

# Linguistics

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## Degree Offered

- Master of Arts
- Graduate Certificate

## 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 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 university 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 must register for one of our language teaching methods classes (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 and through the Office of International Programs to assist students who wish to study abroad.

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## FACULTY

### CHAIR

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

### ASSOCIATE CHAIR

- Sandra Stjepanovi# - Ph.D. (University of Connecticut)

## PROFESSORS

- Lisa DiBartolomeo - Ph.D. (University of Pittsburgh)  
Russian and Polish Language and Literature, Slavic Folklore, Culture and Cinema, Science Fiction, the Holocaust
- Daniel Ferreras - Ph.D. (Michigan State University)  
Regular Graduate Faculty; 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
- Amy S. Thompson - Ph.D. (Michigan State University)  
Regular Graduate Faculty; Applied Linguistics

## ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

- Manal AlNatour - Ph.D. (University of Arkansas)  
Regular Graduate Faculty; Arabic Studies, Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies
- Susan Braid - Ph.D. (University of Delaware)  
Regular Graduate Faculty; ESL/Linguistics, Applied Linguistics, Second Language Acquisition, Syntax
- Heiko ter Haseborg - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)  
Education, Applied Linguistics
- Yilin Liao-Carlson - Ph.D. (Purdue University)  
Chinese Studies
- Cynthia Chalupa - Ph.D. (Ohio State University)  
Regular Graduate Faculty; Fin de Siècle German and Austrian Literature, Poetry, Foreign Language Pedagogy
- Deborah Janson - Ph.D. (University of California Los Angeles)
- Jonah Katz - Ph.D. (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)  
Regular Graduate Faculty; Phonetics, Phonology, Theoretical and Experimental Linguistics, Music Cognition
- Tania de Miguel Magro - Ph.D. (The State University of New York, Stony Brook)  
Regular Graduate Faculty; Spanish Literature and Culture, Spanish Language, Spanish Golden Age Literature
- Sergio Robles Puente - Ph.D. (University of Southern California)  
Regular Graduate Faculty; Spanish Phonetics, Phonology, and Sociolinguistics
- Sandra Stjepanović - Ph.D. (University of Connecticut)  
Regular Graduate Faculty; Linguistics, Syntax, Psycholinguistics, Semantics
- Nicole Tracy-Ventura - Ph.D. (University of Alabama)  
Regular Graduate Faculty; Spanish, Applied Linguistics
- Anastella Vester - Ph.D. (University of California, Los Angeles)  
Italian, Contemporary Italian Literature, 18th and 19th-century Italian
- Ching-Hsuan Wu - Ph.D. (The Ohio State University)  
Regular Graduate Faculty; Chinese, Applied Linguistics

## ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

- William Justin Morgan - Ph.D. (University of Alabama)  
Spanish, Applied Linguistics
- Rafael Osuna Montanez - Ph.D. (University of Connecticut)  
XXth–XXIst century Spanish essay, novel, graphic novel, short story, play, film and poetry with an emphasis on the Spanish Civil War, the Dictatorship, and Post-Franco Spain 1975-2017.
- Marie Paillard - Ph.D. (Pennsylvania State University)  
20th and 21st century Francophone literatures from the Caribbean and the Indian Ocean
- Adrienne Washington - Ph.D. (University of Pittsburgh)  
Regular Graduate Faculty; Linguistics
- Sonia Zarco-Real - Ph.D. (University of Connecticut)  
Peninsular literature and Hispanic transatlantic studies

## TEACHING INSTRUCTORS

- Yumiko Adachi - M.A. (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
- Livia Cascao - M.A. (West Virginia University)
- Lindsey DeBolt - M.A. (West Virginia University)
- Tracy Dingess - M.A. (West Virginia University)

- Arleana Mago - M.A. (Mississippi State University)
- Beatrice Malvisi - M.A. (University of Pittsburgh)
- Lindsei Pereira da Silva - M.A. (West Virginia University)
- Jennifer Simpson - M.A. (West Virginia University)
- Kristen Williams - M.A. (West Virginia University)

