Linguistics
Master of Arts

The graduate program in Linguistics provides graduate education in linguistics, with a particular focus on theoretically-informed descriptive linguistics in preparation for careers involving minority-language communities and lesser-studied languages. It is particularly appropriate for students anticipating careers in language development, documenting endangered languages, language survey, translation, and literacy.

It is a cooperative program between UND and SIL International, and operates primarily during a nine-week summer session every year. Students are initially accepted into the program only in the summer session when the program’s faculty members are on campus.

Mission Statement and Program Goals

The Graduate Program in Linguistics provides intensive graduate instruction, integrating linguistic theory with practical application, in the areas of language research, documentation, description, and development of linguistic resources such as writing systems, literacy, native literature, and translated materials. The distinctive focus of the program relates to work in multicultural, multilingual settings involving both major and lesser-studied languages, both spoken and signed. It is designed to move students toward careers involving linguistic analysis, acquisition of languages and cultures, linguistic community development, literacy, or translation.

Goal 1: Students will demonstrate knowledge of selected disciplinary subfields, publications and theoretical approaches within the field of linguistics.

Goal 2: Students will demonstrate ability to conduct independent research in the field of linguistics, especially in languages and situations where relatively little previous study has been undertaken.

Admission Requirements

The applicant must meet the School of Graduate Studies’ current minimum general admission requirements as published in the graduate catalog.

1. A four-year bachelor’s degree from a recognized college or university.
2. A minimum of 20 semester credits in linguistics or related fields, e.g., foreign language, of which at least 10 credits must be in linguistics, and which must include the equivalent of LING 452 Syntax and Morphology I.
3. A cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 2.8 for all undergraduate work or a GPA of at least 3.0 for the junior and senior years of undergraduate work (based on A= 4.00).
4. Satisfy the School of Graduate Studies’ English Language Proficiency requirements as published in the graduate catalog.
5. Students deficient in prerequisite credits (see #2 above) should generally plan to take their first summer as non-degree graduate students. Up to nine credits taken as a non-degree graduate student can be applied to the M.A. Therefore, students who meet some, but not all, of the prerequisites can use some of the credits gained as non-degree graduate students to meet the prerequisites, and apply some to the M.A. Foreign language proficiency may be demonstrated by passing an examination in the language in lieu of formal credits.

Degree Requirements

Students seeking the Master of Arts degree at the University of North Dakota must satisfy all general requirements set forth by the School of Graduate Studies as well as particular requirements set forth by the Linguistics Program.

1. A minimum of 32 credits including:
   • 3 credits listed in the Linguistics section of the graduate catalog in the area of phonetics/phonology
   • 3 credits in Linguistics in syntax/semantics

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Deadlines apply. See our website for more details.

Last Updated: 6/5/2014
Email: questions@gradschool.und.edu
• 3 credits in Linguistics in applied linguistics
• LING 580 Academic Writing in Linguistics
• 4 credits for a thesis
• At least 5 other credits in Linguistics

2. Of the remaining 13 credits, courses with linguistics content offered by other departments, such as English, may be counted as linguistics credits for the major.

3. Up to 4 credits of Directed Study and Research courses, e.g. LING 590 Directed Studies in Linguistics and LING 594 Research in Linguistics, may be used to supplement the standard graduate course offerings.

4. Nine credits may be in a minor or in cognate courses (see the Degree Requirements section of the graduate catalog.)

5. At least one-half of the credits must be at or above the 500-level.

6. Students normally satisfy the residency requirements by spending at least two summers enrolled in the program.

7. A maximum of one-fourth of the credit hours required for the degree may be transferred from another institution.

8. The thesis will be based on the analysis of language data collected by the student or on theoretical or applied applications of data arising from language research.

See more detailed information at: http://arts-sciences.und.edu/summer-institute-of-linguistics.

Faculty and Areas of Expertise

• Joan Baart Ph.D., descriptive linguistics, prosody, acoustic phonetics, languages of Pakistan
• Adam Baker Ph.D., phonology, articulatory and acoustic phonetics, Iranian languages, language documentation.
• J. Albert Bickford Ph.D., morphology, syntax, signed languages, indigenous languages of Mexico, computer-assisted linguistic analysis, annotation of interlinear text materials.
• Cheryl A. Black Ph.D., formal syntax, government and binding theory, analysis of tone, computational linguistics, Otomanguean languages, Zapotec, Bantu.
• H. Andrew Black Ph.D., computational linguistics, machine translation, generative phonology, Mixtec tone.
• John M. Clifton Ph.D., phonology, orthography, languages of Papua New Guinea, sociolinguistics, bilingualism and language patterns in the Caucasus and Central Asia.
• Douglas Frasier Ph.D., social and political organization; economic anthropology; culture change; religious movements; land tenure, land use and livelihood systems; farming systems, hillside agriculture, agroforestry, and deforestation; worldview.
• M. Heather Fried Ph.D., anthropology.
• Robert Fried Ph.D., descriptive linguistics, linguistic typology, grammar writing, discourse, Bao’an Tu (Bonan, Tongren Tu), Mangghuer (Minhe Monguor), Mongolic languages.
• Kathryn L. Hansen Ph. D., phonology, signed languages (phonology and morpho-syntax), descriptive linguistics.
• Mark E. Karan Ph.D., sociolinguistics, language shift, phonology.
• Stephen A. Marlett Ph.D., theoretical linguistics, phonology, syntax, Otomanguean languages, Seri, Koiné Greek.
• James S. Roberts Ph.D., phonology, syntax, Chadic languages, French.
• Keith Slater Ph.D., descriptive linguistics; Mangghuer (Minhe Monguor); historical linguistics, language contact, sociolinguistic motivations for language change; Mongolic and Altaic comparative studies; discourse; clause chaining
• Keith Snider Ph.D., tone, phonology, historical and comparative linguistics, African linguistics.
• Kristine M. Trammel Ph.D., mother-tongue-based multilingual education, minority language literacy, language acquisition, education research, curriculum development, primary school education.
• David J. Weber Ph.D., morphology, syntax, typology, historical linguistics, computational morphology, literacy, orthography, Quechua, Witotoan.
• Diana D. Weber Ph.D., reading education, teacher education, Quechua.

The director of the linguistics program is Albert Bickford, SIL-UND, 16131 N. Vernon Dr., Tucson, AZ 85739 (director_silund@sil.org) and the director of graduate studies is John Clifton (john.clifton@und.edu).

Information is also available from the SIL office on campus when the courses are in session during the summer (777-0575).