

"The marvelous thing is that even in studying Linguistics, we find that the universe as a whole is patterned, ordered, and to some degree intelligible to us." - Kenneth L. Pike

## What IS Linguistics?

Linguistics is the scientific study of language and its structure, including the study of language patterns, rules of sentence structure, speech sounds and transmission, how we hear words, and the different interpretations of the meanings we attach to those words. It describes how different languages build sounds and words and sentences.

Studies in Linguistics can be combined with related fields.



The interdisciplinary nature of Linguistics makes it an exciting and ever-evolving field, making contact with researchers from Anthropology to Zoology and everything in between.

# Northwestern | Department of Linguistics



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# UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES IN LINGUISTICS

Northwestern | Linguistics

## What Can I Do With a Linguistics Degree?

Linguistics majors pursue careers in many different fields such as:

- **Acting and Acting Training**
- **Advertising**
- **Communication Consulting**
- **Computer Industry**
- **Editorial Work**
- **Educational Testing**
- **Foreign Service**
- **Foreign Language Teaching**
- **Government**
- **Journalism**
- **Language Documentation**
- **Legal Practice**
- **Lexicography**
- **Marketing**
- **Medicine**
- **Teaching English as a Second Language**
- **Technical Writing**
- **Translation and Interpreting**

Some students use the BA in Linguistics to prepare for professional schools, or clinical programs in:

- **Business**
- **Communication Sciences and Disorders**
- **Law**
- **Library/Information Science**
- **Medicine**
- **Speech Pathology**

Other students continue their study of Linguistics in MA and PhD programs, either in Linguistics or related fields like:

- **Anthropology**
- **Artificial Intelligence**
- **Bilingual Education**
- **Cognitive Science**
- **Computer Science**
- **Music**
- **Philosophy**
- **Psychology**

### Requirements for a Linguistics Major

#### ➤ **3 introductory courses:**

- 250: Sound Patterns in Human Languages
- 260: Formal Analysis of Words and Sentences
- 270: Meaning

#### ➤ **9 advanced courses, of which 3 must be:**

- 350: Fundamentals of Laboratory Phonology
- 360: Fundamentals of Syntax
- 370: Fundamentals of Meaning
- 33x: any 1 methods course

Only one of these courses may be an Independent Study (LING399); certain exceptions (e.g., CogSci210) may be granted in consultation with the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

#### ➤ **4 related courses**

(Check the Department website for a list of related courses in other departments)

### Requirements for a Linguistics Minor

#### ➤ **3 introductory courses:**

- 250: Sound Patterns in Human Languages
- 260: Formal Analysis of Words and Sentences
- 270: Meaning

#### ➤ **5 advanced courses, of which 2 must be:**

- 350: Fundamentals of Laboratory Phonology
- 360: Fundamentals of Syntax
- 370: Fundamentals of Meaning
- 33x: any Methods course

### Linguistics Courses

#### **Psycholinguistics Courses**

210	Language and the Brain (CogSci)
311	Child Language
315	Experimental Approaches to Word Form and Lexical Processing
316	Experimental Syntax
317	Experimental Pragmatics
321	Bilingualism

#### **Sociolinguistics Courses**

220	Language and Society
221	Language and Prejudice
222	Language, Politics, and Identity
320	Sociolinguistics
324	Linguistics and English Composition
327	Language and Sexuality

#### **Methods Courses**

330	Research Methods in Linguistics
332	Linguistic Field Methods
334	Introduction to Computational Linguistics
336	Words, Networks and the Internet

#### **Comparative Linguistics Courses**

243	Language Evolution
340	Historical Linguistics
341	Language Typology
342	Structure of Various Languages

#### **Sound Structure Courses**

250	Sound Patterns in Human Language
350	Fundamentals of Laboratory Phonology
450-1,2	Laboratory Phonology
451	Proseminar in Sound Structure
452	Seminar in Sound Structure

#### **Syntax/Morphology Courses**

260	Formal Analysis of Words and Sentences
360	Fundamentals of Syntax
361	Morphology
460-1,2	Syntactic Analysis
462	Seminar in Syntax

#### **Meaning Courses**

270	Meaning
370	Fundamentals of Meaning
371	Reference
372	Pragmatics
373	Implicature
470-1,2	Semantic Analysis
471	Proseminar in Semantics
472	Seminar in Semantics
473	Seminar in Pragmatics

#### **Miscellaneous**

300	Topics in Linguistics
398	Undergraduate Seminar in Linguistics
399	Independent Study
400	Seminar in Linguistics
499	Independent Study