Linguistics

Degree Offered

• Master of Arts

Nature of the Program

The M.A. program in Linguistics includes 30 hours of core and elective courses and is designed to provide students with a well rounded perspective on the field. Students also have the opportunity to engage in research projects that reflect their interests within a given subject and that serve to complement and augment the information imparted through in-class activities. The program may be completed either by taking comprehensive exams, or by writing and defending a Master's thesis. The program is intended both for students seeking preparation for doctoral studies in linguistics or a related field, as well as for those seeking a terminal professional degree with a goal of pursuing careers in language related fields.

Available Financial Aid

Graduate teaching assistantships are available to students admitted to any of our three M.A. programs for teaching different languages, including Arabic, Chinese, French, German, English as a Second Language, Italian, Japanese, Russian, and Spanish. The assistantships carry full tuition remission and a nine-month stipend (August–May); there are also limited opportunities to teach during the university’s summer session.

In addition to the graduate teaching assistantships, a limited number of meritorious tuition waiver awards are sometimes available from the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences through the department. These awards are based on academic performance and financial need.

Graduate Teaching Assistants

The department values the contributions made by our graduate assistants and strives to help them become effective teachers. Graduate assistants normally teach two courses (six class-hours per week). They work under the direct supervision of the course coordinator in the language area, but they are fully responsible for their courses (including evaluating their students’ work). The coordinator will conduct orientations and organizational meetings with graduate assistants and provide course materials (such as syllabi). In addition, the coordinator will periodically observe individual classes in order to assess the graduate assistants' performance and to provide encouragement and assistance.

All graduate teaching assistants teaching Spanish must register for LANG 421, LANG 521, or LANG 621, depending on the language they are teaching. In addition, graduate assistants must register for LANG 690 each semester of employment. Students who have already received an M.A. in World Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics from West Virginia University may be ineligible for an assistantship in this department.

Additional Points of Information

ADVISING

All graduate students will have a primary advisor (to be assigned by the chairperson). Students should consult with their advisor when they register for courses or add and/or drop courses. In addition, the Associate Chair of Graduate Studies is available to answer questions regarding the degree program, requirements, comprehensive examinations, graduation, etc. Students may consult with the chairperson regarding departmental matters.

STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Qualified teaching assistants in French may compete for the Marguerite Eynard McBride Award, which funds an academic year in France. Year-long exchange programs for graduate students are also in place for France and Spain. The department also sponsors study abroad during the summers in Canada, China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Mexico, Spain, and Taiwan that graduate students may participate in if they meet the program’s requirements. Grants are available on a competitive basis through the department, the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, and through the Office of International Programs to assist students who wish to study abroad.

FACULTY

CHAIR

• Amy S. Thompson - Ph.D. (Michigan State University)
  Applied Linguistics

ASSOCIATE CHAIRS

• Sandra Stjepanovi# - Ph.D. (University of Connecticut)
  Graduate Studies, Linguistics, Syntax, Psycholinguistics, Semantics
• Pablo Garcia Loaeza - Ph.D. (Indiana University Bloomington)
  Undergraduate Studies, Spanish Language, Latin American Colonial Literature

PROFESSORS

• Daniel Ferreras - Ph.D. (Michigan State University)
  French and Spanish, Comparative Romance Literature, French/Spanish 19th and 20th Century Novel, Theory of the Fantastic

• Valérie Lastinger - Ph.D. (University of Georgia)
  French, 18th-century French Literature, French Women Writers

• Janice Spleth - Ph.D. (Rice University)
  French and Francophone Literature and Culture

• Amy S. Thompson - Ph.D. (Michigan State University)
  Applied Linguistics

• Ángel Tuninetti - Ph.D. (Washington University)
  Latin American Literature and Culture

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

• Manal AlNatour - Ph.D. (University of Arkansas)
  Arabic Studies, Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies

• Susan Braidi - Ph.D. (University of Delaware)
  ESL/Linguistics, Applied Linguistics, Second Language Acquisition, Syntax

• Cynthia Chalupa - Ph.D. (Ohio State University)
  Fin de Siècle German and Austrian Literature, Poetry, Foreign Language Pedagogy

• Tania de Miguel Magro - Ph.D. (The State University of New York, Stony Brook)
  Spanish Literature and Culture, Spanish Language, Spanish Golden Age Literature

• Pablo Garcia Loaeza - Ph.D. (Indiana University Bloomington)
  Spanish Language, Latin American Colonial Literature

• Deborah Janson - Ph.D. (University of California)
  German, 18th-21st-century German Literature, Enlightenment, Romanticism, GDR and Post-Wende Literature, Ecofeminism

