LINGUISTICS DEGREES OFFERED

**Linguistics major** and minor

**Joint majors:**
- French & Linguistics*
- Italian & Linguistics*
- Japanese & Linguistics*
- Linguistics & Philosophy*
- Linguistics & Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences*
- Spanish & Linguistics*

*Honors programs are available.

**BA/MA in Linguistics**
**MA in Linguistics**
**PhD in Linguistics**
**MA in Applied Linguistics**
**PhD in Applied Linguistics**

*Not currently accepting new students

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Program Director:  
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**FACULTY**

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**Daniel Erker**, Assistant Professor of Spanish & Linguistics [on leave, Fall 2017]

**Paul Hagstrom**, Associate Professor of Linguistics

**Neil Myler**, Assistant Professor of Linguistics

**Carol Neidle**, Professor of Linguistics & French

**Alexander Nikolaev**, Assistant Professor of Classical Studies & Linguistics [on leave, Fall 2017]

**Catherine O’Connor**, Professor of Education & Linguistics

**AFFILIATED FACULTY**

**Catherine Caldwell-Harris**, Associate Professor of Psychological & Brain Sciences

**Naomi Caselli**, Assistant Professor of Language and Literacy

**Juliet Floyd**, Professor of Philosophy

**Deb Kelemen**, Professor of Psychology

**Amy Lieberman**, Assistant Professor of Education

**Michelle Mentis**, Clinical Professor of Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences

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**Tyler Perrachione**, Assistant Professor of Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences [on leave, Spring 2018]

**Marnie Reed**, Clinical Associate Professor of Education

**Nancy Smith-Hefner**, Associate Professor of Anthropology

**Helen Tager-Flusberg**, Professor of Psychological & Brain Sciences

**http://ling.bu.edu**
MA in Linguistics  2017-18

The MA is designed to provide students with a solid foundational knowledge of the traditional core areas of linguistic analysis, as well as a deeper specialization in a chosen subfield or interface area. Our goal is to help students reach a level of preparation suitable for pursuit of more advanced work in linguistics, or in allied fields with a commitment to the study of language. Many students who complete the MA degree will go on to PhD programs in these areas, while others will instead pursue careers in fields such as speech and language technologies, education, among others. We have particular strength in the areas of theoretical syntax and semantics, experimental phonetics and phonology, and language acquisition. Additional areas of focus include language documentation and field linguistics, language change and variation, pragmatics and information status, prosody, Romance linguistics, and sign language linguistics.

The MA program is designed to be completed in one year, though students wishing to complete a major independent research project, akin to a thesis or capstone project, may wish to consider spending three or four semesters in the program instead. Entering students are expected to have already completed introductory classes in:

- Phonetics/phonology (e.g., CAS LX 301)
- Syntax (e.g., CAS LX 321)
- Semantics/pragmatics (e.g., CAS LX 331)

Students who do not have a sufficient background in linguistics must complete additional coursework to fulfill those prerequisites prior to entry or during the first semester. Such coursework will not be counted toward the master’s degree requirements.

### Course requirements

The MA in Linguistics requires 32 credits (8 4-credit courses). Students without the necessary background to take these courses may be required to take prerequisite courses. Prerequisite courses will not be counted as credit towards the degree.

Course requirements are as follows:

#### 1. Three required core courses

- GRS LX 703 Phonological Analysis
- GRS LX 722 Intermediate Syntax: Modeling Syntactic Knowledge
- GRS LX 732 Intermediate Semantics: The Grammatical Construction of Meaning

#### 2. Three additional Linguistics courses

- GRS LX 611 Morphology: Introduction to the Structures and Shapes of Words
- GRS LX 617 “Having” & “Being” across Languages
- GRS LX 627 Focus
- GRS LX 628 Questions
- GRS LX 641 Sociolinguistics
- GRS LX 645 Languages in Contact
- GRS LX 649 Bilingualism
- GRS LX 650 Crosslinguistic Approaches to Acquisition
- GRS LX 655 Second Language Acquisition
- GRS LX 659 Interrupted Acquisition & Language Attrition
- GRS LX 660 Historical & Comparative Linguistics
- GRS LX 664 Linguistics of English
- GRS LX 665 Variation in Dialects of English
- GRS LX 668 Structure of African Languages
- GRS LX 669 Structure of Creole Languages
- GRS LX 670 Romance Linguistics
- GRS LX 673 French Phonology
- GRS LX 674 French Syntax
- GRS LX 676 Topics in French Linguistics
- GRS LX 681 Spanish in the US
- GRS LX 683 Sounds of Spanish
- GRS LX 684 Structure of Spanish
- GRS LX 686 Topics in Spanish Linguistics
- GRS LX 690 Topics in Linguistics
- GRS LX 691 Linguistic Field Methods
- GRS LX 705 Prosody
- GRS LX 723 Advanced Syntax: Issues in Modern Syntactic Theory
- GRS LX 733 Intermediate Pragmatics
- GRS LX 738 Discourse Analysis
- GRS LX 753 Acquisition of Phonology
- GRS LX 754 Acquisition of Syntax
- GRS LX 790 Intermediate Topics in Linguistics
- GRS LX 795 Quantitative Methods in Linguistics

1 Conducted in French.
2 Conducted in Spanish.
3 Topics vary; may be taken more than once for credit with different topics.

#### 3. Two other graduate courses selected in consultation with an advisor, one of which may be directed research.

Through course selections from (2) and (3) above, students will establish a specialization in a particular area of linguistics.

### Language Requirement

All students pursuing an MA in Linguistics are required to demonstrate graduate-level reading proficiency in a foreign language prior to completion of the degree. Language proficiency can be demonstrated either through a language examination, successful completion of a non-credit graduate-level foreign language reading course offered by Boston University, or the equivalent of two years of undergraduate study of the language at Boston University.