Twin Cities Campus

Linguistics M.A.
Linguistics, Institute of
College of Liberal Arts

Link to a list of faculty for this program.

Contact Information:
Institute of Linguistics, 205 Elliott Hall, 75 East River Road, Minneapolis, MN 55455 (612-624-3331
Email: ling@umn.edu
Website: https://cla.umn.edu/linguistics/graduate

- Program Type: Master's
- Requirements for this program are current for Fall 2022
- Length of program in credits: 32 to 36
- This program does not require summer semesters for timely completion.
- Degree: Master of Arts

Along with the program-specific requirements listed below, please read the General Information section of the catalog website for requirements that apply to all major fields.

The Linguistics MA program trains students in the scientific study of the human mental capacity for language. Successful study in this area investigates the syntactic, phonological, and semantic/pragmatic properties of the language systems that humans naturally acquire, and asks what kinds of underlying mental capacity is implicated by these properties.

The program emphasizes the place of this field of study among the cognitive sciences, and provides coursework and individual advising to prepare students to engage with and produce research in the field.

Program Delivery
This program is available:
- via classroom (the majority of instruction is face-to-face)

Prerequisites for Admission
Special Application Requirements:
Applicants must submit the following application materials by December 15 of the preceding academic year:
University of Minnesota Application form, which includes:
a CV or resume;
a statement of purpose;
a writing sample;
three letters of recommendation; and
transcripts from each college or university attended.

Entry is for fall semester only.

International applicants must submit score(s) from one of the following tests:
- TOEFL
- IELTS
- MELAB

Key to test abbreviations(TOEFL, IELTS, MELAB).

For an online application or for more information about graduate education admissions, see the General Information section of the catalog website.

Program Requirements
Plan A: Plan A requires 23 major credits, 3 credits outside the major, and 10 thesis credits.The final exam is oral.

Plan B: Plan B requires 29 major credits and 3 credits outside the major.The final exam is oral. A capstone project is required.
Capstone Project: The Plan B project is an original paper that may develop out of a course project or independent research.

This program may be completed with a minor.

Use of 4xxx courses toward program requirements is permitted under certain conditions with adviser approval.

Language Requirement: See other requirements (below)

A minimum GPA of 2.80 is required for students to remain in good standing.

Students must demonstrate competence (the equivalent of two or more years of study) in one language other than English.

Application of 4xxx-level coursework requires approval of the advisor and director of graduate studies.

Required Coursework (23 credits)
  Take the following courses:
  LING 5001 - Introduction to Linguistics (4.0 cr)
  LING 5201 - Syntactic Theory I (3.0 cr)
  LING 5202 - Syntactic Theory II (3.0 cr)
  LING 5205 - Semantics (3.0 cr)
  LING 5302 - Phonological Theory I (3.0 cr)
  LING 8105 - Field Methods in Linguistics I (4.0 cr)
  LING 5207 - Advanced Semantics (3.0 cr)
    or LING 5303 - Phonological Theory II (3.0 cr)

Outside Coursework (3 credits)
  Select 3 non-LING credits in consultation with the advisor.

Plan Options

Plan A
  Thesis Credits
   Take 10 master's thesis credits.
   LING 8777 - Thesis Credits: Master's (1.0 - 18.0 cr)

   -OR-

Plan B
  Research Paper (3 credits)
   Take the following course:
   LING 8005 - Research Paper Workshop (3.0 cr)
  Linguistics Electives (3 credits)
   Select 3 credits from the following in consultation with the advisor. Other courses may be selected with advisor approval.
   LING 5206 - Linguistic Pragmatics (3.0 cr)
   LING 5207 - Advanced Semantics (3.0 cr)
   LING 5303 - Phonological Theory II (3.0 cr)
   LING 5461 - Conversation Analysis (3.0 cr)
   LING 5462 - Field Research in Spoken Language (3.0 cr)
   LING 5601 - Historical Linguistics (3.0 cr)
   LING 5801 - Introduction to Computational Linguistics (3.0 cr)
   LING 5993 - Directed Study (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
   LING 8106 - Field Methods in Linguistics II (4.0 cr)
   LING 8200 - Topics in Syntax and Semantics (3.0 cr)
   LING 8210 - Seminar in Syntax (3.0 cr)
   LING 8300 - Topics in Phonetics and Phonology (3.0 cr)
   LING 8500 - Topics in Second Language Acquisition (3.0 cr)
   LING 8900 - Seminar: Topics in Linguistics (3.0 cr)
   LING 8921 - Seminar in Language and Cognition (3.0 cr)
   LING 8991 - Independent Study (1.0 - 4.0 cr)