

Master of Arts in Linguistics

The objective of the M.A. in Linguistics is to provide students with a solid foundation in linguistic analysis. To this end, the centerpiece of the M.A. program is the M.A. Core, with its two components: breadth requirements and depth requirements. Regardless of degree option, every student in the M.A. Program will be exposed to the fundamental concepts of our field. Beyond the Core, students may select courses that fit their particular interests and career goals. Emphases within the M.A. Program include grammatical analysis, sociolinguistics, and teaching English to speakers of other languages. Students interested in issues of literacy and translation may elect to spend one or two semesters studying at the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics (GIAL), located in South Dallas (near Duncanville); while UTA and GIAL do not cross-list courses, special arrangements have been made between the two institutions for transfer credits. Contact Dr. Laurel Stvan, the Linguistics M.A. Advisor, for details.

(Please note, this page describes the curriculum for MA students who started the program BEFORE the Fall semester of 2006. Students starting in Fall 2006 or later should check the new catalog requirements at <http://ling.uta.edu/degrees/ma-linguistics/>.

Degree Plans

M.A. Thesis Degree Plan: 24 hours course work plus one hour thesis writing course (LING 5100) plus six hours thesis credit (LING 5698).

M.A. Thesis Substitute Degree Plan: 30 hours course work plus one hour thesis writing course (LING 5100) plus three hours thesis substitute credit (LING 5392) plus written examination plus oral defense of the thesis substitute.

M.A. Non-Thesis Degree Plan: 36 hours course work plus comprehensive written examination on the course work.

M.A. Core Curriculum

A. Depth: 5 courses, 15 credits, one course from each of the following areas:

1. LING 5320 (Phonological Theory)
2. LING 5330 (Formal Syntax) or
LING 5332 (Discourse Grammar)
3. LING 5310 (Sociolinguistics) or
LING 5311 (Sociolinguistics of Society) or
LING 5314 (Historical and Comparative Linguistics)
LING 5351 (Spoken Discourse)
4. LING 5380 (Field Methods) or
LING 5360 (Non-Western Linguistic Structures) or
LING 5303 (Contrastive & Error Analysis in TESFL)

5. LING 5370 (Survey of Linguistic Theories) or
LING 5371 (Survey of Theories in Applied Linguistics) or
LING 5372 (Readings in Linguistics)

B. Breadth: 2 courses; 6 credits, one course from two (2) of the following areas

1. LING 5321 (Advanced Phonological Theory) or
LING 5322 (Laboratory Phonology)
LING 5348 (Pedagogical Phonology of English)
2. LING 5304 (Pedagogical Grammar of English) or
LING 5331 (Advanced Formal Syntax) or
LING 5333 (Functional Typological Grammar) or
LING 5334 (Morphology) or
LING 5335 (Language Universals and Typology) or
LING 5350 (Text Analysis)
3. LING 5305 (Second Language Acquisition) or
LING 5345 (Semantics)

M.A. in Linguistics Admissions Requirements

In evaluating candidates for admissions to its graduate degree programs, the Linguistics Faculty has adopted a comprehensive approach that is sensitive to the diversity of backgrounds of its applicants. To this end, the following constellation of quantitative and qualitative factors has been established to make explicit the range of criteria upon which admissions decisions will be based. These factors are then applied to the Evaluation Metrics established in section B of this document.

A) Admission Factors

1) Quantitative Factors

- a) For M.A. program applicants, undergraduate grade point average (GPA) is determined by the UT Arlington Graduate School. For Ph.D. program applicants, GPA is based on all graduate work completed.
- b) For every applicant, Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores are based on all three parts of the general exam: verbal, quantitative, and analytical (V+Q+A).

