In order to be eligible for entrance to this major, a student must:

1. attain at least a C (2.00) cumulative grade-point average for all courses taken at the University; and

2. have at least third-semester classification (https://www.registrar.psu.edu/enrollment/semester-classification.cfm).

**Linguistics, B.A.**

**Begin Campus:** Any Penn State Campus

**End Campus:** University Park

**Program Description**

This major would allow students to receive a BA degree in Linguistics. Linguistics, which is the study of language as a structural, cognitive, historical, and cultural phenomenon, intersects with many different academic disciplines and career paths. Linguists study how people acquire their knowledge of a language (or multiple languages), how this knowledge interacts with other cognitive processes, and how best to model this knowledge. They study how to represent the structure of the various aspects of language (such as sounds or meaning), how to account for different linguistic patterns theoretically, and how the different components of language interact with each other. Since every language is spoken across multiple communities of practice, linguists also study variation in language based on region, ethnicity, gender, or any number of other social factors. In order to learn about as many of the world’s 7000 languages as possible, many linguists do fieldwork. This means that they work with speakers of little-studied languages to discover grammatical patterns and/or to document the languages. Other linguists search databases (or corpora) of spoken and written language to find patterns there. Yet others run carefully-designed experiments with children and adults in schools, in the field, and in university labs. Linguistics is the scientific study of language in all its complexity.

**What is Linguistics?**

Linguistics is the scientific study of language: how it is structured, how it is acquired, how it is used to convey information, and how it changes over time. While many linguists do speak more than one language—or at least know how to approach the study of other languages—linguistics is much more than this. Through courses and a wide variety of research opportunities, our students explore how languages are structured (sentence structure, sound patterns, meaning and more), and how those structures are processed by the human brain. Since language is integral to all societies, linguists are interested in how language affects culture, and how social factors (place of birth, social class, ethnicity, gender, age, etc.) impact language use. We approach language from a global perspective, investigating commonalities and differences across languages in order to increase our understanding of what makes human communication unique.

**You Might Like This Program If...**

- You enjoy studying languages, particularly finding and applying linguistic patterns.
- You are interested in communication, and learning more about the function of language(s) in society.
- You like to think about how the human brain functions, and want to know more about language and cognition.
- You like logic, computer programming, and/or abstract puzzles.

**Entrance to Major**

In order to be eligible for entrance to this major, a student must:

1. attain at least a C (2.00) cumulative grade-point average for all courses taken at the University; and

**Degree Requirements**

For the Bachelor of Arts degree in Linguistics, a minimum of 120 credits is required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts Degree</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>33-34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4 credits of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: 3-4 credits of GQ courses.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 of the 24 credits for Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements are included in the Requirements for the Major, General Education, or Electives and 0-12 credits are included in Electives if foreign language proficiency is demonstrated by examination.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Requirements for the Major**

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LING 100</td>
<td>Foundations of Linguistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 402</td>
<td>Syntax I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 404</td>
<td>Phonology I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 449</td>
<td>Semantics I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prescribed Courses:</strong> Require a grade of C or better</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 200</td>
<td>or appropriate statistics course</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select one of the following:</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 405</td>
<td>Introduction to Historical Linguistics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 448</td>
<td>Sociolinguistics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APLNG 200</td>
<td>Introduction to Language, Culture, and Social Interaction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select one of the following:</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FR 316</td>
<td>French Linguistics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FR 417</td>
<td>French Phonology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FR 418</td>
<td>French Syntax</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FR 419</td>
<td>French Semantics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GER 412</td>
<td>Contrastive Analysis of Modern German and English</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GER 430</td>
<td>History of the German Language</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LATIN 450W</td>
<td>History of Latin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Additional Courses:</strong> Require a grade of C or better</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

READ SENATE POLICY 37-30: ENTRANCE TO AND CHANGES IN MAJOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY (https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/37-00-entrance-to-a-college-or-major/)
Linguistics, B.A.

LING 493  Field Methods
SPAN 314  Spanish Sounds
SPAN 315N Spanish and Spanish-speakers in the U.S.
SPAN 316  Building Words and Sentences in Spanish
SPAN 418  The Evolution of Spanish
Select 6 additional credits in Linguistics at the 400 level (list kept in department)  6
Select 6 additional credits from Linguistics courses and/or approved related fields  6

1 A grade of C or better per course is required for teacher certification.

General Education
Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)
  • Quantification (GQ): 6 credits
  • Writing and Speaking (GWS): 9 credits

Breadth in the Knowledge Domains (Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)
  • Arts (GA): 3 credits
  • Health and Wellness (GHW): 3 credits
  • Humanities (GH): 3 credits
  • Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS): 3 credits
  • Natural Sciences (GN): 3 credits

Integrative Studies
  • Inter-Domain Courses (Inter-Domain): 6 credits

Exploration
  • GN, may be completed with Inter-Domain courses: 3 credits
  • GA, GH, GN, GS, Inter-Domain courses. This may include 3 credits of World Language course work beyond the 12th credit level or the requirements for the student’s degree program, whichever is higher: 6 credits

University Degree Requirements
First Year Engagement
All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement
6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements
  • United States Cultures: 3 credits
  • International Cultures: 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum
3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits
A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work
Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition
The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#83-80)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

B.A. Degree Requirements
Foreign Language (0-12 credits): Student must attain 12th credit level of proficiency in one foreign language. See the Placement Policy for Penn State Foreign Language Courses (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/advising-planning-degree-program/course-placements/placement-policy-world-language-courses/).

B.A. Fields (9 credits): Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Arts, Foreign Languages, Natural Sciences, Quantification (may not be taken in the area of the student’s primary major; foreign language credits in this category must be in a second foreign language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the first language)

Other Cultures (0-3 credits): Select 3 credits from approved list. Students may count courses in this category in order to meet other major, minor, elective, or General Education requirements, except for the General Education US/IL requirement.

