

LINGUISTICS

Major Map

Discover the science of language and its impact on society, culture, and the mind.

The **Bachelor of Arts degree in Linguistics** in the College of Letters & Science focuses on the scientific study of language. Students learn about sounds and their patterns (phonetics and phonology), word structure (morphology), sentence structure (syntax), meaning (semantics and pragmatics), and language and cognition; how languages evolve over time (comparative and historical linguistics); and how language is used in society (sociolinguistics and anthropological linguistics). The undergraduate Linguistics program offers students a unique opportunity to study an interesting and challenging discipline in one of the world's leading intellectual centers. Students benefit from an intense, personalized academic experience with smaller classes and opportunities to work with faculty and graduate students on original research projects.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Join the **Society of Linguistics Undergraduate Students (SLUGS)**.
- Participate in the **Linguistics Research Apprentice Practicum**.
- Attend the **Linguistic Institute** with linguistics students and professionals.



Photo credit: Linguistics Department

“

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

UC Berkeley

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

Linguistics

CURRICULUM

Linguistics students attain a basic mastery of the field of linguistics, and develop skills in critical thinking, in communication, and in the use of research methodologies. For students who entered UC Berkeley Fall 2022 or later, the Linguistics major curriculum includes a lower division Linguistics course followed by LINGUIS 100 Introduction to Linguistic Science. Students then choose from “binned” courses which cover language and mind, historical linguistics, sociolinguistics, phonetics, phonology, morphology, and syntax and semantics, as well as a broad range of electives. The binned courses allow students to master the primary subfields of the discipline, while electives allow students to investigate areas of particular interest. Linguistics majors also have access to the **Linguistics Research Apprentice Practicum**, study abroad programs, and an honors research program.

Learn more at lx.berkeley.edu/ugrad/program

DECLARING THE MAJOR

Upon acceptance to UC Berkeley, you are admitted to the College of Letters & Science as an undeclared student. To **declare the Linguistics major**, you must complete LINGUIS 100 with a grade of “C” or higher, and then submit a Major Declaration Petition online or schedule an appointment with the Linguistics Undergraduate Major Advisor.

If you entered UC Berkeley as a four-year student: you may declare during sophomore or junior year after meeting the prerequisites.

If you entered UC Berkeley as a transfer: complete LINGUIS 100 in your first semester (or summer) and declare as soon as grades are available.

STUDY OPTIONS

In addition to the major, the Department of Linguistics offers:

- **Minor program** in Linguistics
- American Sign Language courses
- **Courses** that fulfill Reading & Composition, American Cultures, and L&S breadth requirements
- **Freshman Seminars** (LINGUIS 24)

Many non-majors find it useful to take courses in Linguistics to complement their major work. A minor in Linguistics gives students official recognition for having completed a Linguistics sub-specialization.

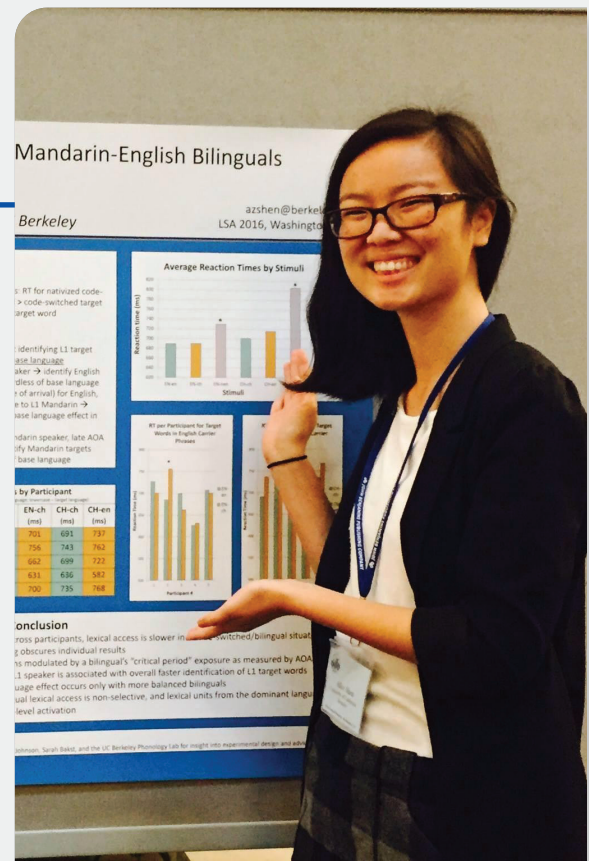


Photo credit: Linguistics Department

WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?

