Linguistics

Language is a uniquely human capacity that enables us to communicate a limitless set of messages on any topic. While human languages can differ greatly in certain respects, all are intricate, complex, rule-governed systems. Linguistics is the scientific study of these systems, their use for communication in rich social settings, and their cognitive underpinnings. The linguistics concentration at Brown gives students a background in the "core" aspects of the language system: phonetics/phonology (the study of speech sounds and their patterning), syntax (the study of combinatorics of words, phrases, and sentences), semantics/pragmatics (the study of the meanings of both words and larger expressions, and how they interact with communicative goals), and how language is produced, understood, and learned by children and adults (psycholinguistics). Beyond this, students may focus more heavily in one or more of these areas and/or explore related questions such as how core aspects of language do (and do not) vary, including through the use linguistic fieldwork on understudied languages, or how probabilistic tendencies and variability in language usage relate to grammar. Other areas such as historical linguistics, computational linguistics, sociolinguistics, philosophy of language, and linguistic anthropology can also be pursued in conjunction with offerings in other departments.

Students who wish to pursue one or more aspects of Linguistics in greater depth than does the Bachelor of Arts, and to focus on some of the more technical, computational, and/or experimental areas of the field may choose to take a Bachelor of Science in Linguistics. Students will choose a focus pathway which will direct their choices. Pathways include: Language, Computation, and Information; Language, Mind, and Brain; Meaning and Logic, or one of the student's design, with approval from the concentration advisor.

A.B. Requirements (10 courses)

The core requirements are:

One gateway course:
- LING 0100 (Introduction to Linguistics)

Four breadth requirements:
- Phonology (LING 1200) or Phonetics (CLPS 1311)
- Syntax (LING 1310) or Linguistics Variation and Universals (LING 1311).
- Lexical Semantics (LING 1410), Compositional Semantics (LING 1440), or Pragmatics (LING 1412)
- Language variation (at the individual, community, or cross-linguistic level; see examples below)

Five additional appropriate electives forming a thematically related set (to be determined in consultation with the Concentration Advisor):
- At least one of these must be drawn from the list of advanced and methods courses listed below. No more than 2 of these courses may be drawn from below 1000 level courses. Every linguistics course offered by the Linguistics Program counts. Electives may also be drawn from courses in other departments and programs in consultation with the Concentration Advisor.

Gateway Course 1

LING 0100 Introduction to Linguistics

Phonetics/Phonology Courses 1

LING 1200 Phonology
CLPS 1311 Phonetics

Syntax Courses 1

LING 1310 Introduction to Syntax
LING 1311 Linguistic Variation and Universals

Semantics/Pragmatics Courses 1

LING 1410 Lexical Semantics
LING 1440 Compositional Semantics
LING 1412 Pragmatics

Linguistic Variation Courses 5

CLPS 1393 Sociolinguistics
CLPS 0340 Language and Gender
CLPS 0530 Making Visual Illusions
LING 1311 Linguistic Variation and Universals
CLPS 0800 Language and the Mind
CLPS 1650 Child Language Acquisition
CLPS 1660 Learning Compositional Language
CLPS 1800 Language Processing
CLPS 1850 Language Processing in Humans and Machines
CLPS 1890 Laboratory in Psycholinguistics

5 additional appropriate electives forming a thematically related set to be determined in consultation with the Concentration Advisor. At least one of these must be drawn from the list of advanced courses listed below, and we strongly recommend that at least one course be an appropriate methods and a topics course. No more than 2 of these courses may be drawn from below 1000 level courses. The electives can be drawn from any of the above courses, or any of the other linguistic/language related courses in the program. Electives may also be drawn from courses in other departments in consultation with the Concentration Advisor; a list of courses which standardly count towards the Linguistics Concentration (provided they form part of the thematically related set) is appended below.

CLPS 1650 Child Language Acquisition
SLAV 1300 Sociolinguistics (with Case Studies on the Former USSR and Eastern Europe)

Advanced and Methods Courses

LING 1440 Compositional Semantics
LING 1771 Introduction to Corpus Linguistics
LING 1870 Linguistic Field Methods
CSCI 1460 Computational Linguistics
CLPS 1890 Laboratory in Psycholinguistics

NOTE: This is NOT an exhaustive list of courses that can be applied towards the Linguistics Concentration requirements.

