DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS
BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY
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Linguistics MA Program 2018-19

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the Linguistics MA program is closely related to the department's definition of linguistics, which is the scientific study of language. The program aims to prepare the student to become a language professional, go on to a PhD program, or go into the world as a competent practitioner of the skills expected of a linguist. The linguistics curriculum develops such skills as analyzing language in its sound, structure, and meaning. Students can choose to focus on four emphases within the program. These are: 1. Corpus Linguistics/Linguistics Computing, 2. Language Acquisition, 3. Language and Society, 4. General Linguistics.

Admission and Entry:

- Application deadline is **January 15th**, with entry in the fall. Apply online at http://www.byu.edu/gradstudies.
- GRE exam is required.
- A minimum TOEFL score of 580 (paper), 237 (computer), or 90 (internet based – iBT with minimum scores of 23 in Speaking and 22 in Listening, Reading, and Writing) is required prior to admission for nonnative English speakers, http://international.byu.edu.

Prerequisites:

- Ling 401 Introduction to Linguistics (Modern) or equivalent (contact department, linguistics@byu.edu, if you need to take this the summer term before you begin the program).
- Competency in two languages other than English (one at the 300 level and one at the 200 level).
    > **Note: This requirement can be completed along with regular course work, during the duration of your MA program, but it does not count towards the overall 33 cr. program requirement.**
- If indicated by Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI), non-native English speakers will need to take ESL 301 Advanced Academic English, ESL 302 Advanced English Pronunciation, or ESL 305 Applied Grammar. OPI should be completed before or during the first semester.
- Non-native English speakers must take Ling 501 during their first winter semester, or test out of it. You will be contacted, during your first fall semester, on how this requirement may be waived.
    > **Note: This requirement will be met after admittance into the program.**

Requirements for Degree (total credit hours: 33)

Required courses vary depending on whether or not student has a Linguistics BA.

Required courses--with Ling BA: (6 hours)
  Topics in Linguistics (3 hours): Ling 600
  Research core (3 hours): Ling 604
Electives (21 hours): depending on course availability and consultation with faculty advisors.
Thesis (6 hours)
Examination: oral defense of thesis

Required courses—without Ling BA: (12 hours)
  Linguistic Foundations (9 hours): Ling 601, 602, 603
  Research core (3 hours): Ling 604
Electives (15 hours): depending on course availability and consultation with faculty advisors.
Thesis (6 hours)
Examination: oral defense of thesis

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Ling 600	**Topics and Readings in Modern Linguistics** (3 cr.) (prereq: Ling 401 or equivalent) Develops graduate level understandings and analytical skills in linguistics and its subfields.
Ling 601	**Linguistic Foundations: Sounds of Language** (3 cr.) (prereq: Ling 401 or equivalent) Principles of phonetics and phonology with emphases on analytical procedures and applications to real world language problems.
Ling 602	**Linguistic Foundations: Structures of Language** (3 cr.) (prereq: Ling 401 or equivalent) Principles of morphology and syntax with emphases on analytical procedures and applications to real world language problems.
Ling 603	**Linguistic Foundations**: **Meanings in Language** (3 cr.) (prereq: Ling 401 or equivalent) Principles of semantics and pragmatics with emphases on analytical procedures and applications to real world language problems.
Ling 604	**Research Design in Linguistics** (3 cr.) Overview of, and experience in, research approaches and methodologies in linguistics and applied linguistics with a concentration on Linguistics Department faculty research interests.
Ling 605	**Professional Development in Linguistics** (3 cr.) Prepares students for careers in linguistics and related fields by focusing on essential skills development such as effective writing and presentation strategies, and by applying
Ling 545	**Psycholinguistics** (3 cr.) How the mind interprets, stores, retrieves, and produces language. Anatomical structures and physiological processes of the brain dealing with language.
Ling 550	**Sociolinguistics** (3 cr.) Research and theory in anthropological linguistics and sociolinguistics.
Ling 551	**Anthropological Linguistics** (3 cr.) Language in culture and society: development, typology, and description.
Ling 558	**Historical-Comparative Linguistics** (3 cr.) (prereq: Ling 450 or equivalent) Theory and method of language change via comparing daughter languages and reconstructing ancestral languages. Language universals and typology.
Ling 580R	**Problems in Linguistics and Applied Linguistics** (1-3 cr.) Advanced research in language acquisition, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, linguistics field study, applied linguistics.
Ling 581	**Natural Language Processing** (3 cr.) (Prerequisite: instructor's consent.) Upper-division linguistics/CHum students with less programming experience may enroll with instructor's consent. Intensive overview of natural language processing including computational techniques, hands-on experience with linguistics technologies and corpora, language modeling approaches, and readings from current research.
Ling 590R	**Readings in Linguistics** (1-3 cr.) (Prerequisite: instructor's consent.) Individual study of current linguistic literature. Occasional discussion sessions with instructor and other class members. Pass/fail grade only.
Ling 599R	**Academic Internship: Linguistics** (1-9 cr.) On the job experience under faculty supervision, with department approval.
Ling 615	**Analogical Modeling of Language** (3 cr.) Non-declarative approaches to language description; work within the connectionist or neural net framework; analogical or exemplar modeling.
Ling 640	**Language Acquisition** (3 cr.) First- and second-language acquisition viewed in light of psycholinguistics and sociolinguistics.
Ling 651	**Advanced Phonology** (3 cr.) Study of sound systems of natural languages using current methods and theories
Ling 652	**Advanced Morphology** (3 cr.) Morphological theory and applications including the lexicon, inflectional and derivational processes, compounding, valency, lexical conceptual and argument structure, morphophonology and morphosyntax, learnability, and modeling.
Ling 653	**Advanced Syntax** (3 cr.) Theory of generative grammar, emphasizing its history, the competition between different versions of generative theory, and their recent extensions.
Ling 654	**Advanced Semantics** (3 cr.) Semantic theory and applications including quantification, modality, aspect, presupposition, contexts, focus, polarity, and pragmatics.
Ling 699R	**Master's Thesis** (1-9 cr.)
ELang 522	**Language Policy and Planning in English Language Contexts** (3 cr.) Theories and practices of governing entities as they formulate policies relating to the status and codification of the English Language
ELang 528	**Varieties of English** (3 cr.) Regional and social variation in English, especially standard and nonstandard national and world Englishes, including English-based pidgins and creoles.
ELang 529	**Structure of Modern English** (3 cr.) English syntax through modern grammars; theories underlying those grammars.
ELang 548	**Old English 2** (3 cr.) Additional reading in Old English, emphasizing sound changes, dialects, and textual production.
Ling 585	**Research in Corpus Linguistcs** (3 cr.) Design and use of corpora for research with a focus on variation in lanuage (by register, dialect, time, author, etc.).

Other Graduate ELang courses (500-600 level) approved by your Linguistics MA committee can also be used as electives.