• Xiangying Jiang - Ph.D. (Northern Arizona University)
  ESL/Linguistics, Second Language Acquisition

• Twyla Meding - Ph.D. (University of Virginia)
  French, 16th and 17th-century French Literature, The Pastoral Novel

• Sandra Stjepanović - Ph.D. (University of Connecticut)
  Linguistics, Syntax, Psycholinguistics, Semantics

• Ching-Hsuan Wu - Ph.D. (The Ohio State University)
  Chinese, Applied Linguistics

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

• Sandra Dixon - Ph.D. (Brown University)
  Spanish, Spanish American Literature, Brazilian Literature

• Jonah Katz - Ph.D. (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
  Phonetics, Phonology, Theoretocal and Experimental Linguistics, Music Cognition

• William Justin Morgan - Ph.D. (University of Alabama)
  Spanish, Applied Linguistics

• Sergio Robles-Puente - Ph.D. (University of Southern California)
  Spanish Phonetics, Phonology, and Sociolinguistics

• Nicole Tracy-Ventura - Ph.D. (Northern Arizona University)
  Applied Linguistics

• Sonia Zarco-Real - Ph.D. (University of Connecticut)
  Peninsular literature and Hispanic transatlantic studies

TEACHING PROFESSORS

• Lisa Di Bartolomeo - Ph.D. (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)
  Russian and Polish Language and Literature, Slavic Folklore, Culture and Cinema, Science Fiction, the Holocaust
TEACHING ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS
• Annastella Vester - Ph.D. (University of California, Los Angeles)
  Italian, Contemporary Italian Literature, 18th and 19th-century Italian

TEACHING ASSISTANT PROFESSORS
• Heiko ter Haseborg - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)
  Education, Applied Linguistics
• Rafael Osuna Montanez - Ph.D. (University of Connecticut)
  Spanish

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSORS
• Ramona Kreis - Ph.D. (University of South Florida)
  Applied Linguistics
• Yilin Liao-Carlson - Ph.D. (Purdue University)
  Chinese Studies

PROFESSORS EMERITI
• Michael Lastinger - Ph.D. (University of Georgia)
  French, 19th Century French Literature, Critical Theory
• María Amores - Ph.D. (Penn State University)
  Spanish, Foreign Language Acquisition
• Ahmed Fakhri - Ph.D. (University of Michigan)
  ESL/Linguistics, Second Language Acquisition, Applied Linguistics, Discourse Analysis
• Pablo González - Ph.D. (University Complutense de Madrid)
  Spanish American Literature and Culture
• Kathleen McNerney - Ph.D. (Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico)
  Spanish, Catalan Language and Literature, Spanish Literature and Culture, Women Writers

VISITING INSTRUCTOR
• Hilary Woodrum - M.A. (West Virginia University)
  French

INSTRUCTORS
• Yumiko Adachi - M.A. (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
  Japanese Linguistics
• Tracy Dingess - M.A. (West Virginia University)
  ESL
• Livia Cascao - M.A. (West Virginia University)
  ESL
• Beatrice Malvisi - M.A. (University of Pittsburgh)
  Italian
• Lindsei Pereira da Silva - M.A. (West Virginia University)
  ESL
• Kristen Williams - M.A. (West Virginia University)
  ESL

LECTURERS
• Lisa Dunn - M.A. (West Virginia University)
  Spanish
• Veronica Evans - M.A. (West Virginia University)
  Classics, Italian
• Irina Manukova - M.S. (Georgian Politechnial University)
  Russian

Admissions
To be admitted to any of our three M.A. programs, a student is expected to have an undergraduate degree in the desired area of study (or an acceptable related-area) with a GPA of 3.0 (overall as well as within the major). The student must complete the university admission application, including payment
of the required fee and completion of the supplemental departmental application form, which requires a 300-word statement of purpose, an extended writing sample in the language of the area to which the student is applying, and three letters of recommendation. International students must also submit an acceptable TOEFL or IELTS score. For more information about the admission requirements and application guidelines, please visit our website (http://worldlang.wvu.edu/graduate_programs/graduate/graduate_programs_how_to_apply/).

Degree Requirements

• Credit Hours: Students are required to complete a minimum of 30 credit hours at the graduate level. No more than 12 hours of coursework done at the 400 level will be counted toward the degree.

• Grade Point Average: Students must earn a minimum overall GPA of 2.75, and a GPA of 3.00 in coursework applied to their graduate program.