Total Credits 10

Honors (12 courses)

Candidates for Honors in Linguistics must meet all of the requirements above, write an Honors thesis, and take two additional courses. One course is normally LING 19XX (Directed Research in Linguistics) - intended for work on the Honors thesis. Three of the total 12 courses must be drawn from the advanced list above (the Directed Research course counts as one of the advanced courses). Refer to the Program in Linguistics webpage for detailed information about the Linguistics Honors program.

Independent Study

Independent study is encouraged for the A.B. degree. Students should sign up for LING 19XX with a faculty advisor who is a member of the Program in Linguistics. Arrangements should be made in Semester 6 for students expecting to do independent study during Semesters 7 and/or 8.

Do Foreign Language Courses Count?

Foreign language courses will generally not count towards the concentration requirements, except those that focus on the structure or history of the language. Students are, however, advised to gain familiarity with a foreign language, and are encouraged to take at least one course which deals with the structure of a language other than English.

ScB Requirements (16 courses)

Students who wish to pursue one or more aspects of Linguistics in greater depth than does the A.B., and to focus on some of the more technical,
The core requirements are:

- One gateway course
- Four breadth requirements, one each in Phonology, Syntax, Semantics or Pragmatics, and Psycholinguistics.
- Three electives in the focus area (see individual pathways below)
- Four non-linguistic focus area electives (see individual pathways below)
- Two breadth requirements that satisfy the Linguistics AB requirement.
- One gateway course

### Language, Computation, and Information Pathway

**Gateway course**
- LING 0100 Introduction to Linguistics

**At least one course in phonetics / phonology, such as:**
- LING 1200 Phonology
- CLPS 1311 Phonetics

**At least one course in syntax, such as:**
- LING 1310 Introduction to Syntax
- LING 1311 Linguistic Variation and Universals

**At least one course in semantics / pragmatics, such as:**
- LING 1410 Lexical Semantics
- LING 1412 Pragmatics
- LING 1440 Compositional Semantics

**At least one course in linguistics variation, such as:**
- LING 1311 Linguistic Variation and Universals
- CLPS 0340 Language and Gender
- CLPS 0530 Making Visual Illusions
- CLPS 1393 Sociolinguistics
- CLPS 0800 Language and the Mind
- CLPS 1650 Child Language Acquisition
- CLPS 1660 Learning Compositional Language
- CLPS 1800 Language Processing
- CLPS 1890 Laboratory in Psycholinguistics

**Three electives specifically in the focus area, such as:**
- LING 1741 Information Theory in Language
- LING 1771 Introduction to Corpus Linguistics
- CSCI 1460 Computational Linguistics
- CLPS 1800 Language Processing
- CLPS 1850 Language Processing in Humans and Machines

**Four non-linguistic focus area electives, such as:**
- APMA 1650 Statistical Inference I
- CSCI 0220 Introduction to Discrete Structures and Probability
- CSCI 1410 Artificial Intelligence
- CSCI 1420 Machine Learning
- CSCI 1951A Introduction to Machine Learning
- PHP 1560 Statistical Programming in R
- MATH 0520 Linear Algebra
- CLPS 0950 Introduction to programming
- CLPS 2908 Multivariate Statistical Techniques

**Three additional electives in Linguistics, preferably outside the main focus area, such as:**
- LING 1311 Linguistic Variation and Universals
- LING 1870 Linguistic Field Methods

### Language, Mind and Brain Pathway

**Gateway course**
- LING 0100 Introduction to Linguistics

**At least one course in phonetics / phonology, such as:**
- LING 1200 Phonology
- CLPS 1311 Phonetics

**At least one course in syntax, such as:**
- LING 1310 Introduction to Syntax
- LING 1311 Linguistic Variation and Universals

**At least one course in semantics / pragmatics, such as:**
- LING 1410 Lexical Semantics
- LING 1412 Pragmatics
- LING 1440 Compositional Semantics

**At least one course in linguistic variations, such as:**
- LING 1311 Linguistic Variation and Universals
- CLPS 1393 Sociolinguistics
- CLPS 0340 Language and Gender
- CLPS 0530 Making Visual Illusions
- CLPS 0800 Language and the Mind
- CLPS 1650 Child Language Acquisition
- CLPS 1660 Learning Compositional Language
- CLPS 1800 Language Processing
- CLPS 1890 Laboratory in Psycholinguistics

**Three electives specifically in the focus area, such as:**
- LING 1310 Introduction to Syntax
- CLPS 0800 Language and the Mind
- CLPS 1385 Topics in Language Acquisition: Language Acquisition and Cognitive Development
- CLPS 1650 Child Language Acquisition
- CLPS 1660 Learning Compositional Language
- CLPS 1800 Language Processing
- CLPS 1850 Language Processing in Humans and Machines
- CLPS 1890 Laboratory in Psycholinguistics

