Master of Arts 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.

M.A. Overview (https://linguistics.ku.edu/graduate-programs/)

Our M.A. program in Linguistics requires the student to develop a solid understanding of the core areas of the discipline in addition to an in-depth specialty in one of the many areas available through the research interests of the faculty. Areas of special strength in the graduate program include phonetics, phonology, syntax, psycholinguistics, neurolinguistics, first language acquisition, second language acquisition, semantics, and the study of indigenous languages.

The student will work with their academic advisor to devise a course of study that best suits the student's research interests.

The M.A. program usually takes two years. Students in the M.A. program complete a written Research Proposal and an Oral Examination of the Research Proposal, typically in their fourth semester of study. Students are required to take an Advanced II-level course to develop their understanding of research in their area of interest.

Admission to Graduate Studies

Admission Requirements

- All applicants must meet the requirements outlined in the Admission to Graduate Study (https://policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/admission-to-graduate-study/) policy.

- Bachelor's degree: A copy of official transcripts showing proof of a bachelor's degree (and any post-bachelor's coursework or degrees) from a regionally accredited institution, or a foreign university with equivalent bachelor's degree requirements is required.

- English proficiency: Proof of English proficiency (https://gradapply.ku.edu/english-requirements/) for non-native or non-native-like English speakers is required. There are two bands of English proficiency, including Admission and Full proficiency. For applicants to online programs, Full proficiency is required.

Graduate Admission

Applicants must submit a curriculum vitae, a statement of purpose, an official copy of transcript from baccalaureate granting institution and transcripts from institutions attended post-baccalaureate, 3 letters of recommendation, and a writing sample. Non-native speakers of English must meet English proficiency requirements as described on the Graduate Admissions website (https://gradapply.ku.edu/english-requirements/). New students are admitted each Fall. The application deadline for the Linguistics M.A. program is December 1.

Submit your graduate application online (https://gradapply.ku.edu/apply/). For further information regarding the application process, including department-specific deadlines and required supplemental documentation, please visit the Admissions (https://linguistics.ku.edu/graduate-admissions/) page of the department website, or contact the department's Graduate Program Coordinator, Alec Graham, alec.graham@ku.edu.

M.A. Degree Requirements

The Master of Arts in Linguistics requires a total of 33 hours and includes two completion options: one for students in the terminal M.A. program and one for students in the Ph.D. program. The Linguistics Graduate Student Handbook is available on the department's website (https://linguistics.ku.edu/lingstics-graduate-programs/).

Course Work

Code	Title	Hours
LING 794	Proseminar	3
LING 705	Phonetics I	3
LING 712	Phonology I	3
LING 725	Syntax I	3
LING 709	First Language Acquisition I	3
or LING 715	Second Language Acquisition I	
LING 735	Psycholinguistics I	3
or LING 738	Neurolinguistics I	
Research Methods Course (Select 1 course)		3
LING 720	Research Methods in Linguistics	
LING 741	Field Methods in Linguistic Description	
LING 782	Research Methods in Child Language	
ELECTIVES (2 courses) to be determined by the student and the student's advisor. Electives are NOT to include LING 850, LING 851, LING 852, or LING 998. For students in the Linguistics Ph.D. program, at least one elective course (3 credit hours) must be taken from the Advanced II-Level course list or Linguistics Seminar course list.		6
Research Seminar Course (1 course) to be determined by the student and the student's advisor.		3
LING 850	Topics in Research in Experimental Linguistics: _____	
LING 851	Research in Language Acquisition and Processing	
LING 852	Research in Field and Formal Linguistics	
Completion Option		3
M.A. Research Project (required for all student in Linguistics Ph.D. program): LING 899 Master's Research Project (3 credit hours)		
OR		
M.A. Research Proposal (required for all students in terminal M.A. program). Students take an Advanced II-Level Course or Linguistics Seminar (1 course - 3 credit hours). Refer to Advanced II-Level Course and Linguistics Seminar Course listing.		
Advanced II- Level Courses:		
LING 707	Phonetics II	
LING 714	Phonology II	
LING 716	Second Language Acquisition II	
LING 726	Syntax II	
LING 727	Morphology	
LING 731	Semantics	
LING 737	Psycholinguistics II	

LING 739	First Language Acquisition II	
LING 742	Neurolinguistics II	
LING 743	Language Variation and Change	
Linguistics Seminar Courses:		
LING 807	Seminar in Phonetics	
LING 814	Seminar in Phonology	
LING 822	Seminar in First Language Acquisition	
LING 826	Seminar in Syntax	
LING 831	Seminar in Semantics	
LING 837	Seminar in Psycholinguistics	
LING 842	Seminar in Neurolinguistics	
LING 860	Seminar in Second Language Acquisition	
LING 910	Linguistic Seminar: _____	
Total Hours		**33**

M.A. Research Proposal and Oral Examination

All students in the terminal M.A. program complete a written research proposal in their final semester of the program. The written paper should include a detailed proposal of a research project and will be reviewed by a committee including the student's advisor and two additional faculty members. When the committee approves the written work, the student will then defend their proposal in a final oral examination. The final oral examination will include a presentation by the student summarizing their research proposal followed by questions from the student's committee. Further details can be found in the Graduate Student Handbook.

