

Linguistics, BA

Linguistics as a discipline inquires into the fundamental nature of human language. The ability to learn and speak a language is unique to humans. Language is intrinsic to the human mind, as well as integral to human society. The study of linguistics at the undergraduate level teaches students how to analyze languages, which are highly structured in ways in which most people are not consciously aware.

Undergraduate courses in the linguistics major teach a vocabulary of concepts and notation for analyzing language and a process of analytical reasoning for applying the concepts to forms from specific languages. Students who major in linguistics achieve an informed awareness of language that has applications in many other fields, as well as preparation for continuing in linguistics and other fields that focus on language. The curriculum also provides an introduction to the kind of arguments used in scientific reasoning, using data and techniques that are perhaps more easily accessible to undergraduates than the kind used in laboratory sciences.

Depending on their vocational goals, students planning to major in linguistics should consider furthering their studies either through the MA in linguistics with a professional focus or through the PhD, or they should complete a second major. Appropriate companion fields include languages, anthropology, computer science, English, mathematics, philosophy, psychology, sociology, speech pathology, and elementary and secondary education.

Learning Outcomes

Students will have the ability to:

- identify generalizations in language data;
- apply theoretical concepts to the analysis of language;
- understand and use the scientific method;
- present a valid and sound argument; and
- identify the empirical shortfalls of a linguistic analysis and think creatively about alternative solutions.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in linguistics requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including 30 s.h. of work for the major. Students must maintain a grade-point average of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They must also complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core.

The major in linguistics prepares students to do basic language analysis in syntax-semantics (sentence patterns and their relation to meanings) and phonology (sound patterns). Elective courses in a variety of subspecialties enable students to tailor the program to their own interests.

The BA with a major in linguistics requires the following coursework.

Requirements	Hours
Major Courses	15
Electives	15

Major Courses

Students must complete no fewer than 15 s.h. of requirements for the major at the University of

Iowa, including LING:3005 Articulatory and Acoustic Phonetics, LING:3010 Syntactic Analysis, and LING:3020 Phonological Analysis.

The course LING:1003 English Grammar does not count toward the linguistics major.

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
LING:3001	Introduction to Linguistics	3
LING:3005	Articulatory and Acoustic Phonetics	3
LING:3010	Syntactic Analysis	3
LING:3020	Phonological Analysis	3
One of these:		
A course in language history, such as LING:3080		3
A course in an old language (classical Greek, Latin, Old English)		3

Electives

Electives are chosen in consultation with a faculty advisor (15 s.h.), bringing the total credit in the major to 30 s.h.

TESL Emphasis

As part of the major in linguistics, students may complete an emphasis in teaching English as a second language (TESL). The TESL emphasis can prepare students to teach English to non-native speakers abroad. It is also excellent preparation for graduate work in second language acquisition. TESL emphasis students complete the requirements for the linguistics major as listed, using the following coursework to partially satisfy the electives requirement.

Course #	Title	Hours
Both of these:		
LING:4040	The Structure of English	3
LING:4050	Methods of Teaching English as a Second Language	3
One of these:		
LING:3030	Child Language-Linguistic Perspectives	3
LING:3670	Language Processes	3
LING:4010	Undergraduate Practicum in Teaching English as a Second Language	3
LING:4090	Practical Phonetics	3

Combined Programs

BA/MA in Linguistics

Undergraduate linguistics majors who plan to earn a master's degree in linguistics have the opportunity to enroll in the Bachelor of Arts/Master of Arts in linguistics degree program. Students in the BA/MA program take selected graduate-level courses while they are still undergraduates and may count 13 s.h. of advanced coursework toward both degrees. Once students complete the requirements for the bachelor's degree, they are granted the BA, and they usually complete the MA one year later.

Students substitute some graduate-level coursework for typical undergraduate requirements. Instead of taking LING:3010 Syntactic Analysis to fulfill the BA syntax requirement, they take LING:5010 Introduction to Syntax, the

first course in the mandatory two-course syntax sequence for MA students. Instead of taking LING:3020 Phonological Analysis to fulfill the BA phonology requirement, they take LING:5020 Introduction to Phonology, the first in the graduate two-course phonology sequence.

