

Department of Linguistics Graduate Policy for the M.A. in Linguistics and Cognitive Science and the Ph.D. in Linguistics

(draft 2/10/2006)

The M.A. Program in Linguistics and Cognitive Science and the Ph.D. Program in Linguistics

The Department of Linguistics offers programs leading to the M.A. degree in Linguistics and Cognitive Science and the Ph.D. in Linguistics. The M.A. in Linguistics and Cognitive Science, established in 1994-1995, allows students to design a program of study in linguistics and cognitive science, e.g. theoretical linguistics, descriptive linguistics, language and cognition, the linguistic, psychological, philosophical, evolutionary and computational bases of cognition, psycholinguistics, and the study of endangered and underdescribed languages (linguistic field methods, language typology, language documentation). The Ph.D. in Linguistics, established in 1985, is designed to furnish students with a solid background in theoretical linguistics as well as to direct them to advanced study in a particular area of specialization. Areas for Ph.D. specialization include theoretical linguistics (syntax, semantics, phonology, morphology), psycholinguistics (cognitive science, first and second language acquisition, language processing, neurolinguistics), computational linguistics, and the study of endangered and underdescribed languages (linguistic field methods, language typology, language documentation).

The Program in Cognitive Science

The academic program in Cognitive Science, established in 1995, is administered by the Department of Linguistics. See below for information regarding the M.A. in Linguistics and Cognitive Science. While there is no Doctoral degree in Cognitive Science, the Ph.D. in Linguistics allows a secondary specialization in Cognitive Science, and advanced degrees in related disciplines (e.g., Psychology) also permit students to develop concentrations in the field. There are also regular graduate course offerings in Cognitive Science that allow individualized training in the field.

Admission Requirements

Applications for admission are available from the University's Office of Graduate Studies (phone number 302-831-2129). Electronic applications are strongly encouraged and are available at <http://www.udel.edu/gradoffice/applicants/>. Applicants should arrange to have three letters of reference sent directly to: University of Delaware, Office of Graduate Studies, Hulliher Hall, Newark, DE 19716.

The application deadline for first-round consideration for financial aid for Fall admission is February 1. It is in the interest of candidates to apply early. Applicants who are not seeking funding must apply by June 1. The deadline for Spring admission is November 1. Because the Ph.D. program requires a progression of

courses from Fall to Spring, Spring admission is not recommended for applicants to the Ph.D. program and is rarely granted.

Students with a B.A./B.S. or M.A./M.S. in linguistics or in an appropriate related field may apply (related fields include, but are not limited to, English, Modern Languages, Psychology, Education, Cognitive Science, Philosophy, Mathematics, and Computer Science). Students without a degree in linguistics proper may be asked to take additional courses to meet minimum training in linguistics.

Applicants are required to submit the following:

- A completed application form;
- Official transcripts from all previous universities or colleges;
- GRE scores (a minimum of 1050 on verbal and quantitative sections combined is required; the analytical score is also considered);
- Three letters of recommendation;
- A personal statement describing interests and objectives;
- A writing sample.

Foreign students whose language of education is not English must also arrange to have original TOEFL scores submitted; a minimum score of 600 is required for admission. Foreign students who hold a university degree from an institution in an English-speaking country are not required to submit TOEFL scores. Foreign students whose native language is not English and who are awarded a teaching assistantship must meet the Graduate School requirement for performance on either the Speak Test or the Test of Spoken English (TSE). See below for more on this requirement.

Admission to the graduate program is competitive. Those who meet the stated requirements are not guaranteed admission, nor are those who fail to meet all of those requirements necessarily precluded from admission if they offer other appropriate strengths.

Degree Requirements

The M.A. in Linguistics and Cognitive Science

The M.A. in Linguistics and Cognitive Science is a flexible program of study that provides training in both Linguistics and Cognitive Science. Separate tracks are provided below for students whose emphasis is clearly in Cognitive Science or in Linguistics. In addition, students may propose a program of study that combines elements of the Linguistics and Cognitive Science tracks. Such individualized programs of study must consist of 30 credit hours planned in consultation with the student's advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies or the Cognitive Science Graduate Advisor. These credits must include at least 21 credit hours in Linguistics or Cognitive Science courses and at least one 800-level seminar in Linguistics or Cognitive Science.