Linguistics graduates go on to work in a variety of careers, including health services, speech technology, legal consulting, writing, teaching, data mining, lexicography, and translation. Alumni also pursue graduate programs in linguistics, anthropology, psychology, education, sociology, and other fields, along with professional degrees in areas such as speech language pathology, information management, library and information studies, accounting, museum studies, neuroscience, and law.

UC Berkeley offers a number of career resources for students studying Linguistics. The Linguistics Department hosts information on **careers and graduate school**. The **Social Sciences Career Readiness Internship Program** helps prepare students for internships and the job market. The College of Letters & Science offers **advising** for undergraduates pursuing medical or health professions programs, law school, or masters and PhD programs. Additionally, **Berkeley Career Engagement** provides career and graduate school advising, job and internship listings, and events such as career and graduate school fairs.



SPOTLIGHT

Bryce, class of 2023

Bryce Wallace (BA, English and Linguistics) transferred to UC Berkeley, where Professor Eve Sweetser's class on metaphor got him into linguistics and led to participation in her URAP project analyzing public discourse. This research culminated in an honors thesis on the rhetoric of anti-vax websites.

Bryce was selected as a Sharer Scholar and recipient of the Gilman Scholarship for study abroad as well as the College Corps Fellowship for his commitment to community service. Bryce gained national recognition when he was named a 2023 Beinecke Scholar, and intends to use the Beinecke Scholarship to help fund a PhD in English.

EMPLOYMENT

Alumni find employment in a variety of fields and industries after graduation. Examples include:

- Analytical Linguist
- Assistant Language Teacher
- Behavioral Interventionist
- Biological Research Assistant
- Content Manager
- Educational Technology Editor
- Forensic Linguist
- Linguistic Localization Consultant
- Litigation Paralegal Trainee
- Research scientist
- Site Reliability Engineer
- Software Engineer
- Technical Writer
- UI/UX/Web Developer
- User Experience Strategist
- Video Editor

GRADUATE STUDY

Alumni pursue graduate education to gain more depth of knowledge in their field as well as prepare for jobs that require advanced degrees. Examples include:

- Computer Engineering
- Education
- Law
- Linguistics
- Spanish Language and Literature
- Speech-Language Pathology
- Urban Community Planning

FOUR-YEAR STUDENT TIMELINE

Linguistics

FIRST YEAR

SECOND YEAR

Plan your studies

Start exploring with **L&S 1** and the **L&S New Freshman Student Guide**.

Visit **L&S Advising** for help with **major exploration** and **degree requirements**.

Familiarize yourself with the **Linguistics major**; enroll in **lower division requirements** such as LINGUIS 3 or 5.

Join **Berkeley Connect** for 1:1 mentoring and to meet peers with shared interests.

Discover new interests in a **Freshman Seminar** like LINGUIS 24 or **Berkeley Changemaker** course.

Meet with your **major** and **college advisor** to discuss your academic plans.

Continue exploring with a Sophomore Seminar or Big Ideas course.

Look into **study abroad** and learning a **foreign language**; see **guidelines** from the department and options for **Linguistics abroad**.

Enrich your studies with a **certificate** or minor such as **Education**.

Verify you have completed all major prerequisites and **declare the major**.

Engage outside the classroom

Get involved with a **student organization** such as the **Society of Linguistics Undergraduate Students (SLUGS)**.

