

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

Code	Title	Credits
	Complete the fourth unit or higher in a foreign language, by course or by examination	0-16
Total Credits		0-16

LINGUISTICS

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

Code	Title	Credits
Required foundational courses:		
LINGUIS 101	Human Language	3
LINGUIS 310	Phonology	3
LINGUIS 330	Syntax	3
LINGUIS 322	Morphology	3
500-Level LINGUIS (Complete 1 of the following:)		3
LINGUIS 510	Phonological Theories	
LINGUIS 522	Advanced Morphology	
LINGUIS 530	Syntactic Theories	
LINGUIS 571	Structure of a Language	
Capstone course		3
LINGUIS 690	Capstone in Linguistics	
Electives (Complete 4 of the following:)		12
any LINGUIS course ¹		
AFRICAN 500	Language and Society in Africa	
AMER IND/ ANTHRO 314	Indians of North America	
AMER IND/ LINGUIS 371	Survey of North American Indian Languages	
ANTHRO/ LINGUIS 430	Language and Culture	
ASIAN 358	Language in Japanese Society	
ASIAN 432	Introduction to Chinese Linguistics	
ASIAN 434	Introduction to Japanese Linguistics	
ASIAN 631	History of the Chinese Language	
ASIAN 632	Studies in Chinese Linguistics	
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 Disorders, Assessment and Intervention
CS&D 503	Neural Mechanisms of Speech, Hearing and Language
COMP SCI 545	Natural Language and Computing
ENGL 314	Structure of English
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/ L I S 490	Field Methods and the Public Presentation of Folklore
FOLKLORE/ COM ARTS 522	Digital Storytelling for Social Media
ITALIAN 340	Structures of Italian
GERMAN 351	Introduction to German Linguistics
GERMAN 352	Topics in German Linguistics
GERMAN 650	History of the German Language
L I S 501	Introduction to Text Mining
L I S 640	Topics in Library and Information Studies (Tribal Libraries, Archives, & Museums topic only)
LINGUIS/ ANTHRO/ FOLKLORE/ INTL ST 211	Global Language Issues
LINGUIS 237	Language in Wisconsin
LINGUIS 303	Historical Linguistics
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 426	Field Methods I
LINGUIS 427	Field Methods II
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
PSYCH 521	The Structure of Human Thought: Concepts, Language and Culture
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 430	Spanish in the United States
SPANISH 446	Topics in Spanish Linguistics
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

Code	Title	Credits
AFRICAN 500	Language and Society in Africa	3-4
ASIAN 358	Language in Japanese Society	3
ASIAN 432	Introduction to Chinese Linguistics	3
ASIAN 434	Introduction to Japanese Linguistics	3
ASIAN 631	History of the Chinese Language	3
CS&D 201	Anatomy and Physiology of Speech Production	3
CS&D 210	Neural Basis of Communication	3
CS&D 303	Speech Acoustics and Perception	3
CS&D 503	Neural Mechanisms of Speech, Hearing and Language	3
COMP SCI 545	Natural Language and Computing	3
ENGL 314	Structure of English	3
ENGL 316	English Language Variation in the U.S.	3
ENGL 318	Second Language Acquisition	3
ENGL 414	Global Spread of English	3
ENGL 416	English in Society	3
ENGL 417	History of the English Language	3
ENGL 516	English Grammar in Use	3
ENGL 514	English Syntax	3
GERMAN 351	Introduction to German Linguistics	3-4
GERMAN 352	Topics in German Linguistics	3-4

GERMAN 650	History of the German Language	3
PHILOS 516	Language and Meaning	3
SOC 535	Talk and Social Interaction	3
SPANISH/ FRENCH/ITALIAN/ PORTUG 429	Introduction to the Romance Languages	3
SPANISH 630	Topics in Hispanic Linguistics	3

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/#advisingandcareerstext>).

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

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Communication A	3	Ethnic Studies	3
Quantitative Reasoning A	3	4th semester of Foreign Language (if needed) ^{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.}	3
3rd semester of Foreign Language (if needed)	3	LINGUIS 101	3

L&S Breadth^{Linguistics majors will have varying needs for L&S Breadth courses outside the major, depending on which Linguistics major electives they choose. Many Linguistics major electives are Humanities courses, but some are Social Science or Natural Sciences. Consult with your advisor to determine your individual needs.}

L&S Breadth	3	L&S Breadth	3
	15		15

Sophomore

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Quantitative Reasoning B	3	Communication B	3
LINGUIS 310	3	LINGUIS 322	3
LINGUIS 330	3	Linguistics major elective #1	3
L&S Breadth	3	I/A Math, Comp Sci, or Stat (if needed for B.S.)	3
Elective	3	L&S Breadth	3
	15		15

Junior

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Linguistics 500-level course (take any time in years 3-4)	3	Linguistics major elective #3	3
Linguistics major elective #2	3	L&S Breadth	3
L&S Breadth	3	Electives	9
Electives	6		
	15		15

Senior

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Linguistics major elective #4	3	LINGUIS 690	3
Electives	12	Electives	12
	15		15

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. A 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

Every L&S major opens a world of possibilities. SuccessWorks (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/>) at the College of Letters & Science helps students turn the academic skills learned in their major, certificates, and other coursework into fulfilling lives after graduation, whether that means jobs, public service, graduate school or other career pursuits.

In addition to providing basic support like resume reviews and interview practice, SuccessWorks offers ways to explore interests and build career skills from their very first semester/term at UW all the way through graduation and beyond.

Students can explore careers in one-on-one advising, try out different career paths, complete internships, prepare for the job search and/or graduate school applications, and connect with supportive alumni and even employers in the fields that inspire them.

- SuccessWorks (<https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/>)
- Set up a career advising appointment (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment/>)
- Enroll in a Career Course (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/career-courses/>) - a great idea for first- and second-year students:
 - INTER-LS 210 L&S Career Development: Taking Initiative (1 credit)
 - INTER-LS 215 Communicating About Careers (3 credits, fulfills Comm B General Education Requirement)
- Learn about internships and internship funding (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/finding-a-job-or-internship/>)
 - INTER-LS 260 Internship in the Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Activate your Handshake account (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/handshake/>) to apply for jobs and internships from 200,000+ employers recruiting UW-Madison students
- Learn about the impact SuccessWorks has on students' lives (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/about/mission/>)

PEOPLE

Please visit the Language Sciences website (<https://langsci.wisc.edu/faculty-academic-staff/>) for a complete list of our faculty and their areas of interest and expertise.