Second Language Acquisition

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Graduate degree: Ph.D. in second language acquisition
Faculty: http://clas.uiowa.edu/dwllc/flare/affiliated-faculty
Web site: http://clas.uiowa.edu/dwllc/flare/second-language-acquisition-phd-program

Second language acquisition (SLA) is a multidisciplinary field whose goal is to understand the processes that underlie non-native language learning. The Second Language Acquisition Program draws from varied academic disciplines, among them linguistics, psychology, psycholinguistics, sociology, sociolinguistics, discourse analysis, conversation analysis, and education.

Second Language Acquisition is administered by the Division of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures.

Graduate Program of Study
- Doctor of Philosophy in second language acquisition

Doctor of Philosophy

The Doctor of Philosophy program in second language acquisition requires 72 s.h., including a maximum of 33 s.h. earned in work toward a master's degree. The program is interdisciplinary and focuses on languages other than English. Students interested in pursuing the Ph.D. must hold a master's degree in an appropriate field (e.g., linguistics, foreign language education, English as a second language) or have equivalent academic experience. Students begin the program in the fall.

Doctoral students may specialize in one of three areas: linguistics, language program direction, or technology. They may pursue their interdisciplinary interests in courses offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Departments of Asian and Slavic Languages and Literatures, Communication Sciences and Disorders, French and Italian, German, Linguistics, Rhetoric, and Spanish and Portuguese, and the College of Education Departments of Psychological and Quantitative Foundations, and Teaching and Learning.

The program is divided into foundation courses (13 courses, or 39 s.h.); specialization courses (5 courses, or 15 s.h.), and dissertation work (18 s.h.). A course may be used to fulfill only one requirement.

FOUNDATION COURSES
Students earn a total of 39 s.h. in foundation courses.
All of these (9 s.h.):
SLA:6901 Second Language Acquisition Research and Theory 3 s.h.
SLA:6902 Second Language Acquisition Research and Theory II 3 s.h.
SLA:6920 Multimedia and Second Language Acquisition 3 s.h.

Two of these (6 s.h.):
SLA:5973/GRMN:3540 Grammar in Second Language Teaching/Learning 3 s.h.
SLA:6950 Topics in Second Language Acquisition: Speaking 3 s.h.
SLA:6955 Topics in Second Language Acquisition: Listening 3 s.h.
SLA:6965 Topics in Second Language Acquisition: Writing 3 s.h.
SLA:6970 Cultural Curriculum 3 s.h.
EDTL:6484 Reading in a Second Language 3 s.h.

To complete the foundation requirement, students select one course from each of the following eight areas (total of 24 s.h.), in consultation with their advisors. With the advisor's approval, a student may use courses not listed here to fulfill the requirement.

Curriculum
One of these:
EDTL:5086 Curriculum Foundations 2-3 s.h.
EDTL:6408 Designing Materials for Second Language Instruction 3 s.h.
EDTL:6497 Principles of Course Design for Second Language Instruction 3 s.h.
EDTL:7100 Design and Organization of Curriculum 3 s.h.

Quantitative Research Tools
One of these:
PSQF:6220 Quantitative Educational Research Methodologies 3 s.h.
PSQF:6243 Intermediate Statistical Methods 4 s.h.
PSQF:6244 Correlation and Regression 4 s.h.
PSQF:6246 Design of Experiments 4 s.h.

Qualitative Research Tools
One of these:
EDTL:7070 Introduction to Qualitative Methods in Literacy Research 3 s.h.
EDTL:7410 Mixed Methods Research 3 s.h.
EPLS:7373 Qualitative Research Design and Methods 3 s.h.

Testing, Evaluation, Measurement
One of these:
EDTL:6400 Fundamentals of Second Language Assessment 3 s.h.
PSQF:4150 Introduction to Educational Measurement 3-4 s.h.
PSQF:5165 Introduction to Program and Project Evaluation 3 s.h.
PSQF:6255 Construction and Use of Evaluation Instruments 3 s.h.
PSQF:6257 Educational Measurement and Evaluation 3 s.h.
**Second Language Acquisition**

**Methodology**

One of these:

- SLA:5000 Teaching and Learning Languages 3 s.h.
- CHIN:7401 Teaching Chinese as a Second Language I 3 s.h.
- CHIN:7403 Teaching Chinese as a Second Language III 3 s.h.
- JNPS:5401 Japanese as a Foreign Language: Practical Applications 3 s.h.
- LING:4050 Methods of Teaching English as a Second Language 3 s.h.

