Linguistics, B.A.

Language Sciences at UW–Madison is an interdisciplinary hub for research and collaboration that houses the Linguistics major.

Linguistics is the scientific study of human language. It investigates the common principles underlying all languages, as well as the organization of particular languages. It is expected that undergraduates with a major in linguistics will be able to:

- demonstrate a sound knowledge of the fields of phonetics (articulatory and acoustic properties of speech), phonology (the organization of the sound system of languages), morphology (the structure of words), syntax (the structure of sentences), and semantics (the interpretation of structures);
- demonstrate that they are able to analyze data in all these areas of linguistics;
- apply their linguistic training without prejudice, as expected in any science; and
- apply their analytical abilities beyond the study of linguistics.

Our undergraduate major emphasizes strong foundational training in the core areas of theoretical linguistics. Students also have access to breadth courses in a wide variety of interdisciplinary areas, including first and second language acquisition, language disorders, psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, historical linguistics, neurolinguistics, philosophy of language, and language endangerment and revitalization. Coursework is also available in the linguistics of specific languages or language families, such as Germanic, Spanish and Romance, Chinese, Japanese, and Native American linguistics.

How to Get In

Undergraduate students wishing to major in Linguistics should make an appointment with the Linguistics Undergraduate Advisor. Current advisor contact information can be found on the Language Sciences Advising Page (https://langsci.wisc.edu/advising/).

Requirements

University General Education Requirements

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatestudytext) section of the Guide.

General Education

- Breadth—Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits
- Breadth—Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits
- Breadth—Social Studies: 3 credits
- Communication Part A & Part B *
- Ethnic Studies *
- Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B *

* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

College of Letters & Science Degree Requirements: Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)

Students pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. The College of Letters & Science allows this major to be paired with either a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science curriculum.

Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements

Mathematics

Complete the University General Education Requirements for Quantitative Reasoning A (QR-A) and Quantitative Reasoning B (QR-B) coursework.

Foreign Language

- Complete the fourth unit of a foreign language; OR
- Complete the third unit of a foreign language and the second unit of an additional foreign language.

L&S Breadth

- 12 credits of Humanities, which must include 6 credits of literature; and
- 12 credits of Social Science; and
- 12 credits of Natural Science, which must include one 3+ credit Biological Science course and one 3+ credit Physical Science course.

Liberal Arts and Science Coursework

Complete at least 108 credits.

Depth of Intermediate/Advanced Work

Complete at least 60 credits at the intermediate or advanced level.

Major

Declare and complete at least one major.

Total Credits

Complete at least 120 credits.

UW-Madison Experience

- 30 credits in residence, overall; and
- 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit.

Quality of Work

- 2,000 in all coursework at UW–Madison
- 2,000 in Intermediate/Advanced level coursework at UW–Madison

Non–L&S Students Pursuing an L&S Major

Non–L&S students who have permission from their school/college to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the
major requirements. They do not need to complete the L&S Degree Requirements above.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR**

**LANGUAGE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>LINGUIS 101</td>
<td>Human Language</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>or LINGUIS/ANTHRO 301</td>
<td>Introduction to Linguistics: Descriptive and Theoretical</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINGUIS 310</td>
<td>Phonology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINGUIS 330</td>
<td>Syntax</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINGUIS 322</td>
<td>Morphology</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

**Total Credits** 0-16

**LINGUISTICS**

Students pursuing the linguistics major must complete 30 credits as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINGUIS 330</td>
<td>Syntax</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINGUIS 322</td>
<td>Morphology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**500-Level LINGUISTICS (1 course)** 3

- LINGUIS 510  Phonological Theories
- LINGUIS 522  Advanced Morphology
- LINGUIS 530  Syntactic Theories
- LINGUIS 540  Advanced Semantics
- LINGUIS 571  Structure of a Language