Program Learning Objectives
  • Analytical Ability: Students will be able to find and describe patterns in language data using methodologies common in any subfield of linguistics
  • Communication: Linguistics students will be able to communicate their knowledge and understanding efficiently and clearly
• **Content Knowledge**: Students will be able to explain and use major concepts, theories, and empirical findings within the field of linguistics

• **Creativity**: Students are able to apply their knowledge of linguistic theory to describe elements of the grammar at least one non-English language

**Academic Advising**

The objectives of the university's academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee’s unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/)

**University Park**

**Liberal Arts Academic Advising**

814-865-2545

Use the Liberal Arts Meet the Academic Advisers web page (https://la.psu.edu/student-services/academic-advising/meet-the-academic-advisers/) to see the contact information for the specific adviser(s) of this program

**Suggested Academic Plan**

The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2023-24 academic year. To access previous years' suggested academic plans, please visit the archiving (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive/) to view the appropriate Undergraduate Bulletin edition (Note: the archive only contains suggested academic plans beginning with the 2018-19 edition of the Undergraduate Bulletin).

**Linguistics, B.A. at University Park Campus and Commonwealth Campuses**

The course series listed below provides only one of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an Academic Requirements or What If report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

**First Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 15, 30H, 137H, CAS 137H, or ESL 15 (GWS)‡</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>CAS 100, CAS 100A, CAS 100B, CAS 100C, CAS 138T, or ENGL 138T (GWS)‡</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 100 (IL/US)*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education Course (GQ)‡</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>World Language Level 1</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>World Language Level 2</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Second Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LING 404‡</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>LING 402‡</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>STAT 200 (GQ)‡</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>BA Field Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Language Level 3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>BA Field Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Third Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LING 449</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Non-English Linguistics Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 202‡</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>BA Field Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>BA Other Cultures Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fourth Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any LING 4XX Course*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Any LING 4XX Course*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related Area Course*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Related Area Course*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course (GHW)</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>General Education Course (GHW)</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Credits 120**

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major
† Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education
# Course is an Entrance to Major requirement
‡† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

**University Requirements and General Education Notes:**

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy Cultural Diversity Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ), Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS) and Integrative Studies (Inter-domain) requirements. N or Q (Honors) is the suffix at the end of a course number used to help identify an Inter-domain course, but the inter-domain attribute is used to fill audit requirements. Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of ‘C’ or better.

All incoming Schreyer Honors College first-year students at University Park will take ENGL 137H/CAS 137H in the fall semester and
ENGL 138T/CAS 138T in the spring semester. These courses carry the
GWS designation and replace both ENGL 30H and CAS 100. Each course
is 3 credits.

Bachelor of Arts Requirements:

Bachelor of Arts students must take 9 credits in Bachelor of Arts
(B.A.) Fields (Humanities; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Arts; World
Languages [2nd language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency
in the 1st]; Natural Sciences; Quantification). The B.A. Fields courses
may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major. See your
adviser and the Degree Requirements section (https://bulletins.psu.edu/
undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/) of this
Bulletin.

Bachelor of Arts students must take 3 credits in Other Cultures.
See your adviser and the full list of courses approved as Other Cultures
courses (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/
course-lists/ba-other-cultures/).

Career Paths

A linguistics major can help students in a variety of career paths. The
critical thinking and language analysis skills gained by our students
provide good preparation for careers in information science and
technology (especially when combined with computer science courses),
education (especially language teaching), speech pathology, or audiology.
Linguistics also provides good preparation for legal studies, law
enforcement and related careers, as well as fields requiring precise use
of language, such as advertising, publishing, or journalism. Students
interested in international business or global studies would also benefit
from studying linguistics.

Careers

Courses in linguistics provide students the opportunity to practice and
hone skills such as analytical reasoning, critical thinking, formulating
hypotheses and argumentation, so linguistics students can easily
pursue a variety of different career paths. The skills gained by our
students provide good preparation for careers in information science and
technology, education (especially language teaching), speech pathology,
or audiology. Linguistics also provides good preparation for legal studies, law
enforcement and related careers, as well as fields requiring precise use
of language, such as advertising, publishing, or journalism. Students
interested in international business or global studies would also benefit
from studying linguistics.

Information Science and Technology

The analytical tools taught in linguistics have many parallels to the tools
needed for programming and related IT skills. In addition, there are many
job opportunities relating to helping computers understand language or
using computers to analyze language.

Language Teaching

Students who study linguistics are uniquely positioned to understand
language structures, particularly grammar and pronunciation. These
skills transfer very well into the language classroom, whether teaching
English as a Foreign Language, or helping English speakers learn another
language.

Advertising and Publishing

The ability to understand language at a structural level, particularly
regarding meaning, is useful in pursuing careers that require the creative
use of language.

Law Enforcement and Intelligence Agencies

Agencies value employees with backgrounds in fields like linguistics
that teach crucial analytical skills. Additionally, linguistics students gain
skills that can help with learning languages quickly and training others in
language learning, which is a crucial skill in a globalized world.

Legal and Forensic Consultation

An understanding of dialects, language variation, and speech analysis
are often crucial in making legal arguments, and forensic linguistics is an
important aspect of the field.

Speech Pathology/Speech and Hearing Science

Training in linguistics is a key to understanding speech, and thus
majoring or minoring in linguistics is a useful complement to study in the
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

Government Services and NGO Work

Course work in sociolinguistics and language variation are attractive
qualifications for public sector jobs, and crucial for development projects
around the world.

Contact

University Park
LINGUISTICS PROGRAM
247 Burrowes Building
University Park, PA 16802
814-865-6583
jml34@psu.edu