

LINGUISTICS, BA

Linguistics is the scientific study of language. Students of linguistics do not necessarily seek fluency in a second or third language. Instead, they study the components that make up any given language - the syntax, the grammar, the regional differences, the slang, the pronunciations, the symbols, the changes over time, how people learn a language, and more.

At UWM, Linguistics students can opt for a broad linguistics major which will touch on all aspects of language development and learning. Or, students can choose an applied linguistics major which will focus more on using the principles of linguistics in a business setting such as in the classroom to help students learn a second language, in a social service agency that deals with illiteracy, or at a software company working on search engine optimization terms.

Many students find that acquiring advanced fluency in a second or third language beyond their native tongue is helpful for understanding the commonalities and differences between languages. However, no additional foreign language is required beyond the standard requirement for Letters & Science students - four years in high school of the same language or four semesters in college of the same language.

Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
	General Education Requirements	30
	L&S Requirements (general degree and major requirements)	75
	Electives	15
	Total Credits	120

Credit numbers reflect total possible credits towards degree. Due to the ability to count courses towards more than one requirement, credit amounts will vary. Please work with your academic advisor on your plan of study.

Preparatory Coursework

Based on individual placement results, some students may be required to complete preparatory coursework before enrolling in the courses listed here. This may include English language or composition preparation, developmental math, introductory chemistry, and/or student support courses for students participating in the First Year Bridge program.

General Education Requirements (GER)

UW-Milwaukee has General Education Requirements (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/policies/undergraduate-policies/#generaleducationtext>) that must be met in order to earn a bachelor's or associate degree. They include at minimum 30 credits (10 courses) in six categories that are designed to assure basic student competencies and provide a broad body of knowledge as a context for specialization.

Some degree requirements may fulfill GERs. Please review the requirements and consult with your academic advisor.

Code	Title	Credits
General Education Categories and Credits		
	Civics and Perspectives (CP)	6
	Communication and Literacy (CL)	6
	Humanities and Arts (HA)	6
	Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning (MQR)	3
	Natural Science and Wellness (NSW/NSWL)	6

Social and Behavioral Science (SBS)	3
Total Credits	30

Letters and Science Course of Study – Bachelor of Arts Degree

Complete 120 credits including 75 credits in the College of Letters & Science with 36 of the 75 credits in L&S upper-level (numbered 300 or above) courses.

The College requires that students must complete, in residence at UWM, at least 15 credits in upper-division (numbered 300 or above) courses in their major. The College also requires that students complete at least 30 credits overall in residence at UWM. For additional residency and transfer credit limitations, see L&S Undergraduate Policies and Regulations (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/#policiesandregulationstext>).

Students are also required to complete University-wide General Education Requirements (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/policies/undergraduate-policies/#bachelorsdegreegeneraleducation>) and the specific L&S requirements listed below.

To complete a major, students must satisfy all the requirements of the major as stated in this catalog. Students who declare their majors within five years of entering the UW System as a degree candidate may satisfy the requirements outlined in any catalog issued since the time they entered. Credits used to satisfy the major also may be used to satisfy other degree requirements.

College of Letters & Science Requirements

The degree requirements in the College of Letters and Science build on the University General Education Requirements to provide a broad base of knowledge as well as an array of skills cited by employers as critical to professional success: critical thinking, problem solving, oral and written communication, ability to work well with others, and adaptability to change.

For the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), students must complete the UWM General Education Requirements as well as these L&S requirements: the International requirement, the Breadth requirement, a Natural Science Lab requirement, the Research requirement, and a Language other than English requirement. The International requirement develops student potential for cross-cultural understanding in a globalizing world. The Breadth requirement ensures that students take classes in a wide variety of subjects, across humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences. The Research requirement calls for students to build critical thinking and oral and written communication skills through conducting an independent research project in their major. The Language other than English requirement further develops student proficiency in a language other than English. And, the requirement that students take an L&S Natural Science lab ensures exposure to and practice with the scientific method in action.

I. Total Credits and Upper-Division Courses Requirement

Students must complete 120 credits including 75 credits in the College of Letters & Science with 36 of those 75 credits in L&S upper-level (numbered 300 and above) courses.

II. Language other than English Requirement

Students doing the B.A. must fulfill a language other than English requirement by either successfully completing the fourth semester of university work or equivalent in one language other than English, or by successfully completing the second semester of university work or

equivalent in two languages other than English (including all languages other than English and American Sign Language).

