td>The program does not admit in the summer.</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRE (Graduate Record Examinations)</td>
<td>Required.</td>
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<tr>
<td>English Proficiency Test</td>
<td>Every applicant whose native language is not</td>
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<td>English or whose undergraduate instruction</td>
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<td>was not in English must provide an English</td>
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<td>proficiency test score and meet the Graduate</td>
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<td>School minimum requirements (<a href="https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/english-proficiency">https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/english-proficiency</a>).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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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

Students in the SLA program, depending on their qualifications, may receive financial support through several departments, programs, and institutes. Students with a background in foreign language or English teaching may work as graduate teaching assistants (TAs) in departments in which those languages are taught. Other students work as graduate project assistants (PA) for the Language Institute or other units on campus. In addition to these TA and PA positions, select SLA students receive university fellowships (including the Advanced Opportunity Fellowships) upon entry into the program or when working on their dissertations. If they meet the specific eligibility criteria, students may also compete, with the program's support, in other grant and fellowship competitions, such as Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships. Additional funding opportunities are included in the information for current students on the SLA website (https://sla.wisc.edu/content/funding-resources).

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>
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</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.

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

Requirements Detail

Minimum Credit Requirement

Minimum 51 credits

Minimum Residence Credit Requirement

36 coursework credits plus 9 dissertation credits, for a total of 45 credits.

Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement

Half of degree coursework (26 credits out of 51 total credits) must be completed graduate-level coursework; courses with the Graduate Level Coursework attribute are identified and searchable in the university’s Course Guide (http://my.wisc.edu/CourseGuideRedirect/BrowseByTitle).

Overall Graduate GPA Requirement

3.00 GPA required.

Other Grade Requirements

Incompletes must be resolved by the end of the next fall or spring term in which the student is enrolled. In addition, all incompletes must be resolved before students may take any portion of the preliminary examination.

Assessments and Examinations

Students must take preliminary exams within one semester of completing coursework.

The dissertation proposal must be approved by the student’s dissertation proposal committee no later than one calendar year after the student becomes a dissertator.

The last step in completing the Ph.D. in Second Language Acquisition is the successful defense of a doctoral thesis or dissertation, followed by its deposit with the Graduate School.

Language Requirements

Typically, the student must demonstrate an advanced level of academic oral and reading proficiency in two languages prior to taking preliminary exams. A plan for meeting this requirement is developed by the student and advisor during the student’s first semester in the Program. The plan must be approved by the advisor and the SLA steering committee by the end of the first academic year.

REQUIRED COURSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 318</td>
<td>Second Language Acquisition</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 711</td>
<td>Research Methods in Applied Linguistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ED PSYCH 760</td>
<td>Statistical Methods Applied to Education I</td>
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<tr>
<td>ED PSYCH 761</td>
<td>Statistical Methods Applied to Education II</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC/ C&amp;E SOC 360</td>
<td>Statistics for Sociologists I</td>
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<tr>
<td>CURRIC 714</td>
<td>Research and Evaluation Paradigms in Curriculum and Instruction</td>
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<tr>
<td>CURRIC 715</td>
<td>Design of Research in Curriculum and Instruction</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CURRIC/ COUN PSY/ ED POL/ ED PSYCH/ELPA/ RP &amp; SE 719</td>
<td>Introduction to Qualitative Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>CURRIC 916</td>
<td>Smr. Special Topics in Research &amp; Evaluation in Curriculum &amp; Instruction (with appropriate topic)</td>
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<td>CURRIC 975</td>
<td>General Seminar (with appropriate topic)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 703</td>
<td>Research Methods in Composition Studies</td>
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Electives

Dissertation Credits 1: 30

Total Credits: 51

1 Students take a minimum of 9 dissertation credits (three semesters); in most cases four or more semesters of enrollment in dissertator credits is likely. Students enroll in dissertator credits in their advisor’s department and will likely need to obtain authorization from the department to register. An advisor, under certain circumstances, may permit the student to replace the 3 dissertation credits with another 3-credit graduate course that directly supports the dissertation.
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 (https://sla.wisc.edu/content/policies-and-guidelines) 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 up to 6 credits of graduate coursework from other institutions or the UW–Madison. Coursework earned ten years or more prior to admission to the SLA Program is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

UW–Madison Undergraduate
Prior coursework from the UW–Madison undergraduate career may not be applied toward the program.

UW–Madison University Special
Prior coursework from the UW–Madison University Special student career may not be applied toward the program.

PROBATION
Those students not meeting satisfactory progress requirements may be put on probation for a semester.

ADVISOR / COMMITTEE
Students are required to meet with their advisor at least once each semester to review their progress, select courses, and to discuss any outstanding issues or questions.

CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED
15 credits

TIME CONSTRAINTS
Students must submit plans for completing the emphasis requirement and the language requirement for approval by the steering committee within their first year of the program.

Students typically complete all of the coursework requirements within two years of enrolling in the Program. Students are required to complete all coursework and fulfill the language requirement before taking the preliminary examinations.

Students must take the preliminary examination within one semester of completing coursework.

Graduate School regulations require Ph.D. candidates to defend their dissertation five years from the date of passing their preliminary examinations.

OTHER
Students in the SLA program are typically funded through campus teaching assistantships, project assistantships or through fellowships. Contact the program for more details.

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.

PROGRAM RESOURCES
Students in the SLA program benefit from a variety of professional development opportunities organized by students, faculty, and staff. A speaker series offers students the chance to interact with top scholars in the field. In addition, the program organizes workshops in such topics as designing research, publishing, and preparing to go on the job market. An annual graduate student symposium, organized in partnership with students at the University of Iowa and University of Minnesota, allows students to gain professional experience organizing a conference and presenting their research. In addition, Summer Research Partnerships provide opportunities for core faculty and students to work collaboratively on research projects. These collaborations have led to conference presentations and/or co-authored journal publications.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Demonstrate a strong overall understanding of the scope of the discipline of SLA (e.g., the theories on which research in the field is based; the types of questions that researchers in SLA address; and the variety of techniques used to answer these questions). Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of theories and research findings related to their focal areas of interest.

2. Develop an original research plan that advances a specific area of SLA. Retrieve, evaluate, and interpret academic publications, and use this information to identify a gap in the extant research and to develop theoretical frameworks and research designs for their own research projects. Learn to design realistic and feasible research projects and to prepare necessary protocols.

3. Collect data following relevant protocols and analyze/interpret the resulting data. Reflect on the procedures and results of their own projects to identify strengths, limitations, and implications.

4. Develop skills for disseminating their research in a variety of professional venues and domains through both presentations and manuscript preparation.

5. Participate in and communicate effectively as members of a professional community. Seek opportunities to engage in service to the program, the university and/or the wider community.
**PEOPLE**

**SLA Core Faculty:** Professors Chavez (German, Nordic, and Slavic), Evans-Romaine (German, Nordic, and Slavic), Frantzen (Spanish and Portuguese), Hawkins (Curriculum and Instruction), Mori (Asian Languages and Cultures), Thompson (African Cultural Studies), Tochon (Curriculum and Instruction); Associate Professors Allen (French & Italian), Geyer (Asian Languages and Cultures; SLA minor advisor), Stafford (Spanish and Portuguese; SLA Director), Pacheco (Curriculum and Instruction) Vieira (English); Assistant Professors Cho (English) and Prasad (Curriculum and Instruction)

**Staff:** Jana Martin (Interim SLA coordinator), Dianna Murphy (SLA core member), Malliga Somasundaram (Financial and Payroll Specialist)