

LINGUISTICS, BS

Language Sciences is an interdisciplinary hub for research (<https://langsci.wisc.edu/research/>) and collaboration that offers 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.

The Linguistics major emphasizes strong foundational training in the core areas of theoretical linguistics. Students also have access to elective courses (<https://langsci.wisc.edu/electives-in-the-major/>) in a wide variety of interdisciplinary areas, including first and second language acquisition, psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, language and data science, historical linguistics, neurolinguistics, and indigenous language documentation and revitalization. Coursework is also available in the linguistics of specific languages or language families, such as American Sign Language (<https://langsci.wisc.edu/asl/>), Germanic, Spanish and Romance, Chinese, Japanese, and Native American linguistics.

HOW TO GET IN

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Requirements	Details
How to get in	No application required. All students who meet the requirements listed below are eligible to declare. For information on how to declare, visit Advising & Careers .
Courses required to get in	None
GPA requirements to get in	None
Credits required to get in	None
Other	None

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 (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatetext>) 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 SCIENCE (BS)

Students pursuing a Bachelor of Science 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 the Bachelor of Arts or the Bachelor of Science degree requirements.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Mathematics Complete two courses of 3+ credits at the Intermediate or Advanced level in MATH, COMP SCI, or STAT subjects. A maximum of one course in each of COMP SCI and STAT subjects counts toward this requirement.

Language Complete the third unit of a language other than English.

L&S Breadth Complete:

- 12 credits of Humanities, which must include at least 6 credits of Literature; and
- 12 credits of Social Science; and
- 12 credits of Natural Science, which must include 6 credits of Biological Science and 6 credits of Physical Science.

Liberal Arts and Science Coursework	Complete at least 108 credits.
Depth of Intermediate/Advanced Coursework	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	Complete both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 credits in residence, overall, and • 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit.
Quality of Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

CREDIT REQUIREMENT

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

Required Foundational Courses (4 courses)

Code	Title	Credits
LINGUIS 101	Human Language	3
LINGUIS 310	Phonology	3
LINGUIS 322	Morphology	3
LINGUIS 330	Syntax	3
Total Credits		12

Advanced Linguistics Coursework (2 courses)

Code	Title	Credits
One 500-level LINGUIS course (choose one of the following):		
LINGUIS 510	Phonological Theories	
LINGUIS 522	Advanced Morphology	
LINGUIS 530	Syntactic Theories	
LINGUIS 571	Structure of a Language	
Capstone course		
LINGUIS 690	Capstone in Linguistics	3
Total Credits		6

Electives in the Major (4 courses)

Code	Title	Credits
Complete 4 of the following:		
any LINGUIS course ¹		
AFRICAN 206	Introduction to African Linguistic Practices	
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	
ASIAN 633	Chinese Applied Linguistics	
CS&D 110	Introduction to Communicative Disorders	
CS&D 201	Anatomy and Physiology of Speech Production	
CS&D 202	Hearing Science	
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	
ED POL 205	Language and Social Inequality	
ED POL 595	Language Politics and Education	
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 412	Bad Grammar and Metalinguistic Awareness	
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
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 213	Topics in Sociolinguistics
LINGUIS 237	Language in Wisconsin
LINGUIS 303	Historical Linguistics
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 375	Sign Language Linguistics
LINGUIS 426	
LINGUIS 427	Field Methods II
LINGUIS/ ANTHRO 430	Language and Culture
PHILOS 516	Language and Meaning
PSYCH 406	Psychology of Perception
PSYCH 414	Cognitive Psychology
PSYCH 460	Child Development
PSYCH 521	
RELIG ST 201	Religion in/and Everyday Language
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 **12**

¹ Except LINGUIS 351, LINGUIS 352, LINGUIS 481, LINGUIS 482, LINGUIS 583, LINGUIS 681, LINGUIS 682.

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

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).

Electives from other subjects that are Upper-Level in the Major

Code	Title	Credits
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
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 (<https://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, 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.

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.

students have commitments (e.g., athletics, honors, research, student organizations, study abroad, work and volunteer experiences) that necessitate they adjust their plans accordingly. Informed students engage in their own unique Wisconsin Experience by consulting their academic advisors, Guide, DARS, and Course Search & Enroll for assistance making and adjusting their plan.

Freshman

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Communication A	3 Ethnic Studies	3
Quantitative Reasoning A	3 4th semester of Foreign Language (if needed) ²	3
3rd semester of Foreign Language (if needed)	3 LINGUIS 101	3
L&S Breadth ¹	3 I/A Math, Comp Sci, or Stat (if needed for BS)	3
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 BS)	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

¹ 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.

² 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.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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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

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This Four-Year Plan is only one way a student may complete an L&S degree with this major. Many factors can affect student degree planning, including placement scores, credit for transferred courses, credits earned by examination, and individual scholarly interests. In addition, many

ADVISING AND CAREERS

Deadline: January 15, apply through the WiSH portal.

ADVISING AND CAREERS

DECLARE OR CANCEL THIS MAJOR

Please follow the process described on the Language Sciences website (<https://langsci.wisc.edu/advising/>).

UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING

Contact the undergraduate advisor (<https://langsci.wisc.edu/advising/>) via email or using the Starfish app (<https://wisc.starfishsolutions.com/starfish-ops/instructor/serviceCatalog.html#/connection/10252/schedule>) 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.

CAREERS OF OUR ALUMNI

Read more about career options for students with the Linguistics major at our career page (<https://langsci.wisc.edu/careers/>).

SUCCESSWORKS

SuccessWorks (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/>) at the College of Letters & Science helps you turn the academic skills learned in your classes into a fulfilling life, guiding you every step of the way to securing jobs, internships, or admission to graduate school.

Through one-on-one career advising, events, and resources, you can explore career options, build valuable internship and research experience, and connect with supportive alumni and employers who open doors of opportunity.

- What you can do with your major (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/what-you-can-do-with-your-major/>) (Major Skills & Outcomes Sheets)
- Make a career advising appointment (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment/>)
- Learn about internships and internship funding (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/finding-a-job-or-internship/>)
- Try "Jobs, Internships, & How to Get Them," (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/canvas/>) an interactive guide in Canvas for enrolled UW-Madison students

RESOURCES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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LINGUISTICS OPPORTUNITY AWARD

The Linguistics Opportunity Award (<https://langsci.wisc.edu/scholarships/>) provides several scholarships to Linguistics students each year. Awardees are recognized for excellence in linguistics research and academic achievement, outreach and volunteering activities related to language science, and/or relevance of linguistics to their future plans.

The scholarship is funded through generous donations to the Linguistics Fund from alumni and other supporters of our program.