**Phonetics, Phonology**

One of these:

- LING:3005 Articulatory and Acoustic Phonetics 3 s.h.
- LING:3020 Phonological Analysis 3 s.h.
- LING:5020 Introduction to Phonology 3 s.h.
- LING:6020 Phonological Theory 3 s.h.
- LING:7020 Advanced Phonological Theory 3 s.h.
- SPAN:4100 Introduction to Spanish Phonology 3 s.h.
- SPAN:6110 Spanish Phonology 3 s.h.

**Morphology, Syntax**

One of these:

- LING:3010 Syntactic Analysis 3 s.h.
- LING:5010 Introduction to Syntax 3 s.h.
- LING:6010 Syntactic Theory 3 s.h.
- LING:7010 Advanced Syntactic Theory 3 s.h.
- SPAN:4150 Introduction to Spanish Syntax 3 s.h.
- SPAN:6120 Spanish Syntax 3 s.h.
- SPAN:6190 Topics in Comparative Romance Linguistics 3 s.h.

**General Linguistics**

One of these:

- SLA:4080 Linguistic Theory and Second Language Acquisition 3 s.h.
- SLA:6403 Special Topics in Japanese Linguistics 3 s.h.
- CHIN:3302 Introduction to Chinese Linguistics 3 s.h.
- CHIN:7401 Teaching Chinese as a Second Language I 3 s.h.
- LING:3118 Language Acquisition 1-3 s.h.
- LING:5030 First Language Acquisition 3 s.h.
- LING:6080 Generative Second Language Acquisition 3 s.h.
- LING:7090 Seminar: Problems in Linguistics 2-3 s.h.
- SPAN:6150 Topics in Spanish Language Acquisition 3 s.h.

**SPECIALIZATION COURSES**

Each student selects one of three specialization areas—linguistics, language program direction, or technology—and takes five courses (total of 15 s.h.) in that area.

**Linguistics Specialization**

The linguistics specialization requires a three-course sequence (choice of phonology or syntax) and two additional courses.

One of these three-course sequences (group 1 or group 2):

**Group 1:**
- LING:5020 Introduction to Phonology 3 s.h.
- LING:6020 Phonological Theory 3 s.h.
- LING:7020 Advanced Phonological Theory 3 s.h.

**Group 2:**
- LING:5010 Introduction to Syntax 3 s.h.
- LING:6010 Syntactic Theory 3 s.h.
- LING:7010 Advanced Syntactic Theory 3 s.h.

One of these:

- LING:4080 Linguistic Theory and Second Language Acquisition 3 s.h.
- LING:6080 Generative Second Language Acquisition 3 s.h.

An alternate course on linguistic theory and second language acquisition

One of these:

- PSY:3085 Language Development 3 s.h.

An alternate course on parsing/psycholinguistic mechanisms

**Language Program Direction Specialization**

The language program direction specialization requires five courses chosen from the lists below. The specialization may not include courses used to satisfy the foundation requirements. Some students may include an internship in their work for the specialization.

Five of these, or four of these plus internship:

- SLA:5973 Grammar in Second Language Teaching/Learning 3 s.h.
- SLA:6403 Special Topics in Japanese Linguistics 3 s.h.
- SLA:6950 Topics in Second Language Acquisition: Speaking 3 s.h.
- SLA:6955 Topics in Second Language Acquisition: Listening 3 s.h.
- SLA:6965 Topics in Second Language Acquisition: Writing 3 s.h.
- SLA:6970 Cultural Curriculum 3 s.h.
- CHIN:7403 Teaching Chinese as a Second Language III 3 s.h.
- EDTL:6402 Second Language Program Management 3 s.h.
- EDTL:6403 Language Policy and Planning 3 s.h.
- EDTL:6408 Designing Materials for Second Language Instruction 3 s.h.
- EDTL:6480 Issues in Foreign Language Education 3 s.h.
- EDTL:6483 Second Language Classroom Learning 3 s.h.
- EDTL:6484 Reading in a Second Language 3 s.h.
- EDTL:6497 Principles of Course Design for Second Language Instruction 3 s.h.
EDTL:7015 Ph.D. Seminar in Language, Literacy, and Culture  
PSQF:6205 Design of Instruction 3 s.h.  
PSQF:6215 Web-Based Learning 3 s.h.

Some students may count an internship experience toward the specialization.

SLA:7000 Internship arr.