Visit **Berkeley Discovery** to get started with research, entrepreneurship, public service, and creative projects.

Learn how to **prepare for office hours** and build relationships with faculty.

Attend the **Undergraduate Linguistics Symposium** hosted by SLUGS.

Develop your skills in the **Berkeley Student Leadership Academy**.

Explore research opportunities on the **OURS** website; apply to **LRAP** or **URAP** to work on a faculty research project.

Browse grants from the **Center for Race and Gender** and **Institute for the Study of Societal Issues**.

Check out the **Berkeley Language Center**.

Pursue your career goals

Visit **UHS Career Counseling** and **Berkeley Career Engagement**.

Start exploring **career paths** for the major; check out career resources on the **Linguistics** website.

Begin **making a plan** to get career ready.

Create or update your **resume** and **LinkedIn** profile.

Use **Handshake** to start connecting with career events and opportunities.

Meet with a BCE **career educator** to discuss career options and goals.

Build your **network** and explore career fields via **job shadowing** and **informational interviews**.

Pursue an **internship** to build skills and explore fields; look into the **Social Sciences Career Readiness Internship Program**.

Considering graduate school? Explore resources from the **Graduate Division**, **L&S Advising**, and **BCE**; look into the **Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship**.

THIRD YEAR

Begin upper division requirements in the major, including LINGUIS 100 and upper division course bins.

Review your **degree progress** with your major and college advisor.

Develop your writing and critical thinking in an **Art of Writing seminar**.

Spend a term off-campus with **UCDC** or the **Intercampus Visitor Program**.

Consider applying to the **Linguistics Honors Program**; look into the **Haas Scholars** and **SURF** programs.

Check out the **Public Service Internship Program**, **College Corps**, and **Haas Public Service Leaders Program**.

Browse the **California Language Archive**, a catalog of indigenous language materials.

Welcome new students to Berkeley as a **Golden Bear Orientation Leader**.

Interested in teaching? Give it a try by teaching your own **DeCal course**.

Speak with faculty, advisors, and career educators about post-graduate options.

Join a professional association such as the **Linguistic Society of America** or **American Association of Applied Linguistics**.

Interested in public service careers? Consider applying to the **John Gardner Fellowship**, **Huntington Award**, or **Truman Scholarship**.

FOURTH YEAR

Finish all upper division requirements and electives.

Join a thesis writing workshop at the **Student Learning Center**.

Complete any remaining **degree requirements** and **prepare for graduation**.

Submit a course research project for the **Library Prize**, **American Cultures Student Prize**, or other awards.

Get published! Submit your work to the **Berkeley Undergraduate Journal**.

Pursue a special project after graduation with the **Stronach Prize**.

Check in with a BCE **career educator**.

Start connecting with **alumni groups** and **events** such as **UC Berkeley Linguistics Alumni**.

Apply to graduate school or post-graduate programs.

Meet employers at **info sessions**, **on-campus recruiting**, and **career fairs**.

Utilize **job search tools** from BCE and apply for job opportunities.

Learn about **alumni career services**.

SUMMER

Make progress on degree requirements with a **Summer Sessions** course like LINGUIS 100.

Go abroad through **Berkeley Study Abroad** or **UCEAP**.

Attend the **Linguistics Institute**.

Look into a summer internship with **Cal in the Capital**, **Cal in Sacramento**, or **Berkeley Global Internships**.

Pursue a **summer minor or certificate**—check out programs in **Data Science** and **Teaching English to Multilingual Students**.

Apply to the **GiGS program** to learn about graduate school.

Use this major map to help plan your undergraduate experience, including academic and co-curricular opportunities. Activities in this map are suggestions—always consult with your advisors whenever possible.

TRANSFER STUDENT TIMELINE

Linguistics

FIRST SEMESTER

SECOND SEMESTER

Plan your studies

Get your bearings with **L&S 198 Transitioning to Cal** and the **L&S New Transfer Student Guide**.

Review department **info for transfer students**; meet with your **major** and **college advisor** to discuss your academic plans.

