

Graduate School Professional Programs

LINGUISTICS (LIN)

Graduate Faculty:

Deborah Chen Pichler, Ph.D.; Paul G. Dudis, Ph.D.; Robert E. Johnson, Ph.D.; Ceil Lucas, Ph.D. (*Chair*); Susan Mather, Ph.D.; Gaurav Mathur, Ph.D.; Kristin Mulrooney, Ph.D.

About the Department:

Gallaudet's Department of Linguistics offers the following graduate degrees:

1. M.A. in Linguistics
2. Ph.D. in Linguistics

The department is unique in that all students and faculty in the department share an abiding interest in the study of American Sign Language (ASL) and its use. The ongoing, innovative research carried out by the linguistics faculty is contributing substantially to what is known about the structure and use of sign languages. ASL and other sign languages are not only the subject of faculty and student research, but ASL is also the language of communication in the classroom. Deaf graduate students do not have to deal with the issue of finding competent interpreters for classroom lectures, meetings with faculty members, and meetings with other students. Normal day-to-day interaction with fellow graduate students happens easily in an environment where all students are skilled ASL signers.

Graduate Special Students

Non-degree graduate special students may take courses in the linguistics program provided that they meet the course pre-requisites, have the necessary sign language skill, and have the permission of the instructor. Completion of courses as a special student does not guarantee later admission to a degree program.

Master of Arts in Linguistics

Students may seek an M.A. in Linguistics either as their terminal degree or as a step toward the Ph.D. It should be

kept in mind that to proceed from the M.A. to the Ph.D. program in linguistics at Gallaudet, students must submit a Ph.D. application portfolio which must be unanimously approved by the faculty.

The M.A. program is appropriate for students seeking linguistic knowledge as a foundation for work in such allied professional fields as language teaching, interpreter education, language planning, bilingual education, and language assessment. Graduates of this program are sought for positions in interpreter training programs, faculty teaching posts at the college level, or, given the appropriate educational background, as teachers of Deaf children.

Students pursuing the M.A. in Linguistics at Gallaudet get a solid grounding in linguistic theory, methods, and research with a special emphasis on sign language linguistics. The program includes core courses in linguistic theory (both generative and cognitive), core courses in the structure of American Sign Language, courses in sociolinguistics, language and culture, research methods, and field methods. In addition, students select two elective courses according to their interests. The M.A. program requires 38 credit hours of coursework. A full-time graduate student should complete the program in four semesters. The program is designed to be completed during the fall and spring semesters, with no weekend or summer course offerings.

Core Courses in Linguistics (M.A.)

- LIN 701 Introduction to Phonological Theory (3)
- LIN 702 Introduction to Syntactic Theory (3)
- LIN 703 Proseminar I (1)
- LIN 704 Proseminar II (1)
- LIN 721 Introduction to Cognitive Linguistics (3)

Core Courses in Sign Language Linguistics (M.A.)

- LIN 731 American Sign Language Phonology (3)
- LIN 732 American Sign Language Morphology (3)
- LIN 733 American Sign Language Syntax (3)
- LIN 741 Sociolinguistics of U.S. Deaf Community (3)
- LIN 745 Languages and Cultures in Deaf Communities (3)
- LIN 771 Field Methods I (3)
- LIN 772 Field Methods II (3)

Elective Courses in Linguistics (6)

Elective Courses in Linguistics

Students must complete at least 6 credit hours of elective graduate courses in linguistics. Elective courses are chosen by the student in consultation with the student's advisor. Elective courses may be taken through the consortium and should focus on aspects of linguistic theory or research related to the student's professional goals.

Sign Language Fluency

All applicants to the program must have sufficient skill and experience in American Sign Language (ASL) to participate fully in classroom discussions conducted in ASL. Applicants are requested to provide a brief video in ASL as part of their application materials.

Qualifying Examinations

All students must take qualifying examinations during the first year of coursework. Students who do not achieve a passing score will be asked either to take remedial work and retake the examination or withdraw from the program.

Typical Program of Study (M.A.)

Semester I - Fall

- LIN 702 Introduction to Syntactic Theory (3)
- LIN 703 Proseminar I (1)
- LIN 721 Introduction to Cognitive Linguistics (3)
- LIN 731 American Sign Language Phonology (3)

Semester II - Spring

- LIN 701 Introduction to Phonological Theory (3)
- LIN 704 Proseminar II (1)
- LIN 732 American Sign Language Morphology (3)
- LIN 745 Languages and Cultures in Deaf Communities (3)*
or
- LIN 795 Special Topics (3)*

*LIN 745 will be offered in odd years and LIN 795 in even years.