**Technology Specialization**
The technology specialization requires three courses in psychological and quantitative foundations and two additional courses.

Psychological and quantitative foundations—one of these:
PSQF:6205 Design of Instruction 3 s.h.  
PSQF:6275 Constructivism and Design of Instruction 3 s.h.

And both of these:
PSQF:6208 Designing Educational Multimedia 3 s.h.  
PSQF:6215 Web-Based Learning 3 s.h.

Remaining specialization course work—total of two courses chosen from the following lists (other courses may be approved by the student's advisor):

CS:3110 Introduction to Informatics 3 s.h.  
LING:4080 Linguistic Theory and Second Language Acquisition 3 s.h.  
PSQF:6203 Tools and External Representations in Learning Processes 3 s.h.  
SLIS:5020 Computing Foundations 3 s.h.  
A practicum course 3 s.h.

May include one of these (if not taken for the three-course sequence in psychological and quantitative foundations, above):
PSQF:6205 Design of Instruction 3 s.h.  
PSQF:6275 Constructivism and Design of Instruction 3 s.h.

May include one of these:
SLA:7025 Special Projects in Second Language Acquisition 3 s.h.  
PSQF:6293 Individual Instruction in Psychological and Quantitative Foundations 3 s.h.

Before they take SLA:7025 or PSQF:6293, students should complete the core design and technology courses PSQF:6205 Design of Instruction or PSQF:6275 Constructivism and Design of Instruction, PSQF:6208 Designing Educational Multimedia, and PSQF:6215 Web-Based Learning.

**THESIS**
All candidates must complete a thesis (SLA:7030 Ph.D. Thesis), for which they may earn up to 18 s.h. of credit.

**OPTIONAL COURSE WORK**
Students may include the following optional course work in their degree programs.

SLA:7015 Special Topics in Second Language Acquisition arr.
SLA:7020 Readings in Second Language Acquisition arr.
SLA:7025 Special Projects in Second Language Acquisition arr.

**Admission**

Admission is for fall semester; students are admitted only for full-time study. Applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College; see the Manual of Rules and Regulations of the Graduate College. Strong applicants hold a master's degree in a related area, have a cumulative g.p.a. of at least 3.50 in master's degree work, and speak and write English and another language at a professional level. Applicants must submit a writing sample that demonstrates their ability to synthesize and analyze information using standard academic English.

**Financial Support**

Teaching assistantships are available through the Foreign Language Acquisition Research and Education Program (FLARE). Assistantships usually involve teaching elementary or intermediate language courses. FLARE also offers a limited number of research assistantships. Visit the FLARE web site for details.

**Courses**

**Upper-Level Undergraduate and Graduate**

**SLA:3302 Introduction to Chinese Linguistics** 3 s.h.
Aspects of modern Chinese linguistics, such as Chinese phonology, syntax, pedagogical grammar, history of the language. Taught in English. Same as CHIN:3302, LING:3302.

**SLA:3400 Articulatory and Acoustic Phonetics** 3 s.h.
Production and transcription of sounds in human languages; physics of sound, computer analysis of speech sounds. Offered fall semesters. Same as LING:3005.

**SLA:3401 Language Development** 3 s.h.
Introduction to first language acquisition, with focus on infancy through five years; sound discrimination abilities, word learning, babbling and speech production, acquisition of grammar; perspectives from psychology, audiology, linguistics, speech pathology. Prerequisites: PSY:2701. Requirements: grade of C- or higher in PSY:2401 or PSY:2601 and grade of C- or higher in PSY:2810. Same as PSY:3085.

**SLA:4080 Linguistic Theory and Second Language Acquisition** 3 s.h.
Introduction of research results obtained by generative second language acquisition framework and their implications for classroom teaching methods; current views of language architecture; focus on inflectional morphology and linguistic interfaces, which have been proposed to be severe bottlenecks for acquisition; research findings on acquisition of syntax, phonology, semantics, linguistic pragmatics; pedagogical implications of these findings. Prerequisites: LING:3010 and LING:3020. Same as LING:4080.
SLA:4300 Introduction to Spanish Syntax 3 s.h.
Basic principles of generative syntax as applied to analysis of Spanish syntactic structure; extensive syntactic analysis. Prerequisites: SPAN:3100. Same as SPAN:4150.

SLA:4301 Introduction to Spanish Phonology 3 s.h.
Sound patterns of Spanish; how various theoretical approaches solve basic problems in Spanish phonology; identification of linguistic universals, how they are manifested in the sound structure of Spanish. Prerequisites: SPAN:3100. Same as SPAN:4100.

