

What is Linguistics?

Linguistics is the scientific study of human language. Courses explore the principles governing the structure of natural languages, how language is used in human social interaction, how languages are acquired by children and adults, and how they change over time.

What are the major requirements?

Go to www.catalogs.umn.edu/programs.html and select “Undergraduate majors.”

How do I declare a Linguistics major?

You will be required to declare a major by the time you have completed 60 credits.

1. Talk with someone from the department: an adviser, a professor, or a teaching assistant, to learn more about the major and its requirements.
2. When you decide upon a Linguistics major, meet with the director of undergraduate studies in linguistics to complete a Major Program form.
3. Bring a copy of the form to your CLA student community.
4. If you decide to change your major, contact your student community to learn more about your new major’s declaration process.

What can I do with a major in Linguistics?

Skills

Linguistics majors develop skills that are applicable to a wide variety of careers.

These skills include:

- Data analysis and problem-solving
- Ability to formulate clear, well-reasoned messages
- Listening, clarifying, questioning and responding skills
- Independent, self-motivated work ethic
- Critical reading and argumentation
- Ability to work well with diverse groups
- Sensitivity to linguistic and cultural diversity, social cues encoded in language

Employment

Common areas of employment for this major include but are not limited to:

- Education—teaching, research, language instruction and materials development, student affairs, speech therapy
- Technical—Natural Language Processing, including voice recognition development and speech synthesis, machine translation and parsing, knowledge engineering, software for spell checking and grammar checking, search engine development.
- Public Relations and Advertising—corporate public affairs, lobbying
- Media—writing, editing, public relations, management
- Arts and Entertainment—announcing, writing, managing, development

For more information:

About the Linguistics major:

Undergraduate Advising
214 Nolte Center
(612) 624-3331
<http://www.iles.umn.edu>

About CLA requirements, graduation, and other information about majors:

CLA Languages and Mathematics Student Community
114 Johnston Hall
(612) 624-7540
<http://langmath.class.umn.edu>

or

CLA Martin Luther King, Jr. Program
19 Johnston Hall
(612) 625-2300
<http://www.class.umn.edu/mlk/mlk@class.cla.umn.edu>

About careers, internships, and community learning opportunities in this major and others:

Career and Community Learning Center
135 Johnston Hall
(612) 624-7577
www.cclc.umn.edu
cclc@class.cla.umn.edu

About graduation with honors:

CLA Honors Division
20 Nicholson
(612) 624-5522
www.cla.umn.edu/honors/honors@class.cla.umn.edu

- Business—marketing, human resources, sales, consulting, recruiting, translating and interpreting
- Government—public information, campaigns, research, translating and interpreting
- Nonprofit—fundraising, programming, management

Today's workplace requires individuals with interpersonal skills, the ability to communicate effectively, an ability to solve problems, and adaptability. CLA graduates find that they are well-prepared in all these areas and that their education—especially when combined with experience gained through internships, volunteer positions, past jobs, and other collegiate involvement—makes them competitive.

The **Career & Community Learning Center** provides students with the tools to identify and pursue potential careers. An extensive resource room, career courses and workshops, and a helpful staff are just some of the ways we can help.

Remember!

You have not declared a major until you have:

- completed a Major Program form with your major adviser,
- filed a copy with the major department,
- and filed a copy with your CLA student community.

Don't forget: keep a copy for yourself!