Semester III - Fall

- LIN 733 American Sign Language Syntax (3)
- LIN 771 Field Methods I (3)
Elective (3)

Semester IV - Spring

- LIN 741 Sociolinguistics in Deaf Communities (3)
- LIN 772 Field Methods II (3)
Elective (3)

Ph.D. in Linguistics

Gallaudet's Ph.D. program in linguistics, with a focus on sign language, opened its doors in the fall semester of 2002. Students may specialize in a range of theoretical and applied areas related to sign language, including phonology, syntax, morphology, cognitive linguistics, sociolinguistics, first language acquisition, and second language acquisition. Successful students will receive an M.A. degree after two years of coursework, advance to candidacy to the Ph.D. after another three semesters of courses, and receive the Ph.D. after completion of a dissertation. Required courses may be waived on a case-by-case basis for students with previous work in linguistics. All courses taught by linguistics faculty are conducted in ASL.

The doctoral curriculum consists of a total of 71 credits of coursework plus dissertation research. This means that those who have taken the 38 credits required by the M.A. curriculum must complete another 33 credits of advanced linguistics courses. All students must complete the following advanced courses: Guided Research Project (LIN 880), Advanced Topics in Phonology (LIN 801), Advanced Topics in Syntax (LIN 802) or Cognitive Grammar (LIN 827), and Dissertation Proposal Development (LIN 890). An additional 18 credits of elective courses must also be completed.

Since the first two years of required coursework are the same for both the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees, students are encouraged to enter the program at the beginning M.A. level. Students who already have an M.A. in linguistics can apply directly for admission into the Ph.D. program, but will be required to take first and second year courses that were not included in the previous degree work. For those who have received an M.A. in language teaching from Gallaudet's American Sign Language and Deaf Studies Department, the entire second year of language teaching coursework will be applied toward the doctoral program, reducing required coursework from five to three semesters. Students who earned the M.A. from Gallaudet's linguistics program more than ten years before the date of application may be required to retake the comprehensive examination and earn a score of "high pass" prior to admission.

Elective Courses in Linguistics

Students must complete at least 24 credits of elective graduate courses in linguistics. Elective courses are chosen by the student in consultation with the student's advisor. Some courses may be taken through the Consortium of Colleges and Universities. Electives should focus on aspects of linguistic theory, application, or research related to the student's professional or academic goals.

Qualifying Examination

All students must take the qualifying examination in the spring semester of the first year of coursework. Students must achieve a passing score in order to continue in the program. Part time students may take the qualifying examination upon completion of the full sequence of courses ordinarily completed during the first year of full time study.

Comprehensive Examination

All students must pass a comprehensive examination designed to evaluate their grasp of the major principles and important content of the program of study. This examination is administered in the spring semester of the third year of coursework, i.e., the first year of the Ph.D. program.

Qualifying Papers

During the second year of study, students seeking a Ph.D. will prepare the first of two qualifying papers. The second qualifying paper will be completed during the third year of study. These papers will be the products of substantial data-based research projects on topics of relevance to sign languages. The student will prepare a thorough review of the literature, collect and analyze data, and report on the analysis. Successful completion of these papers qualifies students to begin work on their dissertation proposal.

Concept Paper

During the third year of study, students seeking a Ph.D. will prepare a concept paper on their proposed dissertation topic. This paper will include a statement of the research question, a review of the literature and a research plan. Upon admission to the Ph.D. program, the student will have identified a faculty member with expertise in their research area to serve as chair of their dissertation committee and will have obtained the faculty member's agreement. The dissertation chair must approve the concept paper before the student may begin work on the dissertation proposal.

Dissertation

Each student seeking a Ph.D. will be required to complete a research-based dissertation in an area acceptable to his or her doctoral committee. Upon completion of the dissertation, the student will defend it before the doctoral committee.

Core Courses in Linguistics (Ph.D.)

- LIN 701 Introduction to Phonological Theory (3)
- LIN 702 Introduction to Syntactic Theory (3)
- LIN 703 Proseminar I (1)
- LIN 704 Proseminar II (1)
- LIN 721 Introduction to Cognitive Linguistics (3)
- LIN 801 Advanced Topics in Phonology (3)

LIN 802 Advanced Topics in Syntax (3)

LIN 827 Cognitive Grammar (3)

Core Courses in Sign Language Linguistics (Ph.D.)

LIN 731 American Sign Language Phonology (3)

LIN 732 American Sign Language Morphology (3)

LIN 733 American Sign Language Syntax (3)

LIN 741 Sociolinguistics of U.S. Deaf Community (3)

LIN 745 Languages and Cultures in Deaf Communities (3)*

or

LIN 795 Special Topics (3)*

*LIN 745 will be offered in odd years and LIN 795 in even years.

