 Bachelor of Arts
University at Buffalo Department of Linguistics

For more information, contact Jeff Good (jcgood@buffalo.edu), Director of Undergraduate Studies

Linguistics is the scientific study of the function and structure of language and is concerned with language as a general aspect of human knowledge and behavior. The department offers three major tracks: Applied Linguistics, Language & Cognition, and Language, Society & Communication. It also offers two honors tracks: Language Structure & Theory and Language & Cognition. In addition, the department offers a joint major and a minor.

Applied Linguistics (36 credit hours)

Entrance Requirements: 2.0 GPA; 2.5 GPA in LIN 205 and 207.

Required courses (24 credits):
- LIN 205, 207, 301, 302; one of LIN 315, 355, 356; one of LIN 405, 421, 493; 6 credits of LIN 496 (teaching internship)

Electives (12 credits): Four additional Linguistics Department courses; may include one course from another department with approved linguistic content.

Language and Cognition (36 credit hours)

Entrance Requirements: 2.0 GPA; 2.5 GPA in LIN 205 and 207

Required courses (24 credits):
- LIN 205, 207, 301, 302; two of LIN 320, 342, 355, 417, 455; two of LIN 356, 413, 421, 438.

Electives (12 credits): Three additional Linguistics Department courses, and one course from another department with approved language and cognition content (see examples below).

Language, Society & Communication (36 credit hours)

Entrance Requirements: 2.0 GPA; 2.5 GPA in LIN 205 and 207

Required courses (24 credits):
- LIN 205, 207, 301, 302; four additional Linguistics Department courses with sociolinguistic, communication or cultural content.

Electives (12 credits): Four additional Linguistics Department courses; may include one course from another department with approved linguistic content.

Honors Track: Language Structure & Theory (36 credit hours)

Entrance Requirements: Permission of the DUGS and a minimum 3.0 GPA; grade of A- or higher in both LIN 205 and 207, or a letter of recommendation from 205 or 207 instructor. Students in Honors programs must maintain a GPA of at least 3.0 in the major.

Required courses (24 credits):
- LIN 205, 207, 415, 432; 3–6 credits of LIN 497 (Honors Thesis) and two or three additional upper-division Linguistics Department courses in theoretical linguistics for a total of 24 credits.

Electives (12 credits): Four additional Linguistics Department courses; may include one course from another department with approved linguistic content.

Honors Track: Language & Cognition (36 credit hours)

Entrance Requirements: Permission of the DUGS and a minimum 3.0 GPA; grade of A- or better in both LIN 205 and 207, or a letter of recommendation from 205 or 207 instructor. Students in Honors programs must maintain a GPA of at least 3.0 in the major.

Required courses (27 credits):
- LIN 205, 207, 415, 432; two of LIN 320, 342, 355, 417, 455; two of LIN 356, 413, 421, 438; 3 credits of LIN 497 (Honors Thesis).

Electives (9 credits): Two additional Linguistics Department courses, and one course from another department with approved language and cognition content.

Joint Major (24 credit hours plus requirements of second department)

Entrance Requirements: Permission of the DUGS from both participating departments; 2.0 GPA; 2.5 GPA in LIN 205 and 207.

Required Courses (12 credits):
- LIN 205, 207, 301, 302.

Electives (12 credits): Four additional Linguistics Department courses, to be chosen in consultation with the DUGS.

Minor in Linguistics (18 credit hours)

Entrance Requirements: 2.0 GPA; 2.5 GPA in LIN 205 and 207

Required Courses (12 credits):
- LIN 205, 207, 301, 302.

Electives (6 credits): Two additional Linguistics Department courses, to be chosen in consultation with the DUGS.

Sample of acceptable courses outside the Linguistics Department for the Language & Cognition track (not limited to these)

- CDS 301 Language Development
- PSY 341 Cognitive Psychology
- LAI 205 Intro to Child Development
- PSY 342 Intro to Cognitive Science
- PHI 215 Symbolic Logic
- PSY 343 Sensory Processes and Perception
- PSY 336 Development Psychology
- SPA 382 Intro Sec Lang Acq Theory
### Course Descriptions

**3 credits unless otherwise indicated**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Prerequisites</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIN 301 Structure of English: The Sound System</td>
<td>Prequisite: LIN 205</td>
<td>An in-depth look at the sound structure of English, including the articulation of sounds, phonological patterns and alternations, and dialects.</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIN 302 Structure of English: Grammar and Lexicon</td>
<td>Prequisite: LIN 205</td>
<td>An in-depth look at the syntax and morphology of English, including lexical and grammatical categories, basic clause structure, and complex sentences.</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIN 311 Variation in English</td>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction to major regional dialects and contact varieties of English speaking world and to many dimensions of social variation in British and North American English.</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIN 315 Language and the Brain</td>
<td></td>
<td>Localization and lateralization of language in the brain; aphasia, dyslexia, and other neurolinguistic disorders; developmental neurolinguistics.</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIN 342 Introduction To Cognitive Science</td>
<td></td>
<td>An interdisciplinary approach to the understanding of knowledge and mind, guided by principles of formal systems and computation. Concepts and approaches from psychology, philosophy, artificial intelligence, linguistics, and neuroscience.</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIN 345 Natural Language and the Computer</td>
<td></td>
<td>Natural language applications such as search engines, and speech recognition play an increasingly important role in society. It seems like a very simple process, and yet it is very difficult. This class addresses the problems faced by computers in dealing with human language.</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIN 355 Child Language Development</td>
<td></td>
<td>The acquisition of the structure and function of a child’s native language. Relationships among the development of language, cognition, biology, and social interaction.</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIN 404 Discourse-Pragmatics</td>
<td>Prequisite: LIN 301 &amp; 302 or permission of instructor</td>
<td>The use of language in communicative acts, e.g., speech acts, conversational principles, text structure, discourse-governed grammatical alternations, topic, focus, and theme.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIN 405 Bilingualism and Language Contact</td>
<td>Prequisite: LIN 301 &amp; 302 or permission of instructor</td>
<td>The linguistic, psychological, educational, and sociocultural characteristics of bilingualism, multilingualism, and language contact.</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIN 410 Morphology</td>
<td>Prequisite: LIN 302 or permission of instructor</td>
<td>The structure of words; different theoretical approaches to the analysis of morphemes, words, and idioms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIN 413 Language and Cognition</td>
<td>Prequisite: LIN 205 &amp; 207 or permission of instructor</td>
<td>An examination of classificatory phenomena in lexical and grammatical structures from a cross-linguistic perspective, focusing on African, European, East Asian, and Native American languages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIN 414 History of the English Language</td>
<td></td>
<td>Linguistic and cultural development of English from its Indo-European and Germanic origins to the present; World Englishes, regional dialects, and English-based pidgins and creoles of today.</td>
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