Language courses (including American Sign Language) other than English taken in high school may be used to satisfy all or part of this requirement. One year of high school language equates to one semester of college work. Proficiency tests approved by the Languages faculty may be used to satisfy all or part of this requirement.

III. International Requirement

To meet the International Requirement, students must successfully complete some two-course (minimum 6 credits) combination of:

1. Courses with L&S approved international content (see Courses Approved for the L&S International Requirement (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/approved-courses-international-requirement/>) for course options).
2. Any study abroad course(s).

Students who graduate secondary school in a country other than the U.S. are exempt from this requirement.

IV. Breadth Requirement

In addition to completing the University General Education Requirements, L&S students must complete the Breadth requirement to obtain deeper experience across our three substantive divisions.

The L&S Breadth requirement calls for 9 credits each in L&S courses designated L&S Humanities, L&S Natural Sciences, and L&S Social Sciences breadth. One of the L&S Natural Science breadth courses must include a laboratory or fieldwork experience.

Please refer to the list of Courses Approved for the L&S Breadth Requirement (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/breadth-requirement-course-list/>).

V. The Major

The College of Letters and Science requires that students attain at least a 2.0 GPA in all credits in the major attempted at UWM. In addition, students must attain a 2.0 GPA on all major credits attempted, including any transfer work. Individual departments or programs may require higher GPAs for graduation. Some departmental majors require courses from other departments. Students should contact their major department for information on whether those credits will count as part of the major GPA. The College requires that students must complete, in residence at UWM, at least 15 credits in upper-division (numbered 300 or above) courses in their major.

Research Requirement

Within their majors, students must complete a research experience approved by the L&S faculty. A list of courses satisfying the research requirement in each major can be found here (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/approved-courses-research-requirement/>).

VI. The Minor

Students are encouraged to consider completing a minor, but it is not required. To complete a minor, the College of Letters and Science requires that students attain at least a 2.0 GPA in all credits in the minor attempted at UWM. In addition, students must attain a 2.0 GPA on all minor credits attempted, including any transfer work. The minor must contain at least 9 credits in upper-division (numbered 300 and above) courses taken at UWM.

Linguistics Major Requirements

The undergraduate major in linguistics may be obtained by pursuing either the general major option or the applied major option. Students must complete 30 credits in either the general major option or the applied major option. Students must complete at least 15 upper-division (numbered 300 and above) credits in the major in residence at UWM. The College of Letters and Science requires that students attain at least a 2.0 GPA on all credits in the major attempted at UWM. In addition, students must attain a 2.0 GPA on all major credits attempted, including any transfer work. The College also requires students to complete a research experience in their major.

Major Options

General Linguistics Major Option

Code	Title	Credits
Basic Requirements		
LINGUIS 350	Introduction to Linguistics	3
LINGUIS 450	Introduction to Phonetics	3
LINGUIS 461	Introduction to Phonology	3
LINGUIS 464	Introduction to Syntax	3
Special Requirements		
Select at least three of the following:		9
LINGUIS 355	Language Behavior of AI Models	
LINGUIS 420	Introduction to Second Language Acquisition	
LINGUIS 440	Psycholinguistics	
LINGUIS 430	Language and Society	
LINGUIS 455	Semantics	
LINGUIS 468	Language in its Various Forms:	
LINGUIS 590	Morphology	
LINGUIS 570	Issues in Bilingualism	
Electives		
Select 9 credits ¹		9
Total Credits		30

¹ Coursework in linguistics and related areas, selected from the approved electives list (see below) in consultation with an advisor in the Linguistics program.

Applied Linguistics Major Option

Code	Title	Credits
Basic Requirements		
LINGUIS 350	Introduction to Linguistics	3
LINGUIS 420	Introduction to Second Language Acquisition	3
LINGUIS/ANTHRO 570 or LINGUIS 430	Issues in Bilingualism Language and Society	3
LINGUIS 450	Introduction to Phonetics	3
LINGUIS 461	Introduction to Phonology	3
LINGUIS 464	Introduction to Syntax	3
Special Requirements		
Select at least two of the following:		6
LINGUIS 355	Language Behavior of AI Models	
LINGUIS 440	Psycholinguistics	

LINGUIS 468	Language in its Various Forms:	
LINGUIS 520	Advanced Second Language Acquisition:	
Electives		
Select 6 credits ¹		6
Total Credits		30

¹ Coursework in linguistics and related areas, selected from the approved electives list (see below) in consultation with an advisor in the Linguistics program.