Enroll in LINGUIS 100; complete **lower division requirements**, if needed.

Join **Berkeley Connect** for 1:1 mentoring and to meet peers with shared interests.

Verify you have completed all major prerequisites and **declare the major**.

Keep working on **upper division requirements** (course bins and electives).

Look into **study abroad** and learning a **foreign language**; see **guidelines** from the department and options for **Linguistics abroad**.

Enrich your studies with a **certificate** or minor such as **Education**.

Consider applying to the **Linguistics Honors Program**; look into the **Haas Scholars** and **SURF** programs.

Engage outside the classroom

Get involved with a **student organization** such as the **Society of Linguistics Undergraduate Students (SLUGS)**.

Connect with the **Transfer Student Center** or **Re-entry Student Program**.

Visit **Berkeley Discovery** to get started with research, entrepreneurship, public service, and creative projects.

Learn how to **prepare for office hours** and build relationships with faculty.

Check out the **Berkeley Language Center**.

Attend the **Undergraduate Linguistics Symposium** hosted by SLUGS.

Check out the **Public Service Internship, College Corps, and Haas Public Service Leaders Program**.

Explore research opportunities on the **OURS** website; apply to **LRAP** or **URAP** to work on a faculty research project.

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Pursue your career goals

Visit **UHS Career Counseling** and **Berkeley Career Engagement**.

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Utilize **job search tools** from BCE and apply for job opportunities.

Start connecting with **alumni groups** and **events** such as **UC Berkeley Linguistics Alumni**.

Learn about **alumni career services**.

SUMMER

Get ready for Berkeley with **RHETOR 100 Writing at the University**.

Thinking about a PhD? Apply to the **Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship** before your first semester.

Make progress on degree requirements with a **Summer Sessions** course like LINGUIS 100.

Go abroad through **Berkeley Study Abroad** or **UCEAP**.

Attend the **Linguistics Institute**.

Look into a summer internship with **Cal in the Capital**, **Cal in Sacramento**, or **Berkeley Global Internships**.

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LEARN MORE

Undergraduate Advising

Have questions about Linguistics or choosing a major?

The Department of Linguistics offers **undergraduate advising** for students interested in the major or minor. The Undergraduate Major Advisor assists students with declaring the major, tracking academic progress, navigating administrative concerns, preparing for graduation, and providing general information on Linguistics courses. The Faculty Undergraduate Advisor is available to discuss academic and career development, and assist with graduate school planning. For advising contacts, visit lx.berkeley.edu or email lingmajoradvisor@berkeley.edu.

The College of Letters & Science helps students with non-major-specific academic topics, including major exploration, general program planning, finding campus resources, and pre-professional graduate programs. L&S College Advisors are available for in-person and virtual meetings. Visit lsadvising.berkeley.edu or email asklms@berkeley.edu.



Scan to explore more Major Maps!

majormaps.berkeley.edu

Related Programs

Looking for programs similar to Linguistics? UC Berkeley also offers the following major, minor, and certificate programs:

- Anthropology
- Applied Language Studies
- Cognitive Science
- Data Science
- Educational Sciences
- Neuroscience
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Teaching English to Multilingual Students

Berkeley Linguistics

American English IPA

		monophthongs				diphthongs	
vowels	i	ɪ	ʊ	u	eɪ	ɪə	
	fleece	kɪt	foot	goose	face	near	
	ɛ	ɝ	ə	o	eɪ	oɪ	ɔɪ
	dress	nurse	comma	goat	square	force	choice
	æ	ʌ	ɑ	ɔ	aɪ	aɪ	ɑ
	trap	strut	lot	cloth	price	start	mouth
consonants	p	b	t	d	tʃ	dʒ	k
	pea	boat	tea	dog	cheese	June	car
	f	v	θ	ð	s	z	ʃ
	fly	video	think	this	see	zoo	ship
	m	n	ŋ	h	l	r	w
	man	now	sing	hat	lime	red	water

Photo credit: Linguistics Department

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