



Linguistics MA Program

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 non-native English speakers, <http://international.byu.edu>.

Prerequisites:

- Ling 401 Introduction to Linguistics (Modern) or equivalent (contact 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 the Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI), which should be completed before or during the first semester, non-native English speakers may need to take advanced ESL classes in consultation with the Ling MA coordinator.
- 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: (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. Students can choose to focus on one of the following areas of emphasis:

1. Linguistics computing, 2. Language acquisition, 3. Language and society, or 4. General linguistics.

Thesis (6 hours)

Examination: oral defense of thesis

(An additional course, Ling 401, is required for non-Ling BA students only.)

**For more information, contact Bill Eggington, Ling MA coordinator:
william_eggington@byu.edu, work phone 801-422-3483, cell phone 801-615-0751.**

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 linguistic knowledge to real-world problem-solving.
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 Linguistics (3 cr.) Design and use of corpora for research with a focus on variation in language (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.