LINGUISTICS, PHD

Banner Code: LA-PHD-LING

Academic Advising

4200 Horizon Hall
Fairfax Campus

Email: english@gmu.edu
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The PhD in Linguistics trains students in the science of language. Students become specialists in the core areas of linguistics-- phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics --and learn to integrate this core with the study of second language acquisition and/or computational linguistics. The program prepares students for positions in academia, industry, government, and a host of organizations concerned with language and second language acquisition. Graduates may become research and teaching professors, administrators of language-learning programs, and consultants in computational linguistic research.

Admissions & Policies

Admissions

Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in Graduate Admissions (https://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-policies/).

For specific information, see Application Requirements and Deadlines (http://linguistics.gmu.edu/programs/application/LA-PHD-LING/).

Policies

For policies governing all graduate degrees, see Graduate Policies (https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/).

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: 72

Students should be aware of the specific policies associated with this program, located on the Admissions & Policies tab.

Optional Linguistics Foundation Course

Code	Title	Credits
LING 500	Linguistic Variation	3
Total Credits		**3**

Core Courses

Code	Title	Credits
General Linguistics		
Select eight courses from the following:		24
LING 731	Phonetics	
LING 732	Phonology A	
LING 733	Phonology B	
LING 735	Morphology	
LING 736	Syntax A	
LING 737	Syntax B	
LING 638	Semantics and Pragmatics 1	
LING 738	Semantics and Pragmatics 2	
LING 671	Computational Linguistics I	
LING 771	Computational Linguistics II	
Language Acquisition		
Select two courses from the following:		6
LING 642	Second Language Acquisition 1	
LING 742	Second Language Acquisition 2	
LING 741	First Language Acquisition	
Research Methodology		
Select one of the following:		3
LING 714	Experimental Methods	
LING 715	Statistical Methods in Linguistics	
LING 716	Linguistic Field Methods	
LING 717	Computational and Quantitative Methods in Linguistics	
Qualifying Papers		
LING 898	Advanced Qualifying Research 1	3
LING 899	Advanced Qualifying Research 2	3
Total Credits		**39**

Two Seminars

Code	Title	Credits
Select 6 credits from the following: [1]		6
LING 800	Advanced Seminar in Linguistics	3
Total Credits		**9**

[1] Students take two seminar courses in two chosen fields. Seminar topics change every time they are offered. They may be repeated for credit.

Electives

Code	Title	Credits
Choose four - five graduate LING courses not used to fulfill another requirement (except for LING 998 and LING 999), or other approved course [1]		12-15
Total Credits		**12-15**

[1] If LING 500 Linguistic Variation is taken, four electives are required.

Advancement to Candidacy

The student is advanced to candidacy for the PhD degree once they have successfully presented and defended a written dissertation proposal, completed all 48 course credits, and completed a minimum of 3 credits of 998 Doctoral Dissertation Proposal. The student should also submit

the Advancement to Candidacy form. University policies for advancement to candidacy can be found here (https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-10-4).

Dissertation

Once enrolled in LING 999 Doctoral Dissertation, students must follow the university's continuous registration policy as specified in AP.6.10.6 Dissertation Research (https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-10-6). Students who defend in the summer must be registered for at least 1 credit of LING 999 Doctoral Dissertation.

Students apply to this degree a minimum of 12 dissertation credits (LING 998 Doctoral Dissertation Proposal and LING 999 Doctoral Dissertation combined) with at least 3 credits of LING 999 Doctoral Dissertation. Because of the continuous registration policy, students may be required to register for additional credits of these courses.

Code	Title	Credits
Dissertation Research		12
LING 998	Doctoral Dissertation Proposal	
LING 999	Doctoral Dissertation	
Total Credits		**12**

Program Outcomes

Program Outcomes

- Understand the core concepts of phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics, which are the fundamental theoretical areas of linguistics.
- Develop a thorough knowledge in a subfield of linguistics. This can be in the theoretical areas, such as phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, or can be in an area such as areal linguistics, speech pathology, or computational linguistics. Because our program concentrates upon the acquisition of language, many students focus on some issue within the domain of first or second language acquisition.
- Show proficiency in research methodology. Performance in the program demonstrates the ability to adequately formulate a suitable and original research topic and show a continued trajectory toward elaboration and solution.
- Write and verbally present in an organized academic style, appropriate for the field of linguistics. Data is to be presented in a clear and conventional manner, and the argument should be built in a logical fashion.
- Effectively analyze linguistic data and information to arrive at informed conclusions.