PH.D. IN LINGUISTICS

On this page:

- General Linguistics track requirements
- Computational Linguistics track requirements
- M.A. in Linguistics
- Remarks on Graduate School Requirements

See also:

- Graduate Milestones
- Language Requirements
- Sub-Discipline Roadmaps
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Pre-General Exam/Final Exam Checklists

PH.D. IN LINGUISTICS (GENERAL LINGUISTICS TRACK)

Note: Students matriculated before 2018 have the option of adopting the new curriculum (i.e., 1b) AND the new language requirement (i.e., 3b) (instead of (1a) AND (3a)). You are not allowed to "mix" them, however. For example, you cannot combine (1b) and (3a).

Departmental requirements for the Ph.D. in Linguistics (General Linguistics track) are as follows:

1A. REQUIRED COURSES (35 CREDITS): *MATRICULATED BEFORE 2018

LING 507 ("Syntax I")
LING 508 ("Syntax II")
LING 532 ("Sociolinguistics I")
LING 551 ("Phonology I")
LING 552 ("Phonology II")
LING 550 or 553 ("Phonetics I or II")
LING 578 or 579 ("Semantics I or II")

If a student has taken an equivalent course elsewhere, the requirement to take this course can be waived. The waiver needs to approved by the faculty in the relevant area and the GPC. Such waivers do not change the total number of credits required by the Graduate School for graduation.

1B. REQUIRED COURSES (30 CREDITS): *MATRICULATED AFTER 2018

One graduate-level course in each of the following sub-disciplines:

Syntax: LING 507 ("Syntactic Theory I")
Sociolinguistics: LING 532 ("Sociolinguistics I")
Language Processing and Development: LING 541 or 542 ("Language Processing and development I or II")
Phonology LING 552 ("Phonology II")
Phonetics LING 550 ("Introduction to Linguistic Phonetics")
Semantics LING 579 ("Semantic Theory II") *Note that LING 578 'Semantic Theory I' does not satisfy this requirement.

2. CREDITS OF STUDY:

Additional courses for a minimum of 90 credits (27 of which are LING 800) to be determined by specialization and consultation with the advisory committee.

3A. LANGUAGE KNOWLEDGE REQUIREMENT: *MATRICULATED BEFORE 2018

General linguistics graduate students must satisfy two natural language requirements for the PhD (see
Those may be satisfied in the following ways:
(a) one year of study at the university or community college level. Students who are language instructors in other UW departments can use their language teaching experience to satisfy one language requirement.
(b) A major research project that involves significant primary data collection that includes substantial structural analysis and results in a major paper such as a generals paper;
(c) Translation exam to demonstrate the ability to read linguistic literature in a foreign language; only one of the two language requirements for the PhD can be satisfied through the translation exam.

Please refer to Language Requirements for details.

3B. LANGUAGE KNOWLEDGE REQUIREMENT: *MATRICULATED AFTER 2018

General Linguistics Track students must satisfy one natural language requirement for the PhD. The choice of the language needs to be approved by the student's advisory committee. The language requirement may be satisfied in one of the following two ways:
(a) one year of study at the university or community college level. Students who are language instructors in other UW departments can use their language teaching experience to satisfy one language requirement.
(b) A major research project that involves significant primary data collection that includes substantial structural analysis and results in a major paper such as a generals paper.

4. COLLOQUIUM CONFERENCE TALKS:
Two papers delivered at a colloquium or conference.

5. CONSTITUTION OF PHD COMMITTEE:
By the end of the second year of study.

6. GENERALS PAPERS:
Two generals papers in different areas, at least one in grammatical theory. (Normally 10cr LING 600)

7. GENERAL EXAMINATION:
An oral examination, in which the candidate is questioned on the two papers. The oral examination may not be scheduled until the committee has read the two papers and approved them as passing.

