Linguistics Major and Minor

The Department of Linguistics department is known internationally for its strength in the areas of second language acquisition, applied linguistics, TESOL, and American Indian languages. Like many linguistics programs in the United States, the department is centrally concerned with core areas of linguistic theory. It also emphasizes the importance of the applied and descriptive endeavors. The areas of expertise of the faculty are theoretical and descriptive linguistics, Hispanic linguistics, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, and second language acquisition. The department prides itself on its collegial atmosphere and close cooperation between faculty and students.

A major in linguistics gives students a solid foundation in the central areas of linguistic theory and analysis. The structure of human language (its sounds, word structures, and syntax) is the focus of the linguistics courses required for the major. Additionally, the major's language requirement ensures that students acquire a perspective on linguistic structures outside of their native language, and that they receive some exposure to at least one language that is structurally unlike English. Students considering a major in linguistics should take LING 1000 Introduction to Linguistics at their earliest opportunity to gauge if the major is right for them.

In addition to formal instruction provided by the department, students are encouraged to take courses in related departments such as anthropology and psychology. Students who wish to combine their work in linguistics with training in a specific cultural area may simultaneously earn a certificate in Asian, Latin American, Russian and East European, West European, or European Union Studies through the University Center for International Studies (UCIS). The department is also home to the English Language Institute, the Robert Henderson Language Media Center, and the Less-Commonly-Taught Languages Center.

Careers in linguistics include teaching English as a second language and teaching other languages including American Sign Language; computational linguistics research in industry and public agencies; field research on endangered languages and cultures; research and teaching at the university level; careers in publishing and advertising; speech pathology and rehabilitation; translation and interpreting; law; and governmental consulting on language policies. Most careers in linguistics require graduate training.

Required courses for the Linguistics major
The linguistics major requires the completion of 30 credits in linguistics distributed as follows.

Core courses
LING 1000 Introduction to Linguistics
LING 1578 Phonetics and Phonemics
LING 1579 Phonology
LING 1773 Morphology
LING 1777 Syntactic Theory

One of the following
LING 1267 Aspects of Sociolinguistics
LING 1580 Language and the Mind
LING 1682 Introduction to Semantics
LING 1860 Introduction to Historical Linguistics

One of the following
LING 1441 Field Methods in Linguistics
LING 2144 Research Methods in Applied Linguistics
LING 2441 Field Methods in Linguistics

Capstone Course
One of the following
LING 1903 Directed Research
LING 1930 Introduction to Applied Linguistics

Elective courses
Students are required to complete two LING 1000-level elective courses.

Language course
Students are required to complete one semester of language study that is not Romance (including Latin), Germanic, Balto-Slavic, or Greek. This requirement is in addition to the two terms of language study required of students who are not exempt from the second language requirement for the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences.

Grade requirements
A minimum GPA of 2.0 in departmental courses is required for graduation.

Satisfactory/No Credit option
No more than two LING courses that count toward the major can be taken on an S/NC basis.

Writing (W) requirement
Students must complete at least one W-course in the major.

Advising
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Checklist for the Linguistics major

Core courses
_____ LING 1000 (formerly LING 1950)
_____ LING 1578
_____ LING 1579
_____ LING 1773
_____ LING 1777

One of the following
_____ LING 1267
_____ LING 1580
_____ LING 1682
_____ LING 1860

One of the following
_____ LING 1441
_____ LING 2144
_____ LING 2441

Capstone Course

One of the following
_____ LING 1903
_____ LING 1930

Elective courses
_____ LING 1_____ (1000 level)
_____ LING 1_____ (1000 level)

Language course
_____ _____ _____

Checklist for the Linguistics minor

_____ LING 1000 (formerly LING 1950)
_____ LING 1578
_____ LING 1777
_____ LING 1_____ (1000 level)
_____ LING 1_____ (1000 level)

Note: Students must apply for any official minor they will complete or have completed at the time they apply for graduation.