**Capstone** 3

- LINGUIS 426  Field Methods I
- or LINGUIS 427  Field Methods II

**Electives** 12

- any LINGUIS course
- AFRICAN 500  Language and Society in Africa
- AFRICAN 503  African Linguistic Structures-Morphology and Syntax
- AMER IND/ANTHRO 314  Indians of North America
- AMER IND/LINGUIS 371  Survey of North American Indian Languages
- AMER IND/ANTHRO/FOLKLORE 431  American Indian Folklore
- ANTHRO/LINGUIS 430  Language and Culture
- ASIAN 358  Language in Japanese Society
- ASIAN 431  Chinese Linguistics I
- ASIAN 432  Chinese Linguistics II
- ASIAN 434  Introduction to Japanese Linguistics
- ASIAN 631  History of the Chinese Language
- CS&D 110  Introduction to Communicative Disorders
- CS&D 201  Anatomy and Physiology of Speech Production
- CS&D 202  Normal Aspects of Hearing
- CS&D 210  Neural Basis of Communication
- CS&D 240  Language Development in Children and Adolescents
- CS&D 303  Speech Acoustics and Perception
- CS&D 315  Phonetics and Phonological Development
- CS&D 440  Child Language Phonological Theories
- CS&D 440  Advanced Morphology
- CS&D 503  Neurological Disorders, Assessment and Intervention
- COMP SCI 545  Natural Language and Computing
- CURRIC 368  The Teaching of Reading
- ENGL 314  Structure of English
- ENGL 315  English Phonology
- ENGL 316  English Language Variation in the U.S.
- ENGL 318  Second Language Acquisition
- ENGL 319  Language, Race, and Identity
- ENGL 320  Linguistic Theory and Child Language
- ENGL 413  English Words: Grammar, Culture, Mind
- ENGL 414  Global Spread of English
- ENGL 415  Introduction to TESOL Methods
- ENGL 416  English in Society
- ENGL 417  History of the English Language
- ENGL 420  Topics in English Language and Linguistics
- ENGL 514  English Syntax
- ENGL 516  English Grammar in Use
- FOLKLORE/LIS 490  Field Methods and the Public Presentation of Folklore
- FOLKLORE/COM ARTS 522  Digitally Documenting Everyday Communication
- ITALIAN 340  Structures of Italian
- ITALIAN/FRENCH/PORTUG/SPANISH 429  Introduction to the Romance Languages
- GERMAN 351  Introduction to German Linguistics
- GERMAN 352  Topics in German Linguistics
- GERMAN 650  History of the German Language
- HISTORY/AMER IND 490  American Indian History
- LIS 351  Introduction to Digital Information
- LIS 640  Topics in Library and Information Studies (TLAM only)
- LINGUIS 237  Language & Immigration in Wisconsin
- LINGUIS 303  Language, History, and Society
- LINGUIS 306  General Phonetics
- LINGUIS 309  Grammatical Variability of Language
- LINGUIS 340  Semantics
LINGUIS/ AMER IND 371 Survey of North American Indian Languages
LINGUIS 373 Topics in Linguistics
LINGUIS/ ANTHRO 430 Language and Culture
LINGUIS 610 Topics in Phonological Theory
PHILOS 516 Language and Meaning
PSYCH 406 Psychology of Perception
PSYCH 413 Language, Mind, and Brain
PSYCH 414 Cognitive Psychology
PSYCH 460 Child Development
PSYCH 520 How We Read: The Science of Reading and Its Educational Implications
SCAND ST 410 Introduction to Scandinavian Linguistics
SCAND ST 510 Topics in Scandinavian Linguistics
SOC 535 Talk and Social Interaction
SPANISH 320 Spanish Phonetics
SPANISH 321 The Structure of Modern Spanish
SPANISH 327 Introduction to Spanish Linguistics
SPANISH 331 Spanish Applied Linguistics
SPANISH/ FRENCH/ITALIAN/ PORTUG 429 Introduction to the Romance Languages
SPANISH 346 Topics in Spanish Linguistics
SPANISH 453 Spanish Phonology
SPANISH 544 Contemporary Issues in Applied Spanish Linguistics
SPANISH 548 Structure of the Spanish Language: Morphology and Syntax
SPANISH 630 Topics in Hispanic Linguistics

Total Credits 30

RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK
• 2.000 GPA in all LINGUIS and all major courses
• 2.000 GPA on 15 upper-level major credits, taken in residence²
• 15 credits in LINGUIS, taken on the UW–Madison campus

