

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)

One gateway course:

- LING 0100 (Introduction to Linguistics)

Four breadth requirements:

- Phonology (LING 1200) or Phonetics (LING 1210)
- 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	
LING 1210 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	1

LING 1500 Sociolinguistics	
LING 0511 Language and Gender	
LING 1311 Linguistic Variation and Universals	
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 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.	5
CLPS 1650 Child Language Acquisition	
SLAV 1300 Language and Politics in East Europe and Russia	

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**

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.

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.

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, computational, and/or experimental areas of the field may choose to take an Sc.B in Linguistics. Students will choose a focus pathway which will direct their choices. Three possible pathways are described below in

additional detail, though other pathways are possible, if approved by the Concentration Advisor.

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. These could serve as a secondary focus area.
- One Capstone course

Gateway course	1
LING 0100 Introduction to Linguistics	
At least one course in phonetics / phonology, such as:	1
LING 1200 Phonology	
LING 1210 Phonetics	
At least one course in syntax, such as:	1
LING 1310 Introduction to Syntax	
LING 1311 Linguistic Variation and Universals	
At least one course in semantics / pragmatics, such as:	1
LING 1410 Lexical Semantics	
LING 1412 Pragmatics	
LING 1440 Compositional Semantics	
At least one course in linguistics variation, such as:	1
LING 1311 Linguistic Variation and Universals	
CLPS 0340 Language and Gender	
CLPS 0530 Making Visual Illusions	
CLPS 0800 Language and the Mind	
CLPS 1393 Sociolinguistics	
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:	3
Language, Computation, and Information Pathway	
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	
Language, Mind and Brain Pathway	
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	
Meaning and Logic Pathway	
LING 1270 Laboratory in Phonetics	
LING 1311 Linguistic Variation and Universals	
LING 1410 Lexical Semantics	
LING 1412 Pragmatics	
LING 1440 Compositional Semantics	
PHIL 0990X Conditionals	

CLPS 1660 Learning Compositional Language	
Four non-linguistic focus area electives, such as:	4
Language, Computation, and Information Pathway	
APMA 1650 Statistical Inference I	
CSCI 0220 Introduction to Discrete Structures and Probability	
CSCI 1410 Artificial Intelligence	
CSCI 1420 Machine Learning	
CSCI 1951A Data Science	
PHP 1560 Statistical Programming in R	
MATH 0520 Linear Algebra	
CLPS 0950 Introduction to programming	
CLPS 2908 Multivariate Statistical Techniques	
Language, Mind and Brain Pathway	
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	
CLPS 1900 Research Methods And Design	
Meaning and Logic Pathway	
MATH 0750 Introduction to Higher Mathematics	
CSCI 0220 Introduction to Discrete Structures and Probability	
PHIL 0990T Paradox and Infinity	
PHIL 1630 Mathematical Logic	
CLPS 0200 Human Cognition	
CLPS 0610 Children's Thinking: The Nature of Cognitive Development	
CLPS 0700 Social Psychology	
Three additional electives in Linguistics, preferably outside the main focus area, such as:	3
Language, Computation, and Information Pathway	
LING 1311 Linguistic Variation and Universals	
LING 1440 Compositional Semantics	
LING 1870 Linguistic Field Methods	
ANTH 1800 Sociolinguistics, Discourse and Dialogue	
SLAV 1300 Language and Politics in East Europe and Russia	
CLPS 1660 Learning Compositional Language	
CLPS 1850 Language Processing in Humans and Machines	
Or many other courses	
Language, Mind and Brain Pathway	
LING 1311 Linguistic Variation and Universals	
LING 1440 Compositional Semantics	
LING 1870 Linguistic Field Methods	
LING 1771 Introduction to Corpus Linguistics	
ANTH 1800 Sociolinguistics, Discourse and Dialogue	
SLAV 1300 Language and Politics in East Europe and Russia	
CLPS 1660 Learning Compositional Language	

Or many other courses

Meaning and Logic Pathway

LING 1311	Linguistic Variation and Universals
LING 1741	Information Theory in Language
LING 1870	Linguistic Field Methods
ANTH 1800	Sociolinguistics, Discourse and Dialogue
SLAV 1300	Language and Politics in East Europe and Russia
CLPS 1800	Language Processing
CLPS 1850	Language Processing in Humans and Machines

Or many other courses

One independent study / capstone requirement 1

LING 19XX: Directed Research

Total Credits 16

Honors (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.