Cognitive Science Track

The Cognitive Science Track is appropriate both for students whose ultimate goal is to obtain a Ph.D. in a Cognitive Science discipline and for those who wish a terminal master's degree. For an M.A. in the

Cognitive Science track, students must complete 30 credit hours planned in consultation with the student's advisor and the Cognitive Science Graduate Advisor.

These credit hours must include at least CGSC 670 (Elements of Cognitive Science), one 800-level seminar in Cognitive Science, and six courses (18 credits) distributed over three of the following areas: Human cognition, The Structure of Human Language, Computation and Cognition, General Cognitive Science. A complete list of courses for each area can be found on the Cognitive Science Program's website and can be obtained from the Cognitive Science Graduate Advisor.

Linguistics Track

The Linguistics track is appropriate both for students who wish to obtain a Ph.D. in Linguistics and for those who wish a terminal master's degree.

To acquire an understanding of the basic concepts of linguistics, students must take at least three courses out of the following core courses in Linguistics:

1. LING 609 Syntax I or LING 677 Structure of English
2. LING 607 Phonology I
3. LING 612 Morphology
4. LING 691 Semantics I
5. CGSC 696 Psycholinguistics

In addition, students must take at least one advanced course in Linguistics. The following courses count as advanced courses:

1. LING 608 Phonology II
2. LING 610 Syntax II
3. Any 800-level courses offered in the Dept. of Linguistics

Appropriate substitutions may be made with the approval of the student's advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies. The remaining 18 hours of courses are to be selected in consultation with the student's advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies.

The Ph.D. in Linguistics

Students are required to take a minimum of 60 credits beyond the B.A./B.S.:

- 51 credits in courses proper;
- 9 credits in dissertation research.

Students entering with an M.A./M.S. in an appropriate area as determined by the department must take a minimum of 30 credits: 21 in courses proper and 9 in dissertation research. All transfer credit must be in accord with the rules of the Graduate School; approval of transferred degrees and courses is at the discretion of the Committee on Graduate Studies of the Department of Linguistics.

Included in the 51 credits must be the following:

1. All students must take (for a letter grade, not as Listener or Pass/Fail):
 1. LING 607 Phonology I
 2. LING 609 Syntax I
 3. LING 608 Phonology II
 4. LING 610 Syntax II
 5. CGSC 696 Psycholinguistics
2. Students must also take at least three 800-level seminars (nine credits), two in Linguistics and one in either Linguistics or Cognitive Science.
3. Students must also take 27 credits (nine courses) of Linguistics or related courses, chosen in consultation with the student's advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies. Students must choose an area of specialization, and will typically concentrate their course work in their chosen area of specialization (in consultation with their advisor).

No course can satisfy two requirements except that the three 800-level seminars can count toward specialization requirements; transfer credit for these requirements may be accepted, but only under the conditions stated above.

A maximum of 6 credits in independent study is normally permitted during the entire course of study. All independent study must be taken at the 800-level. No independent study will substitute for required courses.

Students may substitute other courses for those listed above only by petitioning in writing the Director of Graduate Studies. The substitution must be approved by the departmental Committee on Graduate Studies.

Other requirements for the degree:

Language Requirement

Students whose native language is English are required to demonstrate proficiency in a language other than English. The goal of the Language Requirement is for the student to be able to function as a professional in the field of linguistics in general and, more specifically, in the chosen area of specialization. Proficiency may be either written or spoken. Each student is responsible for presenting a rationale for:

1. the selection of a particular language and
2. requesting a speaking or reading proficiency test.

The student should make a written request to the Director of Graduate Studies which clearly outlines the projected practical use for the language chosen. The Director of Graduate Studies will appoint an individual or a committee to administer the exam, which will be tailored to the student's request. For example, a student may wish to do field work, and this might require an oral examination with a focus on asking linguistic questions. Another may need reading knowledge to have access to journals and books, and this might require translation of a short passage. Still another may envision presenting papers at international conferences and/or participating in subsequent discussions with foreign colleagues, and this might require conversational skills.

Students whose native language is not English will be assumed to have proficiency in English and will have thereby satisfied the Language Requirement. (See the Admissions and Financial Aid sections for more on English proficiency requirements.)

Students are encouraged to fulfill the Language Requirement as soon as possible. The University stipulates that it must be satisfied prior to acceptance of the Dissertation Prospectus and before a student passes into Doctoral Candidacy (G2 status).

