

LINGUISTICS, MINOR

Requirements for a minor may be completed at any campus location offering the specified courses for the minor. Students may not change from a campus that offers their major to a campus that does not offer their major for the purpose of completing a minor.

Program Description

This minor is designed for students in any major of the University who wish to supplement their knowledge in the area of linguistics. The minor consists of 18 credits. A certificate is awarded to students who complete the requirements of the minor.

For more information on the Linguistics Program, visit our website: <http://linguistics.la.psu.edu>.

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 grammatical patterns.
- You are interested in communication, and learning more about the function of language(s) in society and how language structure and use varies depending on social context.
- You like to think about how the human brain functions, and want to know more about language and cognition, language learning (by children or adults!), or how the brain handles multiple languages.
- You like logic, computer programming, and/or abstract puzzles.