## PROFESSORS EMERITI

- María Amores - Ph.D. (Pennsylvania State University)
- Sandra Dixon - Ph.D. (Brown University)
- Ahmed Fakhri - Ph.D. (University of Michigan)
- Pablo González - Ph.D. (University Complutense de Madrid)
- Michael Lastinger - Ph.D. (University of Georgia)
- Kathleen McNerney - Ph.D. (Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico)

## Admissions

The Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics offers both an M.A. program and a graduate certificate in Linguistics. The GRE is not required for admission to this 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 in preparation for Ph.D. programs or jobs.
- The Graduate Certificate in Linguistics is a 12-hour program that provides students with foundational knowledge in the science of human language. While the Certificate integrates well with our M.A. program in TESOL, it also opens the door for students in other fields that intersect with the study of Linguistics (e.g., English, Speech Pathology, Education, Computer Science, and others) to enhance their graduate studies.

## M.A. IN LINGUISTICS

In addition to the university requirements for admission (<http://catalog.wvu.edu/graduate/graduateeducationatwestvirginiauniversity/#classificationstext>), applicants to the master's program must have a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 (cumulative as well as within the major) and should possess an undergraduate degree in Linguistics (or an acceptable related area). Admission to our M.A. program is competitive.

## GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN LINGUISTICS

To be considered for admission to the Certificate, applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 in their most recent degree program, as well as evidence of an introductory Linguistics course on their transcript.

## GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

Students applying for fall admission to the M.A. program may be considered for a teaching assistantship. Interested applicants should fill out the WLLL TA Application (<https://worldlanguages.wvu.edu/files/d/fff42445-0e06-43d1-9c73-b479347025ad/wlll-ta-application-with-personal-statement.pdf>) and upload it, along with supporting documents, as part of the personal statement in the graduate application. Applicants will first be considered for admission to the program. If admitted, they will be considered for an assistantship. Applicants who wish to be considered for an assistantship should submit a completed application by February 1<sup>st</sup>.

We normally do not award assistantships to start in a Spring semester. Students who are admitted in the spring semester and would like to be considered for an assistantship to start the following Fall, can fill out the WLLL TA application and email it to the Associate Chair of Graduate Studies by February 1<sup>st</sup>.

### List of Admission Requirements for both programs:

- See the steps to apply for admissions and access the application here (<https://graduateadmissions.wvu.edu/how-to-apply/>).
- All prior transcripts.
- Three letters of recommendation from academic references for the M.A., one letter for the certificate. Letters of recommendation should be from a professor who knows and can comment on the applicant's academic potential.
- Resume.
- A personal statement of 300-word discussing the applicant's academic background, past accomplishments, reasons for selecting this program and how it relates to future goals.
- An academic writing sample in English. The sample may be a paper previously submitted for an academic course. In general, it should be 10-15 pages, although longer submissions are also welcome.

**International Applicants:**

- See the steps to apply for admissions and access the application here (<https://graduateadmissions.wvu.edu/how-to-apply/>).
- International applicants should view additional requirements here (<http://catalog.wvu.edu/graduate/graduateeducationatwestvirginiauniversity/#internationaltext>) and here (<https://graduateadmissions.wvu.edu/information-for/international-students/>).
- Language proficiency is required in order to hold a graduate teaching assistantship. See here (<https://elli.wvu.edu/testing-resources/english-proficiency-gtas/>).

**Application Deadlines:**

- For admission to the fall semester, completed applications must be received by February 1<sup>st</sup>.
- For admission to the spring semester, completed applications must be received by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

For questions, please contact: [WorldLangInfo@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:WorldLangInfo@mail.wvu.edu)

Certain application requirements may be waived based on a preliminary review of an application by the program.

**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS 2024-2025**

The Admission Requirements above will be the same for the 2024-2025 Academic Year.

M.A. Major Code: 14D6

Certificate Code: CG60

**For specific information on the following program, please see the link to the right:**

- Linguistics, M.A.

