

LINGUISTICS

THE SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES

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DEGREES OFFERED: BA, MA, PHD

BA IN LINGUISTICS

The department offers both a major program in linguistics and a Certificate of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, which may be earned with or without a Linguistics major. For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements (Undergraduate Students section, pages 2–5). In addition, students must satisfy the distribution requirements and complete no fewer than 60 semester hours for a total of at least 120 semester hours.

Because human language is a multifaceted object of study, linguistics is, by its nature, an interdisciplinary field. The undergraduate major provides both an in-depth grounding in the field as well as cross-disciplinary breadth. Students beginning a linguistics major should take LING 200, which is a prerequisite for many upper-level courses in the department. All majors are required to take at least nine courses (27 semester hours) in linguistics at the 300 level or above, including five core courses as specified below (or otherwise listed in a particular concentration).

Core Courses

LING 300 *Linguistic Analysis*

LING 301 *Phonetics*

LING 304 *Introduction to Syntax* or LING 311 *Phonology*

LING 305 *Historical Linguistics*, LING 315 *Introduction to Semantics*, or LING 416 *Language Universals and Typology*

LING 415 *Sociolinguistics* or LING 490 *Discourse*

In addition, competency in one language other than English is required. This requirement may be satisfied by two courses in a foreign language at the 200 level or above or equivalent or at the 100 level or above for non-European languages. No more than one independent study course may be counted toward the major requirements.

Students may elect either a general linguistics major or one of five areas of concentration. Options in the list of core courses that are not used as core courses can count as electives for the general major or for concentrations.

The general linguistics major requires, in addition to five core courses and the language requirement, at least four advanced linguistics electives (300 level or above).

Majors who plan to pursue graduate training in linguistics are recommended to choose one of the areas of concentration below. These students also are urged to apply for admission to the Honors Program by the end of their junior year. The requirements for the various concentrations include additional courses as follows:

- **Language Concentration.** In addition to the basic language competency required of all majors, the language concentration requires an advanced level competency in a different language. This can be satisfied by two language courses taught in a language other than English at the 300 level or above, or equivalent. In addition to the five core courses, four advanced electives (300-level or above) also are required, which should be chosen in consultation with the linguistics major advisor. Courses in the structure or the history of the languages studied are especially appropriate.
- **Cognitive Science Concentration.** This concentration requires, in addition to the five core courses, four advanced linguistics courses focused on the cognitive aspects of human language, selected from LING 306 *Language, Thought, and Mind*, LING 309 *Psychology of Language*, and LING 315 *Introduction to Semantics*, LING 411 *Neurolinguistics*, and LING 405 *Discourse*; and two courses from cognitively-related disciplines (psychology, computer science, anthropology, philosophy) as approved by the linguistics major advisor.
- **Language, Culture, and Society Concentration.** For an in-depth grounding in a particular language and culture, this concentration requires two language courses at the 300 level or above. The language may be the same as that used to satisfy the basic language competency. Besides the five core courses, the student must take four courses selected from LING 313 *Language and Culture*, LING 406 *Cognitive Studies*, LING 415 *Sociolinguistics*, LING 419 *Bilingualism*, LING 421 *Sociolinguistics of Spanish*, LING 405 *Discourse*; and two courses in sociocultural studies outside the department approved by the linguistics major advisor. Examples of appropriate courses are ANTH 353 *Cultures of India*, ANTH 361 *Latin American Topics*, PSYC 202 *Introduction to Social Psychology*, HIST 250 *Traditional Chinese Culture*, and SOCI 386 *African Americans in Society*.
- **Second Language Acquisition Concentration.** Two language courses at the 300 level or above are required; the language may be the same as that used to satisfy the basic language competency. In addition to the five linguistics core courses, four additional courses are required, as follows: LING 340 *Theory and Methods of Teaching ESL*; one structure of language course (LING 394 *Structure of English* or other language equivalent such as LING 318 *Structure of French*, LING 370 *Structure of Japanese*, etc., as approved by the linguistics major advisor); and any two of the following: LING 309 *Psychology of Language*, LING 313 *Language and Culture*, LING 415 *Sociolinguistics*, LING 418 *The Acquisition of L2 Spanish*, LING 419 *Bilingualism*, LING 420 *Cognition and L2 Acquisition*, LING 422 *The Development of Tense and Aspect in Second Language Learning*, and LING 490 *Discourse*.
- **Speech Sciences Concentration.** This concentration is designed for those who would like to pursue career paths in fields related to speech, language, and hearing. Medical-oriented fields under this rubric include speech pathology and audiology; speech technology fields include speech recognition and speech synthesis. The five core courses required for this concentration are LING 300 *Linguistic Analysis*, LING 301 *Phonetics*, LING 311 *Phonology*, LING 415 *Sociolinguistics*, and LING 405 *Discourse*.