**Four non-linguistic focus area electives, such as:**
- CSCI 1420 Machine Learning
- CSCI 1460 Computational Linguistics
- NEUR 0680 Introduction to Computational Neuroscience
- PHIL 1770 Philosophy of Mind
- CLPS 0200 Human Cognition
- CLPS 0400 Cognitive Neuroscience
- CLPS 0610 Children’s Thinking: The Nature of Cognitive Development
- CLPS 0900 Statistical Methods
- CLPS 1492 Computational Cognitive Neuroscience
- CLPS 1610 Cognitive Development
- CLPS 1620 Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience

**Total Credits: 16**
### Linguistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1900</td>
<td>Research Methods And Design</td>
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</table>

**Three additional electives in Linguistics, preferably outside the focus area, such as:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LING 1311</td>
<td>Linguistic Variation and Universals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 1440</td>
<td>Compositional Semantics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 1870</td>
<td>Linguistic Field Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 1771</td>
<td>Introduction to Corpus Linguistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 1800</td>
<td>Sociolinguistics, Discourse and Dialogue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLAV 1300</td>
<td>Sociolinguistics (with Case Studies on the Former USSR and Eastern Europe)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1660</td>
<td>Learning Compositional Language</td>
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Or many other courses

**One independent study / capstone requirement**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LING 19XX</td>
<td>Directed Research</td>
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**Total Credits**

**16**

### Meaning and Logic Pathway

**Gateway course**

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LING 0100</td>
<td>Introduction to Linguistics</td>
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**At least one course in phonetics / phonology, such as:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LING 1200</td>
<td>Phonology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1311</td>
<td>Phonetics</td>
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</tbody>
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**At least one course in syntax, such as:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LING 1310</td>
<td>Introduction to Syntax (INCORRECT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 1311</td>
<td>Linguistic Variation and Universals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**At least one course in semantics / pragmatics, such as:**

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LING 1410</td>
<td>Lexical Semantics</td>
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<tr>
<td>LING 1412</td>
<td>Pragmatics</td>
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<tr>
<td>LING 1440</td>
<td>Compositional Semantics</td>
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**At least one course in linguistic variation, such as:**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LING 1311</td>
<td>Linguistic Variation and Universals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1393</td>
<td>Sociolinguistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 0340</td>
<td>Language and Gender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 0530</td>
<td>Making Visual Illusions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 0800</td>
<td>Language and the Mind</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLPS 1650</td>
<td>Child Language Acquisition</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLPS 1660</td>
<td>Learning Compositional Language</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLPS 1800</td>
<td>Language Processing</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLPS 1890</td>
<td>Laboratory in Psycholinguistics</td>
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**Three electives specifically in the focus area, such as:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LING 1270</td>
<td>Laboratory in Phonetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 1311</td>
<td>Linguistic Variation and Universals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 1410</td>
<td>Lexical Semantics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 1412</td>
<td>Pragmatics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 1440</td>
<td>Compositional Semantics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 0990X</td>
<td>Conditionals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1660</td>
<td>Learning Compositional Language</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Four non-linguistics focus area electives, such as:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH 0750</td>
<td>Introduction to Higher Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSCI 0220</td>
<td>Introduction to Discrete Structures and Probability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 0990T</td>
<td>Paradox and Infinity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 1630</td>
<td>Mathematical Logic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 0200</td>
<td>Human Cognition</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLPS 0610</td>
<td>Children's Thinking: The Nature of Cognitive Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLPS 0700</td>
<td>Social Psychology</td>
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**Three additional electives in Linguistics, preferably outside the main focus area, such as:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LING 1311</td>
<td>Linguistic Variation and Universals</td>
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</tbody>
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**Honor (17 courses)**

The Honors program requires one additional elective, which will typically be a second LING 19XX Directed Research course during the senior year (thus leading to a full year of Directed Reading or Directed Research).

Admission to the honors program requires a majority of A grades in the concentration. The student’s work will culminate in an Honors’ thesis on an approved topic (learn more about regulations regarding Honors’ theses at [https://linguistics.brown.edu/concentrations/](https://linguistics.brown.edu/concentrations/)), written under the direction of one or more faculty members, and read by a committee of at least two faculty members (one of whom may be from another department).

NOTE: Please refer to the undergraduate Linguistics concentration site for updates not listed here.