

ABOUT THE MAJOR

Linguistics is the scientific study of language, one of the defining aspects of being human. As a linguistics major at the U, you will examine how we learn language, how we use it in our daily lives, and how it is structured in our minds. Linguistics informs a wide variety of human concerns. You will have the opportunity to apply your studies to real world issues. Such issues include: education, foreign-language teaching as well as non-standard dialects in the classroom, the use of technology through speech recognition and artificial intelligence, health care practices through diagnosis and treatment of language disorders, and/or incorporation of the interpretation of legal language and the significance of linguistic evidence. You will also explore language's place in a diverse society, the role of multilingualism and protections for endangered languages and minority dialects.

In addition to gaining a foundational understanding of the scientific approach to language, you can personalize your major based on your interests, passions, and future goals. You can take courses like computational linguistics, language and social justice, language acquisition by children or adults, psycholinguistics, second-language teaching, and advanced courses in syntax, phonology, and semantics. The linguistics program at the U also offers a certification in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) and provides a variety of opportunities for hands-on research experience with faculty members. In learning to analyze languages, you will also develop reasoning, critical thinking, analysis, and written and verbal communication skills that prepare you to be highly competitive in today's job market.




LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Gain competency in research techniques commonly used in linguistics.
- Work with linguistic data to create a rigorous analysis.
- Communicate your own analyses of linguistic data to a broader audience.
- Use the study of linguistics to understand language, people, and society as a whole.
- Engage in a meaningful learning experience that prepares you for your long-term goals.

PLAN & PREPARE

At the U, we plan for our students to have an Exceptional Educational Experience identified by four broad categories we call the Learning Framework: Community, Knowledge & Skills, Transformation, and Impact. This major map will help you envision, explore, design, and plan your personalized Exceptional Educational Experience with the Learning Framework at the core. In addition to assisting you in planning your coursework and navigating the requirements of your major, this map will help you incorporate other kinds of experiences to expand your knowledge, support your development, and prepare you for the future you want.

GET STARTED TODAY

-  Schedule an appointment with an advisor advising.utah.edu
-  Visit ugs.utah.edu
-  Learn more about the Learning Framework ugs.utah.edu/learning-framework



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LING

LINGUISTICS

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES



Community



Knowledge & Skills



Transformation



Impact

"Linguistics gave me a solid foundation upon which I could build a tailor-fit education in language and communication, as well as a scientific edge that helps me stand out among others in my chosen career field. Since graduating I have been able to write and create marketing materials for several different scientific institutions, and I couldn't be happier!"

*>> Heather Burkhart
Communications Coordinator, U of U Health, Dermatology*

LINGUISTICS

Use this map to explore, envision, design, and plan your Exceptional Educational Experience.

GETTING STARTED

MAKING PROGRESS

FINISHING UP

WHERE CAN I GO AFTER GRADUATION?

COURSES

- Take LING 1069 – Bad Words & Taboo Terms & LING 1200 – Intro Study Language
- Discuss plans & explore interests with your advisor
- Familiarize yourself with the Degree Dashboard system
- Begin secondary language courses to complete the B.A. language requirement

- Take LING 4010 – Intro Phonetics and Phonology & LING 4020 – Intro to Syntax
- Determine your interests: TESOL, Computational Linguistics, Theoretical Linguistics, Second Language Acquisition, etc.

- Choose minor courses that complement Linguistics such as Computer Science, Criminology, or language courses offered in the Department of World Languages & Cultures
- Follow up with your advisor

- Participate in the Senior Capstone & TESOL Practicum
- Take courses on the structure of other language families
- Meet with your advisor to make sure you're completing all requirements

- Accent Coaching
- Advertising
- Analysis for the Foreign Service, FBI, CIA, or Department Of Defense
- Artificial Intelligence

COMMUNITY

- Join LCU²
- Attend department & campus events; check out the linguistics website calendar & the events page at utah.edu
- Explore the Linguist List website & the LSA³ site to see what other linguists are doing

- Join a research community such as the Speech Lab
- Organize NACLO⁴
- Go on an Alternative Spring or Fall Break

- Explore learning abroad opportunities
- Get to know faculty outside of the classroom by attending colloquium events & office hours

- Pursue leadership within LCU
- Organize UUSCIL⁵
- Present at UUSCIL or URS⁶

- Audiology
- Civil Service
- College/University Faculty
- Computer Programming
- Data Analysis
- Dialectology

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

- Explore areas of linguistics in core courses & 3000-level electives
- Apply for scholarships
- Meet with a Career Coach in the CPDC⁷
- Learn about resources at the library like the Writing Center

- Concentrate on your favorite area of linguistics in advanced courses
- Gain practical experience through internships & volunteer opportunities; watch for the Linguistics/TESOL opportunity email

- Attend UUSCIL and URS
- Broaden your skill set by speaking with faculty & taking courses that complement linguistics & your interests

- Complete a research project through UROP⁸ or URS
- Consider an independent study to refine your learning & broaden your knowledge base

- Editing
- Foreign Language Teaching
- Forensic Linguistics
- Journalism
- Language Documentation & Preservation
- Language Testing

TRANSFORMATION

- Try an area of linguistics you've never heard of
- Attend Plazafest & explore student clubs
- Explore minors to complement linguistics
- Find out what interests you by speaking with other students, faculty, and alumni

- Take on a leadership position in a club or start your own
- Attend department events: LCU, Colloquia, UUSCIL
- Decide what path you want to take for your major

- Speak to your academic advisor to find Gen Ed courses that connect linguistics to other disciplines
- Explore the A-Z index on utah.edu to find new opportunities & experiences

- Apply what you've learned with an Honor's thesis, Capstone, UROP, or other research activities
- Present linguistics to a school group or lead a NACLO practice session

- Law
- Legal Consulting
- Lexicography
- Librarian
- Medical Consulting & Research

IMPACT

- Attend LCU, colloquia, & career path events to learn how you can make a difference with linguistics
- Learn about careers pursued by linguistics alumni
- Meet with your advisor to map out an impact plan
- Learn about the TESOL certificate

- Find volunteer opportunities that connect personal & academic goals - visit the Bennion Center or take a CEL⁹ course to explore options

- Go on an Alternative Spring or Fall Break
- Join LSA student groups/opportunities
- Take TESOL courses

- Use UROP & the Senior Capstone to translate what you've learned into meaningful projects that extend beyond your undergraduate career
- Present at UUSCIL, URS, & other conferences

- Natural Language Processing
- Speech Pathology
- Speech Recognition & Synthesis
- Teacher Education
- Teaching English as a Second Language

CAREER

- Meet with a Career Coach
- Attend department colloquia & connect with faculty/presenters
- Start researching opportunities provided by the LSA

- Review & edit your resume
- Attend career events on campus

- Discuss career options & paths with faculty
- Speak to alumni about their career paths
- Read the department newsletter

- Polish your resume & tailor it to jobs of interest
- Practice mock interviews
- Talk to faculty to get letters of recommendation & application strategies

- Technical Writing
- Text Analysis
- Translation/Interpreting
- Writing

¹Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages ²Linguistics Club for Undergrads ³Linguistic Society of America ⁴North American Computational Linguistic Olympiad ⁵U of U Student Conference In Linguistics ⁶Undergraduate Research Symposium ⁷Career & Professional Development Center ⁸Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program ⁹Community Engaged Learning