In addition to the core courses, students must take the two-unit seminar LING 396 *Professions in the Speech Sciences* and seven other upper-level courses as outlined below:

For students planning careers in medically-oriented fields, the seven additional courses must include LING 212 *Speech and Hearing Science*, LING 309 *Psychology of Language*, and LING 411 *Neurolinguistics*. Additionally, four courses are chosen as follows:

From linguistics one of the following: LING 428 *Laboratory Phonology*, LING 405 *Discourse*, LING 555 *Seminar in Phonetics*, or LING 409 *Special Topics*, when on a topic deemed appropriate by the speech sciences advisor.

From courses outside the department, three of the following:

EDUC 310 *Introduction to Special Education*

PSYC 321 *Developmental Psychology*

PSYC 339 *Statistical Methods*

PSYC 351 *Psychology of Perception*

BIOS 122 *Introduction to Biology*

KINE 301 *Human Physiology*

NEUR 511 *Integrative Neuroscience*

For students planning careers in speech technology, the seven additional courses will include four of the following: LING 304 *Introduction to Syntax*, LING 309 *Psychology of Language*, LING 428 *Laboratory Phonology*, LING 490 *Discourse*, LING 555 *Seminar in Phonetics*, or LING 409 *Special Topics*, when on a topic deemed appropriate by the speech sciences advisor. The remaining three requirements should be chosen from the following courses from outside the department:

ELEC 301 *Introduction to Signals*

ELEC 434 *Digital Signal Processing Lab*

MECH 373 *Acoustics*

COMP 200 *Elements of Computer Science* or

COMP 210 *Principles of Computing*

Further courses in the medical and the language technology areas will enhance students' preparation for these respective fields. Students contemplating careers in the speech sciences should consult with the speech sciences advisor and faculty in other relevant areas concerning course choice and career planning.

Honors Program. The Linguistics Honors Program provides selected undergraduate majors with the opportunity to conduct supervised research within their area of specialization in the major. Majors planning to pursue graduate training in linguistics or a related field are strongly encouraged to apply, as well as others who wish to add the experience of an intensive, individualized research project to their undergraduate education.

Application to the Honors Program should be made in person to the undergraduate major advisor before the end of the student's junior year. In support of the application, the student should prepare a brief description of the proposed project signed by the faculty member who is to supervise the work (the project supervisor). Acceptance into the program is by agreement of the linguistics faculty. On acceptance, the student will enroll in LING 482 *Honors Project*, with the supervising faculty member named as instructor.

The Honors Program framework is designed to facilitate the development of a mentoring relationship between student and faculty member. Students are thus expected to meet regularly with their project supervisor regarding their progress; the supervisor is responsible for providing research guidance and general support.

With the appropriate completion of major requirements and the honors project or thesis, the student will graduate with departmental honors.