**Curriculum Requirements**

- **Capstone Requirement:** The university requires the successful completion of a Capstone course. French majors complete FRCH 496.
- **Writing and Communication Skills Requirement:** The French Bachelor of Arts is a **SpeakWrite Certified Program™**. SpeakWrite Certified programs incorporate and develop students' written, verbal, visual, and mediated communication skills across the curriculum.
- **Calculation of GPA in the Major:** French majors must achieve a minimum grade point average of 2.25 for graduation and in French Major Requirements.
- **Residency Requirements:** Students completing a major in world languages/world language studies at WVU must fulfill a residency requirement by completing at least fifteen credit hours on campus in their language/area of study, excluding courses numbered 100, 101, 102, 200, 203, 204, 493, and courses obtained through credit by examination.
- **Benchmark Expectations:** For details, go to the French Degree Progress tab (<http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/eberlycollegeofartsandsciences/french/#degreeprogress>).

Code	Title	Hours
	University Requirements	63
	ECAS B.A. Requirements	12
	French Major Requirements	33
	Linguistics Degree Requirements	30
	Total Hours	138

**University Requirements**

Code	Title	Hours
	General Education Foundations (GEF) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 (31-37 Credits)	
	Outstanding GEF Requirements 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8	33
LANG 191	First-Year Seminar	1
	General Electives	29
	Total Hours	63

**ECAS Bachelor of Arts Requirements**

Code	Title	Hours
	Fine Arts Requirement	
	Foreign Language	12

## Global Studies and Diversity Requirement

Total Hours	12
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## French Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Core Courses</b>		<b>6</b>
Select two of the following courses:		
FRCH 301	Language Through Civilization	
FRCH 302	Language Through Culture	
FRCH 303	Structure and Communication	
FRCH 304	Advanced Readings	
<b>Electives</b>		<b>24</b>
Select 8 classes from the list below:		
1-Additional upper-division French classes (may include alternate courses from above).		
2-Up to 6 credits in FLIT 230-239, 330-339, FCLT 230-239, 330-339, LING 311, or a course in a directly related area approved by the department.		
<b>Capstone Requirement</b>		<b>3</b>
FRCH 496	Senior Thesis	
Total Hours		33

## Linguistics 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](https://worldlanguages.wvu.edu/files/d/433511fa-1ec2-448a-8e79-2980e865ed8a/thesis_guidelines-rev10-17.pdf))."
- **Benchmarks:** For details, go to the Linguistics Degree Progress tab (p. 6)
- **Additional Requirements:**
  - 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.

Code	Title	Hours
<b>CORE COURSES:</b>		<b>24</b>
LING 411	Phonology	
LING 412	Syntax	
LING 514	Sociolinguistics	
LING 517	Cognitive Foundations of Language	
LING 610	Methods of Research	
LING 611	Advanced Phonology	
LING 612	Advanced Syntax	
Select one of the following:		
LING 402	Structure of Modern French	
LING 501	Structure of Spanish	
LING 513	History of Linguistics	
LING 516	Discourse Analysis	
LING 616	Language Typology	

LING 614	Psycholinguistics	
LING 620	Spanish Prosody	
<b>ELECTIVES:</b>		<b>6</b>
Select 2 courses from the following list:		
ESL 630	American Culture	
LANG 421	The Teaching of Foreign Languages	
LANG 422	Second Language Reading	
LANG 521	English as a Second Language Methods	
LANG 621	Teaching Foreign Language in College	
LANG 622	English as a Second Language Theory	
LANG 624	Second Language Writing	
LANG 625	Language Assessment	
LANG 626	Literacy in a Second Language	
LING 511	English as a Second Language Linguistics	
LING 512	Applied Linguistics	
LING 613	English as a Second Language Phonetics	
LING 697	Research (up to 6 credits) *	
Total Hours		30

For specific information on the following program, please see the link to the right:

- Linguistics, Graduate Certificate

## 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.