8. DISSERTATION PROSPECTUS:
Within 6 months of the oral examination, the student will present a formal dissertation proposal to the subset of PhD committee members who constitute the reading committee, along with a proposed calendar for completion of the dissertation.

9. FINAL EXAM:
A Final Exam on the dissertation attended by the candidate's Supervisory Committee and open to others interested.

10. DISSERTATION:
A dissertation suitable for publication.

11. ABD (ALL BUT DISSERTATION) REQUIREMENT:
All degree requirements except for the dissertation and the two colloquia must be completed before the General Exam.

---

PH.D. IN LINGUISTICS (COMPUTATIONAL LINGUISTICS TRACK)

The requirements for students on the computational linguistics track will meet all the same requirements as students in other specializations except:
1. REQUIRED COURSES:
2 syntax courses from among: LING 566, 507, 508
2 phonetics/phonology courses from among: LING 550, 551, 552, 553
1 semantics course from among: 578, 579
1 sociolinguistics course from among: LING 532, 533
3 CompLing courses from among: 567, 570, 571, 572, 573

3. LANGUAGE KNOWLEDGE REQUIREMENT:
Students in CompLing must fulfill only one language requirement, but may not use a translation exam to do so. The language must be typologically substantially distinct from the student’s native language; for example, a native English-speaking student would need to select a non-Indo-European language. Please refer to Language Requirements for details.

6. GENERALS PAPERS:
Same as for the General Linguistics program except a masters thesis completed as part of the CLMS program may count as one of the two generals papers. How to make the CLMS to PhD transition

M.A. IN LINGUISTICS
The M.A. is not required as a prerequisite to Ph.D. study.

Please note: We do not admit students directly into our M.A. program. Ph.D. students receive an M.A. as they proceed through the doctoral program. On occasion, a student may choose to receive a terminal M.A. instead of completing the doctoral program.

A. NON-THESIS MODEL:
Students who pass the General Exam will automatically receive an M.A. degree in General Linguistics; the Generals papers and Exam constitute the capstone project necessary for a master’s degree (or the student may complete the thesis model below).

B. THESIS MODEL:

1. Required courses 35 credits:
LING 507 (“Syntax I”)
LING 508 (“Syntax II”)
LING 532 (“Sociolinguistics I”)
LING 551 (“Phonology I”)
LING 552 (“Phonology II”)
LING 550 or 553 (“Phonetics I or II”)
LING 578 or 579 (“Semantics I or II”)

2. Language requirement:
Can be satisfied by: (a) one year of study at the university or community college level. Students who are language instructors in other UW departments can use their language teaching experience to satisfy one language requirement.
(b) A major research project that involves significant primary data collection that includes substantial structural analysis and results in a major paper such as a generals paper;
(c) Translation exam to demonstrate the ability to read linguistic literature in a foreign language; only one of the two language requirements for the PhD can be satisfied through the translation exam.

3. Thesis: A thesis, written under the supervision of a Linguistics faculty member, and accepted by a second faculty reader. Normally the work is completed in 10 cr of LING 700.
REMARKS ON GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Students are advised to become familiar with Graduate School requirements, as well as those described on this website. If there are any questions, the student should contact the Graduate School, the Graduate Program Coordinator or the chair of the Supervisory Committee. Once admitted to the program, students should make it a regular practice to see the Graduate Program Coordinator about their progress at least once a year.

All graduate students must be either registered or officially on leave. Failure to register or go on leave is interpreted as resignation from the Graduate School.

Information on the Graduate School is available at [http://www.grad.washington.edu](http://www.grad.washington.edu).

If you have any further questions or comments please contact us at phoneme@uw.edu.

Department of Linguistics · University of Washington · Guggenheim Hall 4th Floor, Box 352425 · Seattle, WA 98195-2425 · Telephone: (206) 543-2046 · Email: phoneme@uw.edu

Copyright © 2012-2020 University of Washington · Privacy · Terms · Site Map · Contact Us

Source URL: https://linguistics.washington.edu/phd-linguistics