SLA:4401 Methods of Teaching English as a Second Language 3 s.h.
Observations of ESL and intensive English classes at the University; design and presentation of short lessons, text evaluation, demonstrations of innovative approaches of the last decade; materials. Offered spring semesters. Prerequisites: SPAN:3100. Same as SPAN:4100.

SLA:5000 Teaching and Learning Languages 3 s.h.
Readings in pedagogical theory and practice, second language acquisition; experience designing activities for teaching and assessment with critiques based on current theories and approaches; development of reflective practices toward one's language teaching. Same as WLLC:5000, FREN:5000, SPAN:5000, GRMN:5001.

SLA:5010 Introduction to Syntax 3 s.h.
Methods and argumentation for formal analysis of sentence structure through induction from language data of central concepts and relations; hypothesis testing, empirical bases of theoretical concepts. Corequisites: LING:5000. Same as LING:5010.

SLA:5020 Introduction to Phonology 3 s.h.
Analysis of sound systems, focus on early generative phonological theory; extensive practice in analysis using data from a variety of languages; linguistic argumentation. Prerequisites: LING:3005. Same as LING:5020.

SLA:5401 First Language Acquisition 3 s.h.
Child language from a crosslinguistic perspective. Prerequisites: LING:3005 and (LING:4040 or LING:5010). Same as LING:5030.

SLA:5441 Japanese as a Foreign Language: Practical Applications 3 s.h.
Instructional methodology, curriculum, and material design; hands-on experience. Prerequisites: JPNS:4502. Same as JPNS:5401.

SLA:5501 Curriculum Foundations 2-3 s.h.
Elementary and secondary background developments in curriculum; definitions, historical perspective, philosophies, theories of knowledge, models, learning theories, directions of development and shaping forces; emphasis on development of a curriculum project. Same as EDTL:5086.

SLA:5973 Grammar in Second Language Teaching/Learning 3 s.h.
Grammar, second language acquisition, and teaching. Taught in English, projects in varied languages. Same as GRMN:3540.

SLA:6010 Syntactic Theory 3 s.h.
Current syntactic theory examined through analysis of data sets, readings in recent research; emphasis on argument construction, statement of formal principles. Offered spring semesters. Prerequisites: LING:5010. Same as LING:6010.

SLA:6011 Phonological Theory 3 s.h.
Post-SPE phonological theory, including autosegmental phonology, feature geometry, the syllable, optimality theory. Prerequisites: LING:5020. Same as LING:6020.

SLA:6300 Foreign Language Teaching Methods 3 s.h.
Readings in pedagogical theory and practice and second language acquisition; experience designing activities for teaching and assessment, with critiques based on current theories and approaches; development of reflective practices toward one's own language teaching. Same as SPAN:6000.

SLA:6301 Topics in Spanish Language Acquisition 3 s.h.
Theoretical linguistic approaches to monolingual, bilingual, and second language acquisition of Spanish and Portuguese; varied topics. Requirements: at least one course in linguistics (e.g., general introduction to linguistics). Same as SPAN:6150.

SLA:6302 Topics in Comparative Romance Linguistics 3 s.h.
Comparative study of phonology, morphology, or syntax of the main Romance languages as informed by linguistic theory; diachronic or synchronic perspective. Recommendations: additional graduate course work in linguistics. Same as LING:6190, SPAN:6190, CLSA:6990.

SLA:6303 Spanish Phonology 3 s.h.
Modern approaches to synchronic phonology as applied to Spanish; focus on traditional descriptive problems, recent generative analyses. Requirements: phonology or linguistics course. Same as SPAN:6110.

SLA:6304 Spanish Syntax 3 s.h.
Spanish syntactic constructions examined in framework of selected syntactic theory; emphasis on development of syntactic argumentation. Requirements: one course in syntax. Same as SPAN:6120.

SLA:6403 Special Topics in Japanese Linguistics 3 s.h.
Topics in applied linguistics and language pedagogy related to Japanese language. Same as JPNS:6403.

SLA:6452 Generative Second Language Acquisition 3 s.h.
Overview of current second-language acquisition research in the generative linguistic framework; focus on characterizing second language learners' linguistic competence and how it is constrained by principles of universal grammar. Offered fall semesters. Prerequisites: (LING:3010 or LING:5010) and (LING:3020 or LING:5020). Same as LING:6080.