M.A. Research Project for Ph.D. Students

The Master's research project should consist of a detailed research proposal and include pilot results and/or preliminary analyses. Students in the Ph.D. program should be able to continue working on the project with the aim of submitting it as a qualifying paper for the Ph.D. program.

An M.A. candidate in residence who has begun work on a research project must enroll for at least 1 credit hour of LING 899 Master's Research Project each semester (summer session excluded) until the thesis is completed.

The research project must be defended successfully in an oral examination. The oral exam is scheduled when all 3 committee members have indicated in writing their approval or disapproval of the research project for defense and at least 2 (including the chair) have approved scheduling the exam. The oral examination will typically last 1-2 hours.

Following the oral examination, the student's performance will be evaluated by the project committee and reported by a Progress-to-Degree form to Graduate Studies as the outcome of the Master's oral examination. The committee will evaluate the M.A. research project with the following grades: 0-fail, 1pass but cannot continue to the Ph.D. program, 2-pass and can continue to the Ph.D. program.

Electives

Electives should be chosen in consultation with the student's advisor. Any course taken outside of the Linguistics Department needs to be approved by the student's faculty advisor to count towards program requirements.

Code	Title	Hours
LING 707	Phonetics II	3
LING 709	First Language Acquisition I	3
LING 714	Phonology II	3
LING 715	Second Language Acquisition I	3
LING 716	Second Language Acquisition II	3
LING 720	Research Methods in Linguistics	3
LING 721	Regression and mixed-effects modeling for language science	3
LING 726	Syntax II	3
LING 727	Morphology	3
LING 731	Semantics	3
LING 735	Psycholinguistics I	3
LING 737	Psycholinguistics II	3
LING 738	Neurolinguistics I	3
LING 741	Field Methods in Linguistic Description	3
LING 742	Neurolinguistics II	3
LING 743	Language Variation and Change	3
LING 747	North American Indian Languages	3
LING 782	Research Methods in Child Language	3
LING 799	Proseminar in Child Language	2
LING 807	Seminar in Phonetics	3
LING 814	Seminar in Phonology	3
LING 822	Seminar in First Language Acquisition	3
LING 826	Seminar in Syntax	3
LING 831	Seminar in Semantics	3
LING 837	Seminar in Psycholinguistics	3
LING 842	Seminar in Neurolinguistics	3
LING 860	Seminar in Second Language Acquisition	3
LING 910	Linguistic Seminar: _____	1-3
LING 739	First Language Acquisition II	3
AAAS 502	Directed Language Study: _____	5
AAAS 503	Directed Language Study: _____	3
AAAS 504	Directed Language Study I: _____	3
CLDP 880	Seminar in Child Language: Research Methods	1-3
EALC 701	Practicum in Teaching Chinese	1
EALC 702	Practicum in Teaching Japanese	1
EALC 703	Practicum in Teaching Korean	1
EPSY 710	Introduction to Statistical Analysis	3
EPSY 711	Lab for Introduction to Statistical Analysis	1
EPSY 803	Using R for Data Analysis	3
EPSY 810	Regression and ANOVA: General Linear Models	3
EPSY 896	Seminar in: _____	1-3
JPN 762	Modern Japanese Texts I	3
JPN 764	Modern Japanese Texts II	3
JPN 801	Directed Readings and Research in Japanese	1-4
LA&S 720	Introduction to Language Teaching Research	3
LAC 602	Topics in Latin American Studies: _____	1-3
PSYC 790	Statistical Methods in Psychology I	3
PSYC 791	Statistical Methods in Psychology II	3
SLAV 679	Topics in: _____	1-6

| SPAN 801 | Teaching Spanish in Institutions of Higher Learning | 3 |
| SPLH 716 | Speech Perception | 2 |

At the completion of this program, students will be able to:

- demonstrate an ability to reason analytically about language.
- design a novel study that critically evaluates a hypothesis about language and would generate new ideas about language.
- communicate clearly and effectively orally and in writing about language.
- demonstrate integrity and responsibility in the conduct of linguistics research.