Electives from Other Subjects that are Upper-level in the Major

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 500</td>
<td>Language and Society in Africa</td>
<td>3-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 501</td>
<td>Structure and Analysis of African Languages</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIAN 358</td>
<td>Language in Japanese Society</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIAN 431</td>
<td>Chinese Linguistics I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIAN 432</td>
<td>Chinese Linguistics II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIAN 433</td>
<td>Topics in East Asian Visual Cultures</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIAN 434</td>
<td>Introduction to Japanese Linguistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIAN 631</td>
<td>History of the Chinese Language</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS&amp;D 201</td>
<td>Anatomy and Physiology of Speech Production</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS&amp;D 210</td>
<td>Neural Basis of Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS&amp;D 303</td>
<td>Speech Acoustics and Perception</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS&amp;D 503</td>
<td>Neural Mechanisms of Speech, Hearing and Language</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP SCI 545</td>
<td>Natural Language and Computing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL/ MEDIEVAL 520</td>
<td>Old English</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>ENGL 417</td>
<td>History of the English Language</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>ENGL 314</td>
<td>Structure of English</td>
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<td>ENGL 516</td>
<td>English Grammar in Use</td>
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<td>FRENCH/ITALIAN/ PORTUG/ SPANISH 429</td>
<td>Introduction to the Romance Languages</td>
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<td>GERMAN 351</td>
<td>Introduction to German Linguistics</td>
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<td>GERMAN 352</td>
<td>Topics in German Linguistics</td>
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<td>GERMAN 650</td>
<td>History of the German Language</td>
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<tr>
<td>GERMAN/ MEDIEVAL 651</td>
<td>Introduction to Middle High German</td>
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<td>PHILOS 516</td>
<td>Language and Meaning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST/ MEDIEVAL 407</td>
<td>Introductory Old Norse</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAND ST/ MEDIEVAL 408</td>
<td>Intermediate Old Norse</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCAND ST 410</td>
<td>Introduction to Scandinavian Linguistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 535</td>
<td>Talk and Social Interaction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPANISH/ INTL BUS 329</td>
<td>Spanish for Business</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPANISH 630</td>
<td>Topics in Hispanic Linguistics</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HONORS IN THE MAJOR
Students may declare Honors in the Major in consultation with the Linguistics Undergraduate Advisor (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/linguistics/linguistics-ba/#advisingandcareertext).

HONORS IN THE LINGUISTICS MAJOR: REQUIREMENTS
To earn Honors in the Major, students must satisfy both the requirements for the major (above) and the following additional requirements:

• Earn a 3.300 University GPA
• Earn a 3.500 GPA for all LINGUIS courses, and all courses accepted in the major
• Complete two LINGUIS courses, taken for Honors, with concurrent 1-credit enrollment in LINGUIS 481 Junior Honors Tutorial, LINGUIS 482 Junior Honors Tutorial, or LINGUIS 583 Senior Honors Tutorial, for a total of 2 additional credits. A grade of B or better must be earned in each course taken for honors.
• Complete a two-semester Senior Honors Thesis in LINGUIS 681 Honors Seminar-Senior Thesis and LINGUIS 682 Honors Seminar-
Senior Thesis, leading to submission of an acceptable paper, for a total of 6 credits. A grade of B or better must be earned in the thesis project.

Note that Honors tutorial credits and the Senior Honors Thesis do not count toward the 30 credits required for the major in linguistics.

**FOOTNOTES**

1. Except LINGUIS 481, LINGUIS 482, LINGUIS 583, LINGUIS 681, LINGUIS 682.
2. Intermediate and Advanced level LINGUIS courses, LINGUIS 340, LINGUIS 373 and some elective courses from other subjects are upper-level in the major (see list).

**UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

**Total Degree**

To receive a bachelor's degree from UW–Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.

**Residency**

Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. "In residence" means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. "In residence" credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.

**Quality of Work**

Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Familiarity with data from a wide range of languages from different language families.
2. Ability to respond to biased views of language in their communities.
3. Knowledge in all core areas of linguistics: Phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics.
4. Sound grasp of linguistic concepts.
5. Sound grasp of linguistic methodology.