No language examination taken at any other school will fulfill the Language Requirement.

Qualifying Examination

Successful completion of the Qualifying Examination is the first requirement for admission to Doctoral Candidacy. The Qualifying Examination is taken at the beginning of the third semester of study. The examination is normally offered once a year, immediately before the start of the Fall semester. Retakes are available in February, immediately before the Spring semester. Students wishing to take the examination during a particular semester must notify the Director of Graduate Studies no later than the last day of classes of the prior semester.

All students in the Ph.D. program must take qualifying exams in phonology and syntax. Possible grades on each are Pass, Retake, and Fail. In order to be admitted to doctoral candidacy, a student must receive a grade of Pass on both examinations. Examinations awarded the grade of Retake may be repeated **once only** and this must be in the semester subsequent to the initial examination. Examinations receiving the grade of Fail may not be retaken, and a student receiving this grade will not be permitted to continue in the program.

The examinations in each area are prepared and evaluated, whenever possible, by more than one faculty member specializing in that area. All students who are examined in a particular semester will receive the same examination. Although examinations are in written form, if, on the basis of the written examination, the examination committee for a particular sub-field finds it desirable to examine a particular candidate orally as well as in writing, the committee shall have the right to do so.

Qualifying Paper

Following successful completion of the Qualifying Examinations, students are required to submit, for approval of the Committee on Graduate Studies, a qualifying paper in their major area. A substantial draft of this paper must be submitted to the student's advisor by the end of the Fall semester of the second year. The advisor must certify to the Committee on Graduate Studies that an acceptable draft has been submitted. Before the beginning of the student's third year, the final version of the paper must be submitted and approved by the advisor and the Committee on Graduate Studies. Students who do not comply with this deadline will not be permitted to continue in the program.

The Committee on Graduate Studies will appoint an evaluation committee for the paper. Possible grades are Pass, Revise, and Fail. The grade of Revise indicates that in the judgment of the committee, the paper will be acceptable with revision. The grade of Fail indicates that the student should submit a different paper to meet the requirements. Students whose paper has received the grade of Revise or Fail will be allowed one semester to satisfactorily complete the requirement for the research paper. Course papers may be submitted as a qualifying paper, but a grade of A in a course does not imply that the paper is acceptable as a qualifying paper.

Advanced Seminars

Both before and after advancement to candidacy, all students are expected to participate in advanced courses and research forums. Specifically, all advanced students are expected to enroll in at least one advanced seminar per semester and to participate in other research forums related to the student's area of specialization (e.g., departmental colloquia, brown bag or lab meetings).

Dissertation Prospectus

The final requirement for admission to candidacy is the acceptance of the Dissertation Prospectus. Before the Fall semester of their fourth year, each student must choose a dissertation director, form a dissertation committee, and submit a Dissertation Prospectus for approval. The dissertation director must hold a primary appointment in the Department of Linguistics or be approved by the Committee on Graduate Studies. There must be at least three other members, chosen by the student, that are acceptable to the dissertation director, one of whom must be outside the student's major area. At least 50 percent of the committee members must have primary appointments in the Department of Linguistics. In all cases the committee must be approved by the Chair of the Linguistics Department. Any changes to the committee after it has been formed must also be approved by the Department Chair.

The dissertation committee will meet with the student to examine the proposal and the qualifications of the student to carry out the proposed research. The results of this review will be acceptance into candidacy or a re-examination to be held at a later date to be determined by the dissertation director. The committee may also require further course work if deficiencies are found.

Students whose research proposals involve human volunteers must comply with all University and governmental requirements, including obtaining human subjects approval from the University's Office of the Vice Provost for Research.

Admission to Doctoral Candidacy

A student who has advanced to candidacy (also known as G2 status) has completed all of the requirements for the Ph.D. apart from the dissertation. Before advancing to candidacy, students are liable for full tuition fees. Once a student has advanced to candidacy and completed the minimum number of dissertation credits, it is possible to enroll with 'sustaining' status, which involves substantially reduced fees. In order to advance to candidacy, all of the requirements listed above must be completed.

In order to enroll with sustaining status, students must also complete 9 credits of dissertation research. 9 credits of pre-candidacy study may also count towards satisfying this requirement, provided that they are taken no earlier than the full semester immediately preceding advancement to candidacy.