Linguistics Major Approved Electives

Code	Title	Credits
All linguistics courses not selected to meet a specific requirement in the option		
All language courses (does not include literature courses)		
The following courses offered by other units:		
ANTHRO 105	Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology	3
ANTHRO 362	System Failure: Globalization and Language Extinction	3
ANTHRO 641	Seminar in Anthropology: (with linguistics subtitle)	3
COMMUN 320	Nonverbal Communication	3
COMMUN 350	Intercultural Communication	3
COMSDIS 230	Introduction to Phonetics	4
COMSDIS 240	Normal Speech and Language Development	3
COMPSCI 132	Introduction to Computers and Programming	3
COMPSCI 423	Introduction to Natural Language Processing	3
COMPSCI 431	Programming Languages Concepts	3
ENGLISH 211	Aspects of the English Language:	3
ENGLISH/LINGUIS 400	Introduction to English Linguistics	3
ENGLISH 402	Theories of Language and Literature: (with language focus)	3
ENGLISH 403	Survey of Modern English Grammar	3
FRENCH 392	Phonetics	3
GERMAN 371	German Phonetics	3
PHILOS 211	Elementary Logic	3
PHILOS 212	Modern Deductive Logic	3
PHILOS 511	Symbolic Logic	3
PHILOS 516	Language and Meaning	3
PHILOS 517	Special Problems in the Philosophy of Language and Linguistics:	3
SPANISH 341	Introduction to Hispanic Linguistics	3
SPANISH 444	Spanish Syntax and Morphology	3

Linguistics BA Learning Outcomes

Students graduating from the Linguistics BA program will be able to:

- Apply problem-solving techniques to uncover patterns in both familiar and unfamiliar languages.
- Arrange and analyze data in a way that highlights its key tendencies.

- Reflect on the role of language in social interactions and behavior.
- Clearly communicate linguistic insights in writing and speaking.

Letters & Science Advising

During your time at UWM, you may have multiple members of your success team, including advisors, peer mentors and success coaches. Letters & Science students typically work with at least two different types of advisors as they pursue their degrees: professional college advisors and faculty advisors. L&S college advisors advise across your entire degree program while departmental faculty advisors focus on the major.

College advisors are located in Holton Hall (or virtually for online students) and serve as your primary advisor. They are your point person for your questions about navigating college and completing your degree. College advisors will:

- Assist you in defining your academic and life goals.
- Help you create an educational plan that is consistent with those goals.
- Assist you in understanding curriculum, major and degree requirements for graduation, as well as university policies and procedures.
- Provide you with information about campus and community resources and refer you to those resources as appropriate.
- Monitor your progress toward graduation and completion of requirements.

Faculty advisors mentor students in the major and assist them in maximizing their development in the program. You will begin working with a faculty advisor when you declare your major. Faculty advisors are an important partner and will:

- Help you understand major requirements and course offerings in the department.
- Explain opportunities for internships and undergraduate research and guide you in obtaining those experiences.
- Serve as an excellent resource as you consider potential graduate programs and career paths in your field.

Students are encouraged to meet with both their college advisor and faculty advisor at least once each semester. Appointments are available in-person, by phone or by video.

Currently enrolled students should use the Navigate360 website (<https://uwm.navigate.eab.com/>) to make an appointment with your assigned advisor or call (414) 229-4654 if you do not currently have an assigned Letters & Science advisor. Prospective students who haven't enrolled in classes yet should call (414) 229-7711 or email let-sci@uwm.edu.

College of Letters and Science Dean's Honor List

GPA of 3.750 or above, earned on a full-time student's GPA on 12 or more graded credits in a given semester.

Honors College Degree and Honors College Degree with Distinction

Granted to graduating seniors who complete Honors College requirements, as listed in the Honors College (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/honors-college/>) section of this site.

Commencement Honors

Students with a cumulative GPA of 3.500 or above, based on a minimum of 40 graded UWM credits earned prior to the final semester, will receive all-university commencement honors and be awarded the traditional gold cord at the December or May Honors Convocation. Please note that for honors calculation, the GPA is **not** rounded and is truncated at the third decimal (e.g., 3.499).

Final Honors

Earned on a minimum of 60 graded UWM credits: Cum Laude - 3.500 or above; Magna Cum Laude - 3.650 or above; Summa Cum Laude - 3.800 or above.