**LINGUISTICS, PHD**

Banner Code: LA-PHD-LING

**Academic Advising**

B413 Robinson Hall  
Fairfax Campus  

Email: english@gmu.edu  
Website: english.gmu.edu/programs/la-phd-ling

The PhD in linguistics trains students in the science of language. Students become specialists in the core areas of linguistics—phonology, syntax, and semantics—and learn to integrate this core with the study of second language acquisition. 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. Applicants must already have earned a master’s degree in a relevant field.

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.

**Reduction of Credit**

For students entering the doctoral program with a master’s degree, the number of required credits may be reduced by a maximum of 30 credits, subject to approval of the program faculty and the dean. Requests for reduction of credit are reviewed only after acceptance to the doctoral program.

**Requirements**

**Degree Requirements**

Total credits: 72

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

**Core Courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LING</td>
<td>690 Generative Phonology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING</td>
<td>692 Phonology II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING</td>
<td>890 Advanced Phonology Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Syntax**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LING</td>
<td>786 Syntax I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING</td>
<td>787 Syntax II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING</td>
<td>886 Advanced Syntax Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Semantics/Pragmatics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LING</td>
<td>785 Semantics and Pragmatics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING</td>
<td>788 Semantics and Pragmatics II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Language Acquisition**

Select two courses from the following: 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LING</td>
<td>582 Second Language Acquisition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING</td>
<td>782 Second Language Acquisition II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING</td>
<td>882 Seminar in Language Acquisition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Research Methodology**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LING</td>
<td>770 Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Qualifying Papers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LING</td>
<td>898 Advanced Qualifying Seminar (Students register for this course twice)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 39

**Two Seminars**

Select 6 credits from the following: 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LING</td>
<td>882 Seminar in Language Acquisition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING</td>
<td>886 Advanced Syntax Seminar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING</td>
<td>890 Advanced Phonology Seminar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 6

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**

Select five electives from the following: 15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LING</td>
<td>507 Field Work in Applied Linguistics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING</td>
<td>521 Applied Linguistics: Teaching English as a Second Language</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING</td>
<td>522 Modern English Grammar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING</td>
<td>523 English Phonetics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING</td>
<td>525 Practicum in ESL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING</td>
<td>580 First Language Acquisition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING</td>
<td>581 Psycholinguistics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING</td>
<td>650 Introduction to Sociolinguistics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING</td>
<td>691 Theories of Language</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING</td>
<td>798 Directed Reading and Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH</td>
<td>592 Historical Studies of the English Language</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREN</td>
<td>575 Grammatical Analysis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRLN</td>
<td>565 Theory of Translation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI</td>
<td>636 Statistical Reasoning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN</td>
<td>500 History of the Spanish Language</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SPAN 501  Applied Spanish Grammar
SPAN 502  Hispanic Sociolinguistics
PSYC 615  Language Development
CS 580  Introduction to Artificial Intelligence
CSI 600  Quantitative Foundations for Computational Sciences
CSS 600  Introduction to Computational Social Science
NEUR 604  Ethics in Scientific Research
EDCI 516  Bilingualism and Language Acquisition Research
EDCI 569  Teaching English in the Secondary School

Total Credits  15

**Advancement to Candidacy**

To advance to candidacy, students must complete all coursework required on their approved program of study. Students must also successfully pass a written qualifying exam and an oral qualifying exam. In addition, students must have a dissertation committee appointed by the Dean’s Office as well as an approved proposal. Evidence of the approved proposal must be on file in the Dean’s Office before a student can advance to candidacy.

**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. 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dissertation Research</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 998</td>
<td>Doctoral Dissertation Proposal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 999</td>
<td>Doctoral Dissertation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits  12