INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR

Linguistics is the scientific study of language. Linguists seek to understand the use, structure, and meaning of language by investigating languages from around the world, how languages change over time, and the relationship of language to society and cognition. Linguistics is interdisciplinary, drawing on and contributing to work in anthropology, philosophy, psychology, and computer science. Through a strong tradition of research collaboration, linguists at Berkeley conduct cutting-edge research on language, deepening and enriching our understanding of this unique human trait.

AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR

• Join a student organization such as the Society of Linguistics Undergraduate Students (SLUgS).
• Work directly with a graduate student on research through the Linguistics Research Apprentice Practicum.
• Visit the California Language Archive, a catalog of indigenous language materials.
• Participate in the Linguistic Society of America (LSA) Linguistic Institute.

THE MAJOR CURRICULUM

Students in linguistics benefit from an intense, personalized academic experience through smaller classes and ample opportunities to work with faculty and graduate students on research projects. The four main components of the major are: 1) The Lower Division Requirement, 2) The Prerequisite to Declare, 3) The Binned Courses Requirement, and 4) The Upper Division Electives Requirement. The foundational course is LINGUIS 100 ("Introduction to Linguistic Science"), a general survey of linguistics. Students then take upper division courses which focus on different aspects of language.

HOW TO USE THIS MAP

Use this map to help plan and guide your experience at UC Berkeley, including academic, co-curricular, and discovery opportunities. Everyone’s Berkeley experience is different and activities in this map are suggestions. Always consult with your advisors whenever possible for new opportunities and updates.

CONNECT WITH US

Cal Day
Come to UC Berkeley’s annual Open House in April for information sessions, campus tours, special talks, and more.

Golden Bear Orientation
Join your peers in the campus-wide UC Berkeley orientation program for all new students.

Events
Attend department events with students, faculty, and staff. Visit lx.berkeley.edu for news and updates.

ADVISING

Students can schedule appointments or email general questions to the major advisor at LingMajorAdvisor@berkeley.edu.

“ The staff, faculty, and graduate students have been personally invested in my development as a student. There is plenty of opportunity to get involved with research. ”

– 2017 Linguistics Graduate

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The Linguistics major provides a variety of career and graduate school possibilities. Graduates go on to work in a range of fields, including health services, speech technology, legal consulting, writing, teaching, data mining, lexicography, and translation.

Jobs and Employers

Analytical Linguist, Google Assistant Language Teacher, JET Behavioral Interventionist, Co. for Autism and Related Disorders Biological Research Asst., UC Berkeley Content Manager Educational Technology Editor Forensic Linguist Linguist, Sensory, Inc. Linguistic Localization Consultant Litigation Paralegal Trainee, Computerlaw Group Professional Brand Namer Research scientist Site Reliability Engineer, Google Software Engineer, Abstract Technical Writer UI/UX/Web Developer, AXA Rosenberg User Experience Strategist Video Editor, Udemy

Graduate Programs

Computer Engineering, Masters Elementary Education, Masters Law, JD Linguistics, PhD Spanish Language and Lit., Masters Speech-Language Pathology, Masters Urban Community Planning, Masters

Examples gathered from the First Destination Survey of recent Berkeley graduates.