Bachelor of Arts

INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR

Linguistics is the scientific study of language. Linguists seek to understand the use, structure, and meaning of language by investigating languages from around the world, how languages change over time, and the relationship of language to society and cognition. Linguistics is interdisciplinary, drawing on and contributing to work in anthropology, philosophy, psychology, and computer science. Through a strong tradition of research collaboration, linguists at Berkeley conduct cutting-edge research on language, deepening and enriching our understanding of this unique human trait.

AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR

• Join a student organization such as the Society of Linguistics Undergraduate Students (SLUgS).
• Work directly with a graduate student on research through the Linguistics Research Apprentice Practicum.
• Visit the California Language Archive, a catalog of indigenous language materials.
• Participate in the Linguistic Society of America (LSA) Linguistic Institute.

THE MAJOR CURRICULUM

Students in linguistics benefit from an intense, personalized academic experience through smaller classes. The foundational course is LINGUIST 100 ("Introduction to Linguistic Science"), a general survey of linguistics. Students then take upper division courses which focus on different aspects of language. Students have ample opportunities to work with faculty and graduate students on research projects, and are encouraged to participate in student groups such as the Society of Linguistics Undergraduate Students (SLUgS).

CONNECT WITH US

Cal Day
Come to UC Berkeley’s annual Open House in April for information sessions, campus tours, special talks, and more.

Golden Bear Orientation
Join your peers in the campus-wide UC Berkeley orientation program for all new students.

Events
Attend department events with students, faculty, and staff. Visit lx.berkeley.edu for news and updates.

ADVISING

Students can schedule appointments or email general questions to the major advisor at LingMajorAdvisor@berkeley.edu.

HOW TO USE THIS MAP

Use this map to help plan and guide your experience at UC Berkeley, including academic, co-curricular, and discovery opportunities. Everyone’s Berkeley experience is different and activities in this map are suggestions. Always consult with your advisors whenever possible for new opportunities and updates.
LINGUISTICS
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DESIGN YOUR JOURNEY

FIRST YEAR
- Meet with your major and college advisor to discuss your academic plans.
- Familiarize yourself with major and college requirements.
- Enroll in LINGUIS 1 or LINGUIS 24 or other lower division courses in Linguistics.
- Consider participating in the Linguistics Enrichment Experience Program (LEEP).

SECOND YEAR
- Enroll in LINGUIS 100, the only prerequisite to declare the major.
- After completing LINGUIS 100 declare the major by submitting your Major Declaration Petition.
- Review major guidelines for study abroad and explore related programs.
- Participate in research activities like Linguistics Research Apprentice Practicum (LRAP).

THIRD YEAR
- Continue taking the major’s core requirements and start approved upper division electives.
- Review your degree progress with your major and college advisors.
- Participate in research activities like Linguistics Research Apprentice Practicum (LRAP).
- Ask the major advisor about the Linguistics Honors Program.

FOURTH YEAR
- Do a degree check to ensure you are on track to graduate.
- Complete any “bucket list” courses and remaining major, college, and campus requirements.

Connect and build community
- Get 1:1 mentoring with Berkeley Connect and L&S Mentors Program.
- Find study groups, tutoring, and academic support at the Student Learning Center.
- Join a student organization such as the Society of Linguistics Undergraduate Students (SLuGS).

Discover your passions
- Discover new interests in a Freshman Seminar such as LINGUIS 24, L&S 1, or a student-run DeCal course.
- Attend the Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Fair in October.
- Learn about research taking place in the Linguistics department.
- Continue with a Sophomore Seminar, Big Ideas Course or Discovery Course.
- Work directly with a graduate student on research through the Linguistics Research Apprentice Practicum (LRAP).
- Assist faculty and graduate students in their research through URAP and SURF-SMART.

Engage locally and globally
- Attend the Calapalooza student activities fair and get involved with a student organization.
- Explore study, internship, and research abroad options with Berkeley Study Abroad.
- Work with a community organization in an American Cultures Engaged Scholarship course.
- Consider a Berkeley Global Internship in the United States or abroad.
- Find service opportunities through the Public Service Center.
- Continue to work directly with a graduate student on research through the Linguistics Research Apprentice Practicum (LRAP).
- Planning a senior thesis or project? Apply to the Apprentice Practicum (LRAP).
- Enrich your studies with a certificate, course thread, or summer minor.

Reflect and plan your future
- Visit the Career Center and Career Counseling Library.
- Check out the Career Center Yearly Planner.
- Sign up for Handshake and CareerMail.
- Explore career fields in the Career Connections Networking Series or a winter externship.
- Reflect on your education so far and skills and experience you still wish to build.
- Meet with a Career Center counselor to discuss your career options and goals.
- Think about doing an internship and attend an Internship Fair.
- Learn about graduate and professional school See Step-by-Step for planning help.
- Update your resume and LinkedIn profile.
- Discuss post-graduate options with advisors and professors.
- Attend career and graduate school fairs.
- Ask professors and graduate student instructors for recommendation letters.
- Explore career and graduate school resources on the Linguistics department website.
- Meet employers at Employer Info Sessions and On-Campus Recruiting.
- Stay updated on career events offered by student organizations like SLuGS Berkeley.
- Apply to jobs, graduate school, and other opportunities.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?

The Linguistics major provides a variety of career and graduate school possibilities. Graduates go on to work in a range of fields, including health services, speech technology, legal consulting, writing, teaching, data mining, lexicography, and translation.

Jobs and Employers
- Analytical Linguist, Google Assistant Language Teacher, JET Behavioral Interventionist, Co. for Autism and Related Disorders
- Biological Research Asst., UC Berkeley
- Content Manager Educational Technology Editor
- Forensic Linguist
- Linguist, Sensory, Inc.
- Linguistic Localization Consultant
- Litigation Paralegal Trainee, ComputerLaw Group
- Professional Brand Namer
- Research scientist
- Site Reliability Engineer, Google Software Engineer, Abstract
- Technical Writer
- UI/UX/Web Developer, AXA Rosenberg
- User Experience Strategist
- Video Editor, Udemy

Graduate Programs
- Computer Engineering, Masters
- Elementary Education, Masters
- Law, JD
- Linguistics, PhD
- Spanish Language and Lit., Masters
- Speech-Language Pathology, Masters
- Urban Community Planning, Masters

Examples gathered from the First Destination Survey of recent Berkeley graduates.