Linguistics (LIN)

Major and Minor in Linguistics

Department of Linguistics, College of Arts and Sciences

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Minors of particular interest to students majoring in Linguistics: Anthropology (ANT), Computer Science (CSE), English (EGL), Foreign Languages, International Studies (INT), Philosophy (PHI)

Faculty

Frank Anshen, Associate Professor, Ph.D., New York University: Sociolinguistics.
Mark Aronoff, Professor, Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology: Morphology; writing systems.
John Ballyn, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Cornell University: Syntax, language acquisition; Slavic linguistics.
Christina Y. Bethin, Professor, Ph.D., University of Illinois: Slavic linguistics, phonology; Russian; Polish; and Ukrainian. Recipient of the State University Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching.
Ellen Broselow, Professor, Ph.D., University of Massachusetts-Amherst: Phonology; phonetics; second language acquisition.
Barbara Brownworth, Lecturer, D.A., Stony Brook University: ESL; TESOL.
Marianne Catalano, Lecturer, M.A., Stony Brook University: ESL; TESOL.
Daniel L. Finer, Professor, Ph.D., University of Massachusetts-Amherst: Syntax; semantics; language acquisition.
Alice C. Harris, Professor, Ph.D., Harvard University: Historical linguistics; morphology; languages of the Caucasus.
Robert D. Hoberman, Professor, Ph.D., University of Chicago: Semitic linguistics; phonology; morphology; Arabic; Hebrew; Aramaic.
Marie Huffman, Associate Professor, Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles: Phonetics; phonology.
Joy Janzen, Lecturer, Ph.D., Northern Arizona University: TESOL; literacy; teacher education.
Dorit Kaufman, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Stony Brook University: TESOL; language attrition. Recipient of the State University Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching and the President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching.
Heejeong Ko, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology: Syntax, second-language acquisition.
Richard Larson, Professor, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison: Syntax; semantics. Recipient of the State University Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching and the President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching.
Lori D. Repetti, Associate Professor, Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles: Romance linguistics, phonology; Italian dialectology.
Anne Wilding, Lecturer, M.A., Fordham University: TESOL; teacher education.
Ximena E. Zate, Visiting Assistant Professor, Ph.D., Hofstra University: TESOL; teacher education; second-language acquisition.

Adjunct Faculty

Estimated number: 2

Teaching Assistants

Estimated number: 12

Linguistics is the science of language. Language is at once the most diverse and the most clearly structured aspect of human behavior. It distinguishes humans from other species and much of human culture depends on it. Understanding the nature of human language is therefore a key to understanding human nature. Linguistics seeks to discover the common features of the languages of the world’s peoples, to understand how languages change over time, and how language relates to other aspects of human society.

The major in Linguistics is designed to provide graduates with a set of skills and a body of knowledge. A graduate will have the skills to analyze the most important features of language: sounds, words, sentences, and conversation, using both formal and experimental methods. Students will also learn what linguists know about the languages of the world, their history and structure, and how language interacts with many facets of all cultures.

The Department also prepares its majors for provisional certification as Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages in New York State (TESOL) from kindergarten through grade 12. Candidates for TESOL certification must follow a specific track within the major that is included in the sample course sequence given below, which includes a semester of student teaching. Approximately half of Linguistics majors elect this track in the major. It is also common for Linguistics majors to have a second major, either in a language or in an adjacent field such as psychology or computer science.

Options for further education that are taken by graduates include professional school in such areas as speech pathology and law, and graduate school in linguistics, philosophy, psychology, and computer science. A few graduates have gone on to technical positions in industry that involve speech engineering.

Instruction in uncommonly taught languages not offered elsewhere in the University is provided by the Department of Linguistics.

Courses Offered in Linguistics

See the Course Descriptions listing in this Bulletin for complete information.

LIN 101-F  Introduction to Linguistics
LIN 200-K  Language in the United States
LIN 201-F  Phonetics
LIN 211-F  Syntax
LIN 250-K  Languages and Cultures of Asian Americans
LIN 300  Writing in Linguistics
LIN 301  Phonology
LIN 307-K  Sociolinguistics
LIN 330  Language Acquisition
LIN 340  Historical Linguistics
LIN 344  Literacy Development
LIN 345-J  Writing Systems of the World
LIN 346-F  Language and Meaning
LIN 355-J  Language and Life in a Selected Area of the World
LIN 356-I  Topics in Language and Life in Europe
LIN 375  TESOL Pedagogy: Theory and Practice
LINGUISTICS

LIN 378 Content-Based Language and Literacy Development
LIN 425-427 Special Topics in Linguistics
LIN 431 The Structure of an Uncommonly Taught Language
LIN 447 Directed Readings in Linguistics
LIN 449, 450 Field Experience, Grades N-12
LIN 451 Supervised Teaching—English as a Second Language: Primary Grades N-6
LIN 452 Supervised Student Teaching in English as a Second Language: Secondary Grades 7-12
LIN 454 Managing Instruction, Assessment, and Resources
LIN 464 Morphology and Word Formation
LIN 475, 476 Undergraduate Teaching Practica I, II
LIN 487 Directed Research in Linguistics
LIN 488 Internship
LIN 495, 496 Senior Honors Projects in Linguistics
ESL 475, 476 Undergraduate Teaching Practica I, II

Requirements for the Major in Linguistics (LIN)
The major in Linguistics leads to the Bachelor of Arts degree. All linguistics courses offered for the major must be passed with a letter grade of C or higher.

Completion of the major requires 36 credits in linguistics and one year of a foreign language in addition to the University's entry skill requirement.

