LINGUISTICS - MASTER OF ARTS (MA)

The goal of this master's program is to provide students with sufficient knowledge of linguistics to enable them to work in industry and organizations where knowledge of linguistics helps in problem solving. The program also helps students determine in a relatively short time whether they want to make research in linguistics a lifelong career, and prepares students who decide to do so to apply to the PhD program at CU (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/programs-study/linguistics/linguistics-doctor-philosophy-phd) or at other institutions.

Students wishing to pursue graduate work in linguistics should carefully read the Master’s Degree Requirements (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/degree-requirements/masters-degree-requirements) section of this catalog, as well as the detailed degree requirements available from the department office.

Concurrent Degree Program

BA/MA in Linguistics

The department has a five-year concurrent bachelor's and master's degree program, which is recommended only for the most serious and able graduate students. For further information, see the graduate advisor in the spring of the sophomore year or during the first week of the fall semester of the junior year.

Requirements

Admission Requirements

Applicants should hold a recognized baccalaureate degree, and should have considerable knowledge of a language other than their native language. This knowledge may have been gained by formal study or by use of the language in a country, community or institution where it is the usual means of communication. The department may require formal study of a foreign language by graduate students whose proficiency in this area is less than the equivalent of the college junior level.

GRE scores are required from United States residents; scores are also required from native speakers of English who wish to be considered for fellowship aid. TOEFL scores are normally required from foreign applicants.

Degree Requirements

The master’s degree calls for a minimum of three semesters of study, though most students require four semesters. The remaining courses are normally taken at the 5000 level or above.

All students must pass a comprehensive written examination covering general topics in linguistics.

Degree Plans

Plan I: Thesis Option

Students in this plan must complete a total of 30 credit hours, at least 24 of which must be in linguistics, including 4–6 thesis credit hours.

Plan II: Non-Thesis

Students in this plan must complete a total of 30 credit hours of course work, at least 24 of which must be in linguistics.

Requirements for TESOL Professionals

The MA in linguistics for TESOL professionals is a graduate program in linguistics. The MA will provide a cohesive, professionally oriented program addressing the increased demand for professionalization in the field of teaching English as a second language. The program requires completion of 30 credit hours: 12 in graduate linguistics course, 12 in required TESOL courses, a 3-credit practicum and a 3-credit elective course. A comprehensive examination and teaching portfolio are required.