Doctor of Philosophy in Linguistics

Why study linguistics?
Because language is a window into the mind. Linguistics provides an understanding of the human capacity to acquire, perceive, and produce language and of language’s role in contemporary society.

Admission to Graduate Studies

An applicant seeking to pursue graduate study in the College may be admitted as either a degree-seeking or non-degree seeking student. Policies and procedures of Graduate Studies govern the process of Graduate admission. These may be found in the Graduate Studies (http://catalog.ku.edu/graduate-studies) section of the online catalog.

Please consult the Departments & Programs (http://catalog.ku.edu/ liberal-arts-sciences) section of the online catalog for information regarding program-specific admissions criteria and requirements. Special admissions requirements pertain to Interdisciplinary Studies degrees, which may be found in the Graduate Studies section of the online catalog.

Graduate Admission

Applicants must submit a curriculum vitae, a statement of purpose, an official copy of transcript from the baccalaureate granting institution and any transcripts from institutions attended post-baccalaureate, 3 letters of recommendation, and Graduate Record Examination scores. Applicants who are not native speakers of English must demonstrate English proficiency with Test of English as a Foreign Language scores of at least 53 (paper) or 20 (computer or internet-based) in all sections or International Language Testing System scores of at least 6.0 overall with no part score below 5.5.

Students originally admitted to the M.A. program who are completing the M.A. degree (research project option) and want to continue toward the Ph.D. must submit the following to the Director of Graduate Studies by January 1st: a 5-7 page summary of the M.A. research project, a timeline for completing the M.A. which has been approved by the M.A. advisor, and a 1-2 page statement that outlines the type of research that the student would like to conduct at the Ph.D. level and the student’s ultimate goals upon completing the Ph.D. Any decision to apply for the Ph.D. program must be taken in consultation with the advisor or Director of Graduate Studies. Acceptance into the Ph.D. program will be contingent on two criteria: (1) a grade of ‘2’ on the M.A. research project approval of the Linguistics faculty that the student should be allowed to continue in the program based on strength of the student’s application. The M.A. research project is graded on the following scale: ‘0’ - fail; ‘1’ - pass without consideration for admission to the Ph.D. program; ‘2’ - pass with consideration for admission to the Ph.D. program. The admissions decision will be made at a faculty meeting following the student’s defense of the M.A. research project.

Submit your graduate application online (http://www.graduate.ku.edu). Send all other requested application materials to the department:

The University of Kansas
Department of Linguistics
Blake Hall
1541 Lilac Lane, Room 427

Ph.D. Degree Requirements

Prerequisites
M.A. in linguistics with a thesis. A student entering the Ph.D. program without courses equivalent to these must take them as soon as they are offered.

Degree Requirements

Residence
2 semesters, which may include 1 summer session, must be spent in full-time resident study at KU. Normally, an enrollment of 9 credit hours is considered full-time during the semester. See Doctoral Degree Requirements, 2. Program Time Constraints, in the Graduate Studies (http://catalog.ku.edu/graduate-studies) section of the online catalog.

Research Skills and Responsible Scholarship

1. Language requirement: Reading ability in a foreign language (not English) demonstrated through one of the following ways:
   a. Pass a language examination devised and administered by the Linguistics Department.
   b. Complete DANE 101, DTCH 101, FREN 100, GERM 101, ITAL 100, RUSS 101, or SPAN 100 with a grade of C or higher, or LAT 104 with a grade of B or higher.
   c. Have a KU professor qualified in a given language certify that the student has the fourth level of competence in reading, comprehension, and speaking.
   d. Complete 16 hours (or 4 semesters) in a single language at KU or another university as a graduate or undergraduate student.

2. Research skills requirement: 1 of the following:
   • A course in statistics with a grade of B or above.
   • A course in a computer programming language with a grade of B or above.
   • LING 783 Computational Linguistics with a grade of B or above.

3. Responsible Scholarship: The university requires that every doctoral student have training in responsible scholarship pertinent to the field of research and appropriate to the doctoral level. This requirement must be met before taking the comprehensive oral exam. The Proseminar (LING 794) fulfills the requirements for responsible scholarship.

Minimum Course Requirements

24 credit hours, consisting of

Methods requirement: (3)
LING 741 Field Methods in Linguistic Description 3
If already taken for M.A., replace with one of the following:
LING 720 Research Methods in Linguistics
LING 740 Linguistic Data Processing
LING 782 Research Methods in Child Language

Second-level courses (9)
Select three of the following second-level courses: 9
LING 707 Phonetics II
LING 714 Phonological Theory II
LING 716 Second Language Acquisition II
Plan of Study

A plan of study should be developed in consultation with the student’s advisor and committee.

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LING 726</td>
<td>Syntax II</td>
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<tr>
<td>LING 727</td>
<td>Morphology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 731</td>
<td>Semantics</td>
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<tr>
<td>LING 737</td>
<td>Psycholinguistics II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 739</td>
<td>First Language Acquisition II</td>
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<tr>
<td>LING 742</td>
<td>Neurolinguistics II</td>
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Elective courses in linguistics (12)

Select four elective courses in linguistics. A total of 3 hours, but not more, from the following courses can count towards the elective requirement:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LING 998</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>LING 850</td>
<td>Topics in Research in Experimental Linguistics:</td>
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<tr>
<td>LING 851</td>
<td>Research in Language Acquisition and Processing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 852</td>
<td>Research in Field Linguistics</td>
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Qualifying Papers

The student needs to write 2 qualifying papers -- a major paper in the area of specialization and a minor paper in a different area. Both papers should represent original work. The major paper may be an expanded version of the M.A. thesis and should be of publishable quality. The minimum lengths of the major and minor papers are 25 pages and 15 pages, respectively.

The major and minor papers are developed in close consultation with an Advisory Committee (3 faculty members) and the 2 papers should be supervised by different faculty members when possible. The adequacy of the papers is evaluated on the quality of the literature review, theoretical contribution, and research integration as well as the basis of their logical coherence and organization. The student does not need to orally defend the qualifying papers.

Dissertation Proposal and the Oral Comprehensive Exam

When the major and minor qualifying papers have been approved by the Advisory Committee, the student may form a Ph.D. committee (4 inside members, 1 outside member), which helps the student work on the dissertation, starting from the dissertation proposal. The proposal should clearly identify the research questions that the dissertation will address, include a comprehensive literature review, lay out the methodology for the research, discuss preliminary data and results, if any, and present a timetable for the dissertation research. The minimum length for the dissertation proposal is 10 pages.

The Oral Comprehensive Exam is the official exam required by Graduate Studies and consists of an oral defense of the dissertation proposal and the answering of any other questions related to the fields of study of the dissertation research. It must be taken within 2 months (excluding summer) after the student has turned in the dissertation proposal. The oral exam will typically last 2 to 3 hours.

Dissertation and Dissertation Defense

The dissertation is developed in consultation with the Ph.D. committee. The dissertation must be orally defended in front of the Ph.D. committee. The student will be asked first to summarize his/her dissertation and evidence, and then will be questioned by the committee. The defense will normally last 1 to 1 and 1/2 hours.