**FOUR-YEAR PLAN**

**SAMPLE FOUR-YEAR PLAN**

This Sample Four-Year Plan is a tool to assist students and their advisor(s). Students should use it—along with their DARS report, the Degree Planner, and Course Search & Enroll tools—to make their own four-year plan based on their placement scores, credit for transferred courses and approved examinations, and individual interests. As students become involved in athletics, honors, research, student organizations, study abroad, volunteer experiences, and/or work, they might adjust the order of their courses to accommodate these experiences. Students will likely revise their own four-year plan several times during college.

### Freshman

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<th>Fall</th>
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<td>Communication A</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4 Ethnic Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quantitative Reasoning A</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Foreign Language (if needed)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Linguistics majors are required to complete the 4th unit or higher of a foreign language, whether they are doing the BA or the BS degree.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd semester of Foreign Language (if needed)</td>
<td>3 LINGUIS 101 or 301</td>
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<td>L&amp;S Breadth</td>
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### Sophomore

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<tr>
<td>Quantitative Reasoning B</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Communication B</td>
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<td>LINGUIS 310</td>
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<td>LINGUIS 322</td>
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<td>LINGUIS 330</td>
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<td>Linguistics major elective #1</td>
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<td>L&amp;S Breadth</td>
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<td>I/A Math, Comp Sci, or Stat (if needed for B.S.)</td>
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<td>Elective</td>
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<td>L&amp;S Breadth</td>
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<td>Linguistics 500-level course (take any time in years 3-4)</td>
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<td>Linguistics major elective #3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linguistics major elective #2</td>
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### Senior

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<tr>
<td>Linguistics major elective #4</td>
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<td>LINGUIS 426 or 427</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Credits 120**
ADVISING AND CAREERS

UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING
Rebecca Shields, Undergraduate Advisor
1166 Van Hise Hall
rashields@wisc.edu

Contact the undergraduate advisor (https://langsci.wisc.edu/advising/) via email or using the Starfish app to set up an appointment. The advisor is happy to meet with students who want to learn more about the major, careers in linguistics, linguistics course selection, and opportunities for participation in research in language sciences. An in person meeting with the advisor is required to declare the major.

LETTERS & SCIENCE CAREER SERVICES

Language Sciences encourages our majors to begin working on their career exploration and preparation soon after declaring their major. Our career advisor also partners with SuccessWorks at the College of Letters & Science. L&S graduates are in high demand by employers and graduate programs. It is important to us that our students are career ready at the time of graduation, and we are committed to your success.

L&S CAREER RESOURCES

SuccessWorks at the College of Letters & Science helps students leverage the academic skills learned in their major, certificates, and liberal arts degree; explore and try out different career paths; participate in internships; prepare for the job search and/or graduate school applications; and network with professionals in the field (alumni and employers). In short, SuccessWorks helps students in the College of Letters & Science discover themselves, find opportunities, and develop the skills they need for success after graduation.

SuccessWorks can also assist students in career advising, résumé and cover letter writing, networking opportunities, and interview skills, as well as course offerings for undergraduates to begin their career exploration early in their undergraduate career.

Students should set up their profiles in Handshake (https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/handshake/) to take care of everything they need to explore career events, manage their campus interviews, and apply to jobs and internships from 200,000+ employers around the country.

- SuccessWorks (https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/)
- Set up a career advising appointment (https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment/)
- INTER-LS 210 L&S Career Development: Taking Initiative (1 credit, targeted to first- and second-year students)—for more information, see INTER-LS 210: Career Development, Taking Initiative (https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/inter-ls-210-career-development-taking-initiative/)
- INTER-LS 215 Communicating About Careers (3 credits, fulfills Com B General Education Requirement)
- Handshake (https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/handshake/)
- Learn how we're transforming career preparation: L&S Career Initiative (http://ls.wisc.edu/lsci/)

PEOPLE

Professors Ellis Weismer, Hutton, Kaushanskaya, Li, Louden, Macaulay, Macdonald, Purnell, Raimy, Saffron, Salmons, Seidenberg, Wanner; Associate Professors Armstrong, Lupyan, Rao, Tejedo-Herrero, Vieira; Assistant Professors Cho, Henke, Niziolek; Lecturer Shields

For more detailed information about our faculty, please visit our website (https://langsci.wisc.edu/faculty-academic-staff/).