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# Linguistics

In the College of Arts and Letters

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<http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/dept/linguist/index.html>

## Faculty

Emeritus: Bar-Lev, Donahue, Elgin, Frey, Johns, Seright, Webb  
Chair: Kaplan  
Professors: Choi, Gawron, Higurashi, Kaplan,  
Robinson, Underhill  
Associate Professors: Csomay, Kitajima, Poole, Samraj, Wu, Zhang  
Assistant Professors: Keating, Malouf

## Offered by the Department of Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages

Master of Arts degree in linguistics.  
Major in linguistics with the B.A. degree in liberal arts and sciences.  
Minor in linguistics.  
Certificate in teaching English as a second or foreign language (TESL/TEFL), basic and advanced.

## The Major

Linguistics is the scientific study of language. The structure of a wide variety of languages is looked at, not to learn these languages, but to learn about them in order to understand the universal properties of human language.

The linguistics program offers coursework in all areas of linguistic analysis: the core areas of phonology, syntax, semantics, and historical linguistics; and interdisciplinary areas such as applied linguistics, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, bilingualism, computational linguistics, and the linguistics of certain languages and language families.

Linguistics majors must complete a minor in another field approved by the adviser in linguistics. Recommended fields include anthropology, communication, ethnic studies, a foreign language, history, journalism, literature, philosophy, psychology, public administration and urban studies, sociology, and speech, language, and hearing sciences.

In addition to the major and minor programs, the Department of Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages offers a Certificate in Teaching English as a Second or Foreign Language (TESL/TEFL). This certificate prepares students to teach English as a second language in adult and private schools and to teach English in foreign countries.

Employment opportunities for linguistics majors exist in the teaching of English as a second language to immigrant and refugee population groups in various locales throughout the southwestern United States. In addition, many students are interested in teaching English in Latin America, the Far East, or other areas outside the United States and continental Europe. Linguistics training can also be used as a valuable skill in conjunction with a California teaching credential in another field. Government work is another alternative, where such divisions as the state department and the foreign service hire trained linguists. Researchers are needed at institutes working in the fields of animal communication, computer science development, disorders of communication, or advanced research in linguistics theory. By combining a linguistics major with courses in accounting, business administration, or related fields, there are jobs available with multinational corporations, particularly those which emphasize trade among the Pacific rim nations. Linguists are also hired in such fields as computer science, advertising, communication media, public relations, and curriculum development.

With a master's or doctoral degree, linguistics majors may find teaching positions at community colleges or universities.

## Advising

All College of Arts and Letters majors are urged to consult with their department adviser as soon as possible; they are required to meet with their department adviser within the first two semesters after declaration or change of major.

## Major Academic Plans (MAPs)

Visit <http://www.sdsu.edu/mymap> for the recommended courses needed to fulfill your major requirements. The MAPs Web site was created to help students navigate the course requirements for their majors and to identify which General Education course will also fulfill a major preparation course requirement.

## Linguistics Major

**With the B.A. Degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences**  
**(Major Code: 15051)**

All candidates for a degree in liberal arts and sciences must complete the graduation requirements listed in the section of this catalog on "Graduation Requirements." No more than 48 units in linguistics courses can apply to the degree.

Students majoring in linguistics must complete a minor in another field approved by the departmental adviser in linguistics. Recommended fields include anthropology, communication, ethnic studies, a foreign language, history, journalism, literature, philosophy, psychology, public administration and urban studies, sociology, and speech, language, and hearing sciences.

**Preparation for the Major.** Linguistics 101. (3 units)

Students should note that a number of the upper division required and recommended courses listed below have lower division prerequisites, but these prerequisites do not constitute requirements per se for the completion of the major.

**Language Requirement.** Competency equivalent to that which is normally attained through three college semesters of a foreign language with a B (3.0) average, or the equivalent. Refer to section of catalog on "Graduation Requirements."

**Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement.** Passing the Writing Proficiency Assessment with a score of 10 or above, or Linguistics 305W or 396W, or Rhetoric and Writing Studies 305W or 500W with a grade of C (2.0) or better. See "Graduation Requirements" section for a complete listing of requirements.

**Major.** A minimum of 27 upper division units is required: at least 21 of these must be in Linguistics (and those 21 must include Linguistics 420 or 520 and 521, 522, and 525); with the approval of the adviser, up to six units may be selected from related fields.

## Minor in Linguistics

The minor in linguistics consists of a minimum of 15 units, 12 of which must be upper division and at least 12 of which must be linguistics courses selected under the guidance and with the approval of the adviser. Linguistics 101 or 420 or 520 is required. Linguistics 100, 200, and 305W may not be applied to the minor. No more than three units may be applied to the minor from Anthropology 410, Chinese 352, Communication 530, German 505, Philosophy 531, Spanish 448.

Courses in the minor may not be counted toward the major, but may be used to satisfy preparation for the major and general education requirements, if applicable. A minimum of six upper division units must be completed in residence at San Diego State University.

## Basic Certificate in Teaching English as a Second or Foreign Language (TESL/TEFL)

The Department of Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages offers a basic and advanced Certificate in Teaching English as a Second or Foreign Language (TESL/TEFL). The basic certificate requires 15 units to include

*Introductory Linguistics:* Linguistics 420 or 520;

*Language Acquisition:* Linguistics 452, 454, 552, or 554;

*Language Variation:* Linguistics 524 or 551;

*ESL Teaching:* Linguistics 550; and

*Practical Issues/English Grammar:* Linguistics 530 or 555.

Students must obtain a "C" or better in each of the certificate courses. Under certain circumstances comparable courses taken at other institutions may count toward the certificate. Such courses must be evaluated and approved by the certificate adviser. In addition, there is a 15-hour tutoring requirement. In order to enroll, you must contact the certificate adviser in the Department of Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages. Courses in the certificate may be counted toward the major in linguistics or the major in liberal studies (including the linguistics specialization) but may not be counted toward the minor in linguistics.

Refer to the *Graduate Bulletin* for information on the advanced certificate.



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