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

DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION

Chair: Carol Neidle, carol@bu.edu
Associate Chair & Director of Graduate Studies: Jonathan Barnes, linggrad@bu.edu
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Daniel Erker, linggrad@bu.edu (Spring)
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FACULTY

Jonathan Barnes, Associate Professor of Linguistics
Charles Chang, Assistant Professor of Linguistics [on leave, Spring 2019]
Elizabeth Coppock, Assistant Professor of Linguistics
Daniel Erker, Assistant Professor of Spanish & Linguistics
Paul Hagstrom, Associate Professor of Linguistics
Neil Myler, Assistant Professor of Linguistics [on leave, Spring 2019]
Carol Neidle, Professor of Linguistics & French
Alexander Nikolaev, Assistant Professor of Classical Studies & Linguistics
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
Amy Lieberman, Assistant Professor of Education [on leave, Spring 2019]
Michelle Mentis, Clinical Professor of Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences
Fallou Ngom, Professor of Anthropology
Tyler Perrachione, Assistant Professor of Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences
Marnie Reed, Clinical Professor of Language Education
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College of Arts & Sciences

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Admissions information:
http://www.bu.edu/cas/prospective-students/graduate-admissions/
MA in Linguistics  

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 333)

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 642 Language, Race & Gender**
- **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 Phonology¹**
- **GRS LX 674 French Syntax¹**
- **GRS LX 676 Topics in French Linguistics¹**
- **GRS LX 681 Spanish in the US²**
- **GRS LX 683 Sounds of Spanish²**
- **GRS LX 684 Structure of Spanish²**
- **GRS LX 686 Topics in Spanish Linguistics²**
- **GRS LX 690 Topics in Linguistics³**
- **GRS LX 691 Linguistic Field Methods**
- **GRS LX 705 Prosody**
- **GRS LX 706 Advanced Topics in Phonology**
- **GRS LX 723 Advanced Syntax: Issues in Modern Syntactic Theory**
- **GRS LX 733 Intermediate Pragmatics**
- **GRS LX 736 Advanced Topics in Semantics**
- **GRS LX 738 Discourse Analysis**
- **GRS LX 753 Acquisition of Phonology**
- **GRS LX 754 Acquisition of Syntax**
- **GRS LX 790 Intermediate Topics in Linguistics³**
- **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.