To be admitted to the program, students must be working toward an undergraduate major in linguistics, must have completed at least 80 s.h. of undergraduate coursework (typically by the end of their fifth semester), and must have a grade-point average of at least 3.50.

Honors

Honors in the Major

Students majoring in linguistics have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. Departmental honors students must complete the required coursework for the major and must prepare an honors thesis, working in consultation with their academic advisor. Departmental honors students must maintain a University of Iowa grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.33 and a major GPA of at least 3.50.

University of Iowa Honors Program

In addition to honors in the major, students have opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program. Visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the university's honors program.

Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the linguistics major.

Career Advancement

Linguistics majors have found work teaching English as a second language overseas. Unique teaching opportunities worth exploring include those with the Peace Corps and Teach For America.

A number of companies, such as Microsoft, Xerox, Apple, Hewlett-Packard, and other high-tech firms, regularly hire employees with linguistics degrees. Opportunities also exist for government work, for example, as a special agent linguist for the FBI.

Some graduates choose to pursue advanced study in linguistics or other disciplines. Graduates with bachelor's degrees in linguistics may be admitted to certain graduate programs without additional academic preparation, such as anthropology, English literature, world language specializations, law, library science, philosophy, psychology, and sociology.

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.

Academic Plans

Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the university's Four-Year Graduation Plan. Courses in the major are those required to complete the major; they may be offered by departments other than the major department.

Before the fifth semester begins: LING:3001 Introduction to Linguistics and one additional linguistics course.

Before the seventh semester begins: three more courses in the major and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree.

Before the eighth semester begins: two more courses in the major.

During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining coursework in the major, all remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate.

Sample Plans of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

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Linguistics, BA

Course	Title	Hours
Academic Career		
Any Semester		
GE CLAS Core: Sustainability ^a		
Hours		0
First Year		
Fall		
LING:1010	Language and Society ^b	3
ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030	The Interpretation of Literature or Rhetoric: Writing and Communication	3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Understanding Cultural Perspectives ^c		3
Elective course ^d		3
Elective course ^d		2
CSI:1600	Success at Iowa	1
Hours		15-16
Spring		
LING:3001	Introduction to Linguistics	3
ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030	The Interpretation of Literature or Rhetoric: Writing and Communication	3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab ^c		4
GE CLAS Core: Values and Society ^c		3
Elective course ^d		2
Hours		15-16
Second Year		
Fall		
LING:3005	Articulatory and Acoustic Phonetics	3
GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning ^{c, e}		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course ^f		4 - 5
Elective course ^d		3
Elective course ^d		3
Hours		16-17
Spring		
LING:3010	Syntactic Analysis	3

GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues ^{c, g}	3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course ^f	4 - 5
Elective course ^d	3
Elective course ^d	3

Hours 16-17

Third Year

Fall

Major: old language course (classical Greek, Latin, Old English) or LING:3080 History of the English Language	3
Major: linguistics elective ^b	3
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives ^c	3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab ^c	3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Third Level Proficiency or elective course ^f	4 - 5

Hours 16-17

Spring

LING:3020 Phonological Analysis	3
Major: linguistics elective ^b	3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course ^f	4 - 5
Elective course ^d	3
Elective course ^d	3

Hours 16-17

Fourth Year

Fall

Major: linguistics elective ^b	3
Major: linguistics elective ^b	3
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts ^c	3
Elective course ^d	3
Elective course ^d	3

Hours 15

Spring

Major: linguistics elective ^b	3
Elective course ^d	3
Elective course ^d	3
Elective course ^d	3
Elective course ^d	3

Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall)

Hours 15

Hours 15

Total Hours 124-130

a Sustainability must be completed by choosing a course that has been approved for Sustainability AND for one of these General Education areas: Natural Sciences; Quantitative and Formal Reasoning; Social Sciences; Historical Perspectives; International and Global Issues; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; or Values and Society.

