

LINGUISTICS, BACHELOR OF ARTS

College of Letters & Science

Linguistics is the systematic study of human language. It focuses on theories of language structure, variation, and use, description of contemporary languages, and the examination of language change through time. Because of the pervasive influence of language in our everyday lives, work in linguistics interacts in important ways with studies carried out in many other fields, including psychology, anthropology, neuroscience, philosophy, computer science, sociology, literature, language teaching, communication and education.

The Program

An introductory lower division course provides students with basic concepts and some of the methods needed to analyze language in a systematic way. Upper division courses probe more deeply into specific aspects of language structure, language use, and the relationship of language to other realms of human activity.

Career Alternatives

Majors in linguistics find practical outlets for their linguistic training in a variety of fields: the computer science industry (software development); teaching English as a second language; foreign language teaching; elementary and secondary level bilingual-bicultural programs; language-oriented missionary work; bilingual-bicultural curriculum development (e.g., for publishing houses); legal work; speech therapy; lexicography (preparation of dictionaries). All of these types of employment share an interest in persons skilled in the analysis of language, spoken and/or written. Linguistics equips students with just such skills.

Grading Recommendation

Though not required, it is recommended that all courses offered in satisfaction of the Linguistics major be taken for a letter grade.

Faculty Advisor

Contact the Department of Linguistics (<http://linguistics.ucdavis.edu>).

Honors & Honors Program

The honors program consists of 6 units of 194H credit normally taken in the fall and winter quarters of the senior year. Completion of the program is a prerequisite for High or Highest Honors at graduation. Specific eligibility criteria may be obtained from the major advisor. For general information regarding graduation with honors and Dean's Honors Lists, please see Academic Information.

Graduate Study

The Department of Linguistics offers a program of study leading to M.A. and Ph.D. degrees. More detailed information may be obtained from the Graduate Advisor or from the Chairperson of the Linguistics Department.

Graduate Advisor

Contact the Department of Linguistics (<http://linguistics.ucdavis.edu>).

The major requirements below are in addition to meeting University Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/university-degree-requirements/>) & College Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/>

college-degree-requirements/); unless otherwise noted. The minimum number of units required for the Linguistics Bachelor of Arts is 48.

Code	Title	Units
Preparatory Subject Matter		
LIN 001 or LIN 001Y	Introduction to Linguistics	4
Foreign language, one course beyond the 15-unit requirement of the College of Letters & Science in the same language used to fulfill the college requirement. (https://lettersandscience.ucdavis.edu/degree-requirements/)		0-20
Preparatory Subject Matter Subtotal		4-24
Depth Subject Matter		
LIN 103A or LIN 103AV	Linguistic Analysis I: Phonetics, Phonology, Morphology	4
LIN 103B	Linguistic Analysis II: Morphology, Syntax, Semantics	4
LIN 111	Introduction to Phonological Theory	4
LIN 131	Introduction to Syntactic Theory	4
Choose three:		12
LIN 111	Introduction to Phonological Theory	
LIN 112	Phonetics	
LIN 121	Morphology	
LIN 127	Text Processing & Corpus Linguistics	
LIN 131	Introduction to Syntactic Theory	
LIN 141	Semantics	
LIN 150	Languages of the World	
LIN 151	Historical Linguistics	
LIN 152	Language Universals & Typology	
Choose one:		4
LIN 160	American Voices	
LIN 163	Language, Gender, & Society	
LIN 165	Introduction to Applied Linguistics	
LIN 166	The Spanish Language in the United States	
Choose one:		4
LIN 171	Introduction to Psycholinguistics	
LIN/EDU 173	Language Development	
LIN 175	Biological Basis of Language	
LIN 177	Computational Linguistics	
LIN 180	Second Language Learning & Teaching	
LIN 182	Multilingualism	
Choose at least 8 upper division units:		8
Any LIN upper division course not used to fulfill area above or one of the approved courses below. (https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/lin/)		
AAS 156	Language & Identity in Africa & the African Diaspora	
ANT 117	The Ethnographic & Literary Imagination	
ANT 120	Language & Culture	
EDU 151	History & Approaches to Multilingualism in K-12 Contexts	
ENL 105	History of the English Language	

ENL/LIN/UWP 106	English Grammar	
FRE 109	French Phonetics	
FRE 160	Linguistic Study of French-Language in Context	
FRE 161	Linguistic Study of French: Form & Meaning	
FRE 162	History of the French Language	
GER 105	The Modern German Language	
HDE 101/PSC 141	Cognitive Development (Discontinued for summer 2026) **	
JPN 151	Japanese Linguistics	
NAS 107	Learning Native American Languages	
PHI 137A	Philosophy of Language: Theory of Reference	
PHI 137B	Philosophy of Language: Truth & Meaning	
PHI 137C	Philosophy of Language: Semantics & Pragmatics	
PHI 156	Contemporary Analytic Philosophy	
PSC 132	Language & Cognition	
SPA 111N	The Structure of Spanish: Sounds & Words	
SPA 112N	The Structure of Spanish: Words & Phrases	
SPA 113	Spanish Pronunciation	
SPA 114N	Contrastive Analysis of English & Spanish	
SPA 115	History of the Spanish Language	
SPA 115S	History of the Spanish Language (Discontinued for summer 2026) **	
SPA 116	Applied Spanish Linguistics	
or SPA 116V	Applied Spanish Linguistics	
SPA 117	Teaching Spanish as a Native Tongue in the U.S.: Praxis & Theory	
or SPA 117V	Teaching Spanish as a Native Tongue in the U.S.: Praxis & Theory	
SPA 118	Topics in Spanish Linguistics	
Depth Subject Matter Subtotal		44
Total Units		48-68

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Course(s) discontinued; see your advisor for course options.