2) Qualitative Factors

- a) Letters of recommendation: Each applicant must present three (3) letters of recommendation that clearly indicate that the applicant is prepared for and capable of successful graduate study in linguistics at UT Arlington. The letters should further indicate that the applicant is capable of completing the appropriate degree program.

b) Personal Statement: Each applicant must write a statement that explains how graduate study in linguistics is related to both his/her previous academic training and his/her career goals. The statement will be evaluated on the degree to which it is clear, reasonable, and consistent with the research and teaching agenda of the current faculty in linguistics at UT Arlington. It should also convey a level of commitment and maturity commensurate with the applicant's desired degree goals.

c) Undergraduate Preparation: Applicants must have passed the following six courses or reasonable equivalents as determined by the graduate advisor (UT Arlington equivalents are noted in parentheses):

- English composition (ENGL 1302);
- college-level mathematics (MATH 1302);
- a laboratory science (any 1000-level course in BIOL, CHEM, GEOL or PHYS; LING 5322 may also be used to fulfill this requirement);
- linguistic analysis, with a grade of "B" or better (LING 3311/5300);
- phonetics and phonology, with a grade of "B" or better (LING 3330); and
- grammar and morphology, with a grade of "B" or better (LING 3340).

Prospective students lacking any of these prerequisite courses may enroll in them at UT Arlington. The English, math and science courses listed above are offered each semester; the linguistics courses are offered in the spring semester of each year, thereby preparing otherwise qualified applicants for unconditional graduate-school enrollment in the following fall semester.

d) Previous Graduate Work (Ph.D. Applicants only): Ph.D. applicants must present at least 30 semester credits of previous graduate-level coursework (in any field, not necessarily linguistics).

B) Evaluation Metrics

Admission criteria for the M.A. in Linguistics program are listed in the Graduate Catalog pages here:

The website for the UTA Office of Research and Graduate Studies provides additional information about graduate study at UTA and about the admission process, including general testing requirements and other paperwork. Students may apply for admission on-line or request application materials be sent via post.

The M.A. Comprehensive Examination

Students who decide to pursue the Non-Thesis Degree Plan or the Thesis-Substitute Degree Plan must sit for the M.A. Comprehensive Examination. The exam, which is usually taken in the final semester of a student's program of study, covers material from four core areas of linguistics:

First Half

Part I, Phonological Theory

Part II, Survey of Linguistic Theories/Readings in Linguistics
Second Half
Part III, Grammatical Theory
Part IV, Sociolinguistics/Historical Linguistics

Fellowships for Graduate Study in Linguistics at UT Arlington

Graduate School Fellowships (*new students only*)

The UT Arlington Graduate School provides a limited number of fellowships for new graduate students. Fellowships, when available, will be awarded on a competitive basis. Nominees for a UTA Graduate School Fellowship in Linguistics will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Candidates must be new students entering in the fall semester, with a minimum of 6 hours of enrollment in both long semesters to retain their fellowships.
- The minimum undergraduate GPA requirement is 3.3, as calculated by the Graduate School, plus a GPA of 3.3 for any graduate credit hours.
- Transcript of a completed bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.
- Three letters of recommendation. The Program in Linguistics will use the same letters submitted for admission.
- A written statement explaining the applicant's reasons for graduate study in Linguistics.

Linguistics Scholarships (*new and continuing students*)

The UT Arlington Program in Linguistics also provides a limited amount of funding to students pursuing a Graduate Degree in Linguistics. These "Linguistics Scholarships" are awarded on a competitive basis, with the minimum criterion being a GPA of 3.3, calculated as follows:

For new students: GPA as computed for the admissions process.

For returning students:

- part-time students: the most recently completed 9 credit hours of letter-graded courses completed as a Linguistics Graduate Student at UT Arlington.
- full-time students: the most recently completed academic semester in which the student took least 6 hours of letter-graded courses.

The maximum amount that shall be awarded to any scholarship applicant enrolled full-time during the award period will be \$1000 for the academic year. Students who are awarded scholarships but who are not enrolled for a least 9 credit hours will have the total amount of the scholarship prorated to reflect the percentage time enrolled (e.g. 3 credit hours per semester = \$333 for the academic year).

Because the amount of funds available for Linguistics Scholarships fluctuates from year to year, there may be occasions upon which the number of applicants exceeds the number of students that can be supported. In such circumstances, applicants will be ranked according to the GPA criterion specified above; those students with the highest GPAs will receive preference in funding. Moreover, returning students will also be evaluated as to whether or not they are making reasonable progress toward the completion of their degree, with preference given to those students who have taken fewer than 12 credit hours of courses titled "Thesis" or 18 credit hours of courses titled "Dissertation."