PHD IN LINGUISTICS

The doctoral linguistics program at Rice emphasizes the study of language use and functional/cognitive approaches to linguistic theory. Rice faculty engage in a broad range of research specializations, all of which play an important role for in-depth graduate training. These interrelated areas include cognitive linguistics, language change, sociolinguistics, discourse analysis, language documentation and description, phonetics, laboratory phonology, and typology. Other faculty research interests include phonological theory, acoustic phonetics, speech sciences and technology, syntax, language revitalization, neurolinguistics, forensic linguistics, applied linguistics, and second language acquisition. The program only admits students planning to study for the PhD degree full time. Undergraduate preparation ideally should include language study and course work in linguistics or disciplines related to linguistics, such as anthropology, applied linguistics, speech and hearing sciences, psychology, sociology, or studies of particular languages, although an advanced degree is not required. A master's degree may be earned during progress to the PhD degree. Admission to the program is competitive. Students admitted to the program are generally offered financial support in the form of tuition scholarships and/or stipends for living expenses.

During the first year of residence, each entering student works closely with the graduate advisor to choose a plan of study congruent with the demands of the program and the student's interests. Emphasis throughout the program is on a close working relationship with faculty. Students should select areas of specialization that fit well with faculty research interests and activities.

Students will, in general, take five years to progress through the degree program. With no prior linguistics background, course work in the first three years will include:

- one problem-solving course in linguistic analysis (LING 500) to be taken in the first year of study
- two courses in the area of phonetics/phonology (LING 501 and 511)
- two courses in the area of syntactic/semantic analysis (LING 504 and LING 515 or LING 413)
- the two-course sequence in field methods (LING 407 and LING 408) to be taken normally in the second year of study
- two seminars in the department to be taken in the second and/or third year of study
- five additional elective courses, including two courses in other subfields of linguistics, for those in the five-year program; two additional electives for those in the four-year program

Prior preparation in linguistics will be assessed with regard to its equivalence to particular Rice courses. Graduate students are required to register for at least 12 hours credit per semester before advancing to candidacy. Students are expected to serve as teaching assistants for one course per year during the time they are receiving departmental support; such service is included in the normal course load.

Before advancing to candidacy, students must prepare two in-depth research papers. Each paper must represent a different area in the field of linguistics (as determined by the linguistics faculty); a separate committee of three members of the faculty reads and referees each paper. The committees are chosen by the student and approved by the student's faculty mentor. Students should submit their first paper to their committee by the end of their second year; they should submit their second by the end of their third year. In addition, one of the papers must be presented in the departmental colloquium, and it is expected that students submit their work for presentation at relevant professional meetings and publish their work in venues such as conference proceedings and/or journals when possible.

Finally, students must fulfill the departmental language requirement of competency in at least two languages other than English. See the department Web page for specific details.

In the course of the first three years in the program, the student should work toward establishing a close working relationship with various members of the faculty such that multiple faculty members are familiar with the student's work. During the first year, the graduate advisor serves as the student's advisor, but after the first year, the student selects a faculty mentor to provide more personalized advising in addition to the general advice of the graduate advisor. After the student's second paper is accepted, a dissertation advisor is selected and a doctoral committee is formed, by mutual agreement of the student and the anticipated committee members. During the fourth year, students present to their committee members a third research paper, called the dissertation prospectus, consisting of a substantial dissertation proposal and a comprehensive bibliography. This prospectus may take the form of a grant proposal to an external funding agency, particularly in the case of proposed fieldwork. Upon completion of the prospectus, students will submit to an oral qualifying exam to be administered by the dissertation committee. The exam will consist of two parts, a general exam demonstrating the student's knowledge of the field and a dissertation prospectus hearing. Upon completion of this qualifying examination, the student will advance to candidacy.

Following advancement to candidacy, the student works full time toward the completion of the dissertation. The student is expected to consult regularly with the committee members during the data collection and writing process. After a complete draft of the dissertation is submitted, the student defends the dissertation publicly. When the final version of the dissertation is accepted by the doctoral committee and filed with the university and all other requirements are certified as fulfilled, the degree is then granted.

For more in-depth information about the linguistics graduate program and faculty, consult the departmental Web page at www.linguistics.rice.edu.

See LING in the Courses of Instruction section.