SLA:6500 Issues in Foreign Language Education 3 s.h.
Theoretical perspectives of pivotal research issues at the forefront of foreign language education; systems available to foreign language professionals for disseminating research. Same as EDTL:6480.

SLA:6501 Reading in a Second Language 3 s.h.
Current theory, research, practice in second language reading field; role of textual features and the reader in reading comprehension. Same as EDTL:6484.

SLA:6502 Principles of Course Design for Second Language Instruction 3 s.h.
Contemporary views of second language curriculum design; guidelines necessary for the creation of prototypical curriculum units to be transposed into classroom-ready forms; for individuals interested in foreign language materials development. Same as EDTL:6497.

SLA:6503 Fundamentals of Second Language Assessment 3 s.h.
How to write language tests; discussion of fundamental issues in development of new tests or selection of existing tests. Same as EDTL:6400.

SLA:6504 Second Language Program Management 3 s.h.
Preparation for supervising, administering foreign language programs at all levels; for precollegiate language teachers and graduate students. Same as EDTL:6402.

SLA:6505 Designing Materials for Second Language Instruction 3 s.h.
Critical perspective on creating and using media for second language learning and teaching; research on materials design, development of media. Prerequisites: EDTL:6483. Same as EDTL:6408.

SLA:6506 Second Language Classroom Learning 3 s.h.
Synthesis of empirical findings on children's and adults' learning of a second or foreign language; emphasis on theoretical underpinnings of approaches, methods, techniques in language teaching. Same as ASIA:6483, EDTL:6483.

SLA:6901 Second Language Acquisition Research and Theory 3 s.h.
Theories regarding success and failure in acquisition of second or subsequent languages; research, issues. Same as FREN:6901, ASIA:6901, SPAN:6901, JPN:6901.

SLA:6902 Second Language Acquisition Research and Theory II 3 s.h.
Continuation of SLA:6901. Prerequisites: SLA:6901. Same as ASIA:6903, SPAN:6902.

SLA:6920 Multimedia and Second Language Acquisition 3 s.h.
Foreign language multimedia in context of current second language acquisition theories and research; readings on interactivity, interface design, feedback, learner control; acquisition of vocabulary, grammar, and culture. Requirements: foreign language teaching methodology course. Same as FREN:6920, GRMN:6920, SPAN:6920.

SLA:6950 Topics in Second Language Acquisition: Speaking 3 s.h.
Theory, pedagogy, research, and assessment in second language speaking. Same as FREN:6950, SPAN:6950.

SLA:6955 Topics in Second Language Acquisition: Listening 3 s.h.
Theory, pedagogy, research, and assessment in second language listening. Same as ASIA:6955.

SLA:6965 Topics in Second Language Acquisition: Writing 3 s.h.
Theory, pedagogy, research, and assessment in second language writing. Taught in English. Same as RHET:6965, SPAN:6965.

SLA:7000 Internship arr.

SLA:7010 Practicum in CALL Software Development 1-4 s.h.
Supervised experience in an applied setting involving development of computer-assisted language learning (CALL) software. Prerequisites: SLA:6920. Requirements: faculty sponsor.

SLA:7015 Special Topics in Second Language Acquisition arr.

SLA:7020 Readings in Second Language Acquisition arr.

SLA:7025 Special Projects in Second Language Acquisition arr.


SLA:7401 Advanced Syntactic Theory 2-3 s.h.
Recent developments in syntax; comparison of theories, argumentation, and uses of data. Prerequisites: LING:6010. Same as LING:7010.
SLA:7402 Advanced Phonological Theory 2-3 s.h.
Current issues. Prerequisites: LING:6020. Same as LING:7020.

SLA:7404 Seminar: Problems in Linguistics 2-3 s.h.
Intensive study of theoretical and practical problems. Same as LING:7090.

SLA:7405 Teaching Chinese as a Second Language V 3 s.h.
Seminar on research design; for M.A. students planning to write a thesis or project, or graduate students seeking knowledge in designing qualitative or quantitative studies. Prerequisites: CHIN:7401 and PSQF:4143. Same as CHIN:7405.

SLA:7406 Teaching Chinese as a Second Language I 3 s.h.
Research, theory on acquisition of Chinese as a non-native language. Same as CHIN:7401.

SLA:7804 Teaching Chinese as a Second Language IV 3 s.h.
Overview of goals, concepts, principles, research, and issues in assessment and testing of Chinese as a second language. Same as CHIN:7404.