LIN 771 Field Methods I (3)

LIN 772 Field Methods II (3)

Elective Courses in Linguistics (6)

Core Courses in Statistics (Ph.D.)**

EDF 801 Principles of Statistics I (3)

EDF 802 Principles of Statistics II (3)

**Note: These courses are required for students whose Ph.D. specialization requires statistical work. If taken, they replace two elective courses.

Typical Program of Study (Ph.D.)*Year I - Fall*

LIN 702 Introduction to Syntactic Theory (3)

LIN 703 Proseminar I (1)

LIN 721 Introduction to Cognitive Linguistics (3)

LIN 731 American Sign Language Phonology (3)

Year I - Spring

LIN 701 Introduction to Phonological Theory (3)

LIN 704 Proseminar II (1)

LIN 732 American Sign Language Morphology (3)

LIN 745 Languages and Cultures in Deaf Communities (3)*

or

LIN 795 Special Topics (3)*

*LIN 745 will be offered in odd years and LIN 795 in even years.

Year II - Fall

LIN 733 American Sign Language Syntax (3)

LIN 771 Field Methods I (3)

Elective (3)

Year II - Spring

LIN 741 Sociolinguistics of the U.S. Deaf Community (3)

LIN 772 Field Methods II (3)

Elective (3)

Year III - Fall

LIN 802 Advanced Topics in Syntax (3)

- or
- LIN 827 Cognitive Grammar (3)
 - LIN 880 Guided Research Project (3)
Elective (3)
Elective (3)
Elective (3)

Year III - Spring

- LIN 801 Advanced Topics in Phonology (3)
- LIN 880 Guided Research Project (3)
Elective (3)
Elective (3)
Elective (3)
Concept Paper

Year IV - Fall

- LIN 890 Dissertation Proposal Development (3)

Year IV - Spring (and onward)

- LIN 900 Dissertation Research (1-9)

Admission Requirements for the M.A. and Ph.D. Programs in Linguistics

Admission requirements for the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees are the same.

Checklist of requirements for application to every Gallaudet University graduate program:

- Official transcripts of all undergraduate study, including evidence of having received a bachelor's degree from an accredited university. (Those applying during their final undergraduate year will be required to submit a final transcript after completion of their bachelor's degree and before enrolling in their first semester of graduate study.)
- Official transcripts of all graduate study.
- A minimum 3.0 grade point average (on a four-point scale) in all previous undergraduate and graduate study. (Occasionally, applicants with a GPA lower than 3.0 may be admitted conditionally upon the recommendation of the department.)
- An application fee of \$50.
- A completed graduate school application form.
- Goals statement.
- TOEFL scores for all international applicants.

Checklist of requirements specific to this program:

Are additional application materials required?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Standardized Test Scores?	GRE
<input type="checkbox"/>	References?	Three Letters
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reference Citing Sign Language Skills?	One of the three letters should cite sign language skills
	Resume?	No
	Writing Sample?	No
	Videotape of Signing and/or English?	Yes - ASL

Are there additional application requirements?

	On-Campus Interview?	No
	Sign Language Evaluation?	No
	English Evaluation?	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ph.D. application Portfolio: Letter of interest, CV, 10-20 pg sample of written work from a Gallaudet M.A. linguistics course	For all students completing their M.A. in linguistics at Gallaudet and wishing to continue in the Ph.D. Program.

Are there additional background requirements?

	Prior Master's Degree?	No
	Required Undergraduate Major?	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recommended Undergraduate Major?	Language Math Science
	Prerequisite Coursework (Required)?	No
	Standardized Testing Substitute for Prerequisite?	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recommended Prior Coursework?	Introduction to Linguistics Logic Foreign Language
	Prior Professional Experience?	No
	Prior Certification?	No
	Health Certification Requirements?	No
	Police or Other Background Check?	No

Application Deadlines and Program Scheduling

<input type="checkbox"/>	Last Date to Submit Completed Application?	February 15
	First Date for Consideration of Application?	No Set Date
	Summer Admission Possible?	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fall Admission Possible?	Yes
	Winter Admission Possible?	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Part-time Study Possible?	Yes
	Summers-Only Study Possible?	No
	Weekend and Evening Study Possible?	No

Note: Students who enter the Ph.D. program in linguistics with a Gallaudet M.A. in Deaf Studies focusing on language teaching will be able to complete Ph.D. coursework in four semesters rather than six, since as many as 25 of their M.A. credits may be credited toward the Ph.D.