• Graduation Requirement: In addition to completing 30 hours of coursework, students must pass comprehensive examinations or successfully defend a thesis.
  • Comprehensive Examinations: The comprehensive examinations are intended to evaluate students’ knowledge, including the ability to synthesize and evaluate ideas in their area of emphasis. The examinations are based on standardized reading lists and coursework.
  • Thesis: A student may request to write a thesis and prepare an oral defense. For more information about this option, see the document “Thesis Guidelines (https://worldlanguages.wvu.edu/files/d/433511fa-1ec2-448a-8e79-2980e865ed8a/thesis_guidelines-rev10-17.pdf).”

• Benchmarks:
  • All students should complete a plan of study by the end of their first semester.
  • Students will be evaluated in writing at the end of the Spring term on a yearly basis. If adequate progress is not made, students may be placed on probation or dismissed from the program.
  • Students who choose the thesis option should typically defend their thesis topic by the midterm of their second semester, have their thesis proposal approved by the end of the second semester, and submit and defend their thesis during the semester in which they intend to graduate. The student’s thesis committee may revise these deadlines.
  • Students who choose the examination option should complete the examinations during the semester in which they intend to graduate.

• Additional Requirements:
  • No more than three hours of independent study will apply to the degree (unless approved by the departmental chairperson).
  • Students must satisfy the foreign language requirement by the time they graduate:
    • Students in the major in Linguistics who are native speakers of English must demonstrate proficiency in a second language prior to graduation by completing one language course of level 204 or above, with a grade of B or better, or by taking the departmental placement examination in one language and placing above the 204-level.
    • International students whose native language is not English are considered to have satisfied this requirement by virtue of their TOEFL or IELTS score.

• Learning Outcomes:
  • Demonstrate an understanding of cognitive foundations of language.
  • Explain the concepts of syntactic and phonological theory.
  • Analyze relevant linguistic data by using the tools of syntactic theory and argue for the appropriateness of the analyses.
  • Provide informed descriptions of phonetic and phonological data.
  • Apply phonetic, phonological, and syntactic knowledge to the study of language in use.
  • Describe languages in terms of their structural characteristics.
  • Communicate the results of research in the field in oral and written formats.

M.A. Major in Linguistics Curriculum

CORE COURSES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIBY 615</td>
<td>Methods of Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 411</td>
<td>Phonology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 412</td>
<td>Syntax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 611</td>
<td>Advanced Phonology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 612</td>
<td>Advanced Syntax</td>
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Select 3 courses from the following list:

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LING 402</td>
<td>Structure of Modern French</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 501</td>
<td>Structure of Spanish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 513</td>
<td>History of Linguistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 514</td>
<td>Sociolinguistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 516</td>
<td>Discourse Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 616</td>
<td>Language Typology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 614</td>
<td>Psycholinguistics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LING 620  
**Spanish Prosody**

**ELECTIVES:**  
Select 2 courses from the following list:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ESL 630</td>
<td>American Culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANG 421</td>
<td>The Teaching of Foreign Languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANG 422</td>
<td>Second Language Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANG 521</td>
<td>English as a Second Language Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANG 621</td>
<td>Teaching Foreign Language in College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANG 622</td>
<td>English as a Second Language Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANG 624</td>
<td>Second Language Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANG 625</td>
<td>Language Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANG 626</td>
<td>Literacy in a Second Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 511</td>
<td>English as a Second Language Linguistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 512</td>
<td>Applied Linguistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 613</td>
<td>English as a Second Language Phonetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 697</td>
<td>Research (up to 6 credits)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours**  
30

* No more than six hours of thesis credits (697/698) can be applied to the degree.

**Degree Progress**

**M.A. IN LINGUISTICS**

- All students should complete a plan of study by the end of their first semester.
- Students will be evaluated in writing at the end of the Spring term on a yearly basis. If adequate progress is not made, students may be placed on probation or dismissed from the program.
- Students who choose the thesis option should typically defend their thesis topic by the midterm of their second semester, have their thesis proposal approved by the end of the second semester, and submit and defend their thesis during the semester in which they intend to graduate. The student’s thesis committee may revise these deadlines.
- Students who choose the examination option should complete the examinations during the semester in which they intend to graduate.

**Major Learning Outcomes**

**LINGUISTICS**

Upon completion of the M.A. in Linguistics, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of cognitive foundations of language.
- Explain the concepts of syntactic and phonological theory.
- Analyze relevant linguistic data by using the tools of syntactic theory and argue for the appropriateness of the analyses.
- Provide informed descriptions of phonetic and phonological data.
- Apply phonetic, phonological, and syntactic knowledge to the study of language in use.
- Describe languages in terms of their structural characteristics.
- Communicate the results of research in the field in oral and written formats.