b Students complete linguistics electives (prefix LING) chosen in consultation with an advisor, bringing total credit in the major to 30 s.h. LING:1003 may not be used as an elective course.

c GE CLAS Core courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses.

d Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.

e Students may choose to take LING:1050 to fulfill this GE requirement.

f Students who have completed four levels of a single language or two levels of two different languages in high school or college have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Students who have completed three levels of a single language or may choose an approved World Language and Cultural Exploration course. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course. Contact your academic advisor or CLAS Undergraduate Programs Office with questions concerning the World Languages requirement.

g Students may choose to take LING:1040 to fulfill this GE requirement.

h Please see Academic Calendar, Office of the Registrar website for current degree application deadlines. Students should apply for a degree for the session in which all requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate timing, contact your academic advisor or Degree Services.

Teaching English as a Second Language Emphasis

Course Title Hours

Academic Career

Any Semester

GE CLAS Core: Sustainability ^a	
Hours	0

First Year

Fall

LING:1010 Language and Society ^b	3
RHET:1030 Rhetoric: Writing and Communication or ENGL:1200 or The Interpretation of Literature	3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Understanding Cultural Perspectives ^c	3
Elective course ^d	3
Elective course ^d	2
CSI:1600 Success at Iowa	1

Hours 15-16

Spring

LING:3001 Introduction to Linguistics	3
RHET:1030 Rhetoric: Writing and Communication or ENGL:1200 or The Interpretation of Literature	3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab ^c	4
GE CLAS Core: Values and Society ^c	3
Elective course ^d	2

Hours 15-16

Second Year

Fall

LING:3005 Articulatory and Acoustic Phonetics	3
GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning ^{c, e}	3

GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course ^f	4 - 5
Elective course ^d	3
Elective course ^d	3

Hours 16-17

Spring

LING:3010 Syntactic Analysis	3
GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues ^{c, g}	3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course ^f	4 - 5
Elective course ^d	3
Elective course ^d	3

Hours 16-17

Third Year

Fall

LING:4040 The Structure of English	3
Major: old language course (classical Greek, Latin, Old English) or LING:3080 History of the English Language	3
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives ^c	3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab ^c	3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Third Level Proficiency or elective course ^f	4 - 5

Hours 16-17

Spring

LING:3020 Phonological Analysis	3
LING:4050 Methods of Teaching English as a Second Language	3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course ^f	4 - 5
Elective course ^d	3
Elective course ^d	3

Hours 16-17

Fourth Year

Fall

Major: additional TESL emphasis requirement ^h	3
Major: linguistics elective ^b	3
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts ^c	3
Elective course ^d	3
Elective course ^d	3

Hours 15

Spring

Major: linguistics elective ^b	3
Elective course ^d	3
Elective course ^d	3
Elective course ^d	3
Elective course ^d	3

Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall)ⁱ

Hours 15

Total Hours 124-130

a Sustainability must be completed by choosing a course that has been approved for Sustainability AND for one of these General Education areas: Natural Sciences; Quantitative and Formal Reasoning; Social Sciences; Historical Perspectives; International and Global Issues; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; or Values and Society.

b Students complete linguistics electives (prefix LING) chosen in consultation with an advisor, bringing total credit in the major to 30 s.h. LING:1003 may not be used as an elective course.

c GE CLAS Core courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses.

d Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.

e Students may choose to take LING:1050 to fulfill this GE requirement.

f Students who have completed four levels of a single language or two levels of two different languages in high school or college have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Students who have completed three levels of a single language may complete a fourth-level course in the same language or may choose an approved World Language and Cultural Exploration course. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course. Contact your academic advisor or CLAS Undergraduate Programs Office with questions concerning the World Languages requirement.

g Students may choose to take LING:1040 to fulfill this GE requirement.

h Choose one of these: LING:3030, LING:3670, LING:4010, or LING:4090.

i Please see Academic Calendar, Office of the Registrar website for current degree application deadlines. Students should apply for a degree for the session in which all requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate timing, contact your academic advisor or Degree Services.