Dissertation

Students who have completed all of the above requirements are allowed to write the dissertation. The dissertation director has the responsibility of distributing the dissertation to the readers in ample time for the dissertation to be read adequately; the director also must see to it that the dissertation committee meet when necessary as a group to discuss the progress of the dissertation. The committee is to administer a final oral defense of the dissertation. Certification of successful defense is then submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies of the University.

Termination for Failure to Fulfill the Requirements

As described under individual requirements above, students who do not successfully complete any of the requirements may be terminated from the program. Students can grieve termination for failure by a written application to the Committee on Graduate Studies within 14 days of notification of failure.

Course Load and Advisement

All full-time students are expected to register for four courses (12 credit hours) a semester. Students are required to pre-register for a full-time load each semester in consultation with their advisor, so that the Department can plan for adequate course offerings.

All students will be assigned a temporary first-year advisor when they enter the program. Since it is important for students to begin to work with faculty members in their area of specialization as early in their academic career as possible, students are encouraged to choose an advisor in their area of specialization as early as their second semester of study and are *required* to do so by the beginning of the third semester. Students are free to change advisors at any time.

The departmental Committee on Graduate Studies will continue to monitor students' progress throughout their program of study. Each year, by February 1, students should submit a progress report (using a form available from their advisor) to the Committee on Graduate Studies via their advisor. The Committee on Graduate Studies will meet to discuss and evaluate the progress of every student in the program. The results of this procedure will be communicated to the students.

Financial Aid

The Linguistics Department offers a small number of teaching assistantships, graduate assistantships, and/or research assistantships to Ph.D. students only. The awards are granted to full-time students, normally for four years (the amount of time a full-time student needs to complete the Ph.D.), and are renewed each year based on satisfactory progress in the program.

Students funded as TAs normally serve as tutors their first year but must be ready to teach their own sections of undergraduate courses by the second year. The Linguistics Department therefore requires that first-year students whose native language is not English successfully complete the University's ITA program and pass the University's Speak Test with a score of 45. The ITA program is administered in August and January; we strongly advise students to complete it in August. Students must score 50 or higher on the Speak Test by the start of their second year and 55 or higher by the start of their third year or they will not continue to receive funding.

Students who are appointed as TAs on a nine-month contract are expected to work an average of 20 hours per week, except during official university holiday breaks (Dec 22- Jan 2/3) and the week of Spring Break. All other absences from campus (for example, extended absences during the winter term) have to be approved by the departmental Committee on Graduate Studies.

All students are evaluated for their academic performance in early February of each year. In addition, students on TA contracts are evaluated in early February of each year by the Director of Undergraduate

Studies; students on RA contracts are evaluated by their research supervisor. Evaluations have to be forwarded to the Director of Graduate Studies and the Department Chair. TA and RA support can be discontinued if the evaluations are not satisfactory.

Departmental Operations

Upon matriculation, students are expected to provide up-to-date address, telephone, and email information to the Linguistics Department Office and to update them as necessary throughout the time they are enrolled in the degree program. It is especially important that students activate their University of Delaware email account (and set up email forwarding if they use a different account). Students should obtain keys to the Department and graduate student offices from the Linguistics Office. These keys will be retained throughout the students' enrollment.

Each student will have a mailbox in the Linguistics building, 46 E. Delaware Ave., and an account for the copy machine and printer. Students will be charged per copy for the use of the copy machine and printer at the end of each semester (price per copy will be posted each year). There are graduate offices located at 46 E. Delaware Ave., shared by all graduate students. Students have access to computers and a telephone. The telephone is set up for local calls only. The building has a wireless network to enable students to use their own computers.

The department runs a phonetics and processing lab located at 310 Allison Hall. Students and faculty can schedule the use of the lab by contacting the lab coordinator. In addition, space for conducting experimental research is available at 42 E. Delaware. Students and faculty should contact the Linguistics Office about the use of this space.

Graduate students in the Linguistics Department run the Linguistics Association of Delaware (LAD), a student organization. All students are expected to be active members of this organization and to participate in its activities and governance. In addition, the Department strongly recommends that graduate students join the Linguistic Society of America.

Students are encouraged to submit their work for presentations at national and international meetings. The department has a small amount of funds for travel expenses to present accepted papers. Students are expected to apply for travel awards from University sources (for instance, from the Graduate Studies Office or the International Office) in order to receive funds from the department. A form is available from the Department Office to apply for travel funds from the department. Students must apply for travel funds *before* they begin travel.