1. LIN 201 Phonetics
2. LIN 211 Syntax
3. LIN 301 Phonology
4. LIN 431 The Structure of an Uncommonly Taught Language (See Note 1)
5. Seven additional linguistics courses, of which at least six must be upper division
6. Two semesters of foreign language after completing Entry Skill 3, the University's foreign language requirement. These may be either in the same language with which the entry skill was met or in one or two other languages.

7. Upper-Division Writing Requirement:
   In the junior or senior year, students must successfully complete LIN 300 Writing in Linguistics, a one-credit course.

Notes:
1. A course on the structure of a language offered by a foreign language department may be substituted for LIN 431 with the permission of the director of undergraduate studies in Linguistics.
2. Students majoring in Linguistics may be interested in the following courses offered through other departments:
   EBL 300, 380
   FLA 339, 439, 440
   FRN 411
   GER 438, 439
   HGW 415
   HUL 324
   ITL 424, 425, 426
   PHI 325
   RUS 439
   PSY 365
   SPN 393, 462, 463, 465
3. Students electing TESOL may not take any courses required for certification for Pass/No Credit. Requirements for TESOL certification are detailed following the Linguistics minor and honors program listings.

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Requirements for the Minor in Linguistics (LIN)
The minor requires 20 credits.
1. LIN 201 Phonetics
2. LIN 211 Syntax
3. Four additional linguistics courses, of which at least three must be upper division.

Notes:
1. One of the courses required for the minor may be taken for Pass/No Credit.
2. Linguistics minors that are closely integrated with students' majors are strongly encouraged. The fields with which linguistics has special affinities are: anthropology, psychology, English, foreign languages, philosophy, and computer science.
3. Students must consult with the director of undergraduate studies in linguistics to enroll in the minor.

Honors Program
The honors program is open to seniors majoring in Linguistics who have maintained a g.p.a. of 3.50 in the major and a 3.00 overall grade point average. Students should apply to the honors program at or before the beginning of their senior year. With the approval of a sponsoring faculty member, the student must submit a written proposal for a major paper or research project to be completed during the senior year. Acceptance into the honors program depends on approval of the proposal by the Department.

Students enroll in LIN 495 in the first semester of their senior year and in LIN 496 in the following semester, for a total of six credits. These courses must be taken in addition to the total credits required for the major. The student's project paper or research report must be completed and submitted no later than April 1 for May graduation and November 1 for December graduation. The paper or report is read and evaluated by a committee consisting of the student's sponsor, one other member of the Department of Linguistics, and one faculty member from another department.

If the honors program is completed with distinction and the student retains a 3.50 g.p.a. for all linguistics courses taken in the senior year, honors are conferred.

Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) Preparation Program
The TESOL Teacher Education Program prepares undergraduates for initial certification as Pre-K-12 teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages. Students wishing to apply to the program should plan to major in Linguistics and should consult with the program director as early as possible in their academic careers to insure completion of program requirements in a timely manner.

Requirements for Initial Certification
A. Completion of all requirements for the major in Linguistics.
B. A 3.00 g.p.a. in the major and a 2.75 g.p.a. overall.
C. Two years of college-level study of a language or languages other than English. (Completion of Skill 3 Basic Foreign Language Competence satisfies the first year of this requirement.) These may be in one, two, or three languages.
D. Linguistics and foundations courses:
   • LIN 101 Introduction to General Linguistics
   • LIN 201 Phonetics
   • LIN 211 Syntax
   • LIN 301 Phonology
   • LIN 307 Introduction to Sociolinguistics
   • LIN 431 Structure of an Uncommonly Taught Language
   • Plus two additional 3 credit upper division linguistics courses
E. Professional educational requirements:
   1. SSE 327 Human Growth and Development in the Educational Context
   2. SSE 350 Foundations of Education
   3. LIN 344 Language Acquisition and Literacy Development
   4. LIN 375 TESOL Pedagogy: Theory and Practice
   5. LIN 378 Content-based Language and Literacy Development
   6. LIN 449 Field Experience I (1 credit co-requisite of LIN 375)
   7. LIN 450 Field Experience II (1 credit co-requisite of LIN 378)
   8. LIN 451 Supervised Student Teaching in TESOL (grades P-6)
   9. LIN 452 Supervised Student Teaching in TESOL (grades 7-12)
   10. LIN 454 Managing Instruction, Assessment and Resources

Five-Year Combined B.A./M.A. Program with Teacher Certification in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)
In addition to the regular B.A. program in Linguistics with teacher certification and the regular M.A. in TESOL, the Linguistics department offers a five-year combine B.A./M.A. degree program. Upon completion of the five-year program, graduates will hold a Bachelor’s degree in Linguistics, New York State teaching certification in TESOL, and a Master’s degree in TESOL. The combined program will allow students the opportunity to complete these requirements one semester sooner than students who complete the programs sequentially. The combined program is restricted to students with an outstanding undergraduate record who are expected to excel in the graduate program.

During the first four semesters as an undergraduate, students in the combined program will pursue a normal course of study for the B.A. in Linguistics with New York State certification in TESOL. Students must apply to the five-year combined program in the second semester of the sophomore year. During the third year of study students will take two pedagogy courses and the field components associated with them at the graduate level, and will student-teach in the second semester of the fourth year. They will then enter the graduate program prepared to complete the MA degree in one year of full-time study.

The following are the minimum requirements for admission to the combined program:
1. A minimum GPA of 3.0 overall and 3.3 in linguistics courses;
2. The PEP admissions essay;
3. Recommendations from two linguistics faculty members;
4. Interviews with the Undergraduate Director in Linguistics and the Director of the TESOL program.