

**Linguistics Program  
Western Washington University  
September 2018**

**Mission**

Our mission is to pursue the scientific investigation of language as a human phenomenon in its historical, psychological, and social dimensions, through effective and innovative teaching and high-quality faculty and student research covering the major subareas within the discipline of linguistics.

The Linguistics major engages the student in the scientific analysis of human language. Students analyze the structural components of language and study how language is acquired, how it varies across time and space, and how it is used in different social contexts. Students are introduced to various subfields of linguistics, including neurolinguistics, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, historical linguistics, computational linguistics, applied linguistics, and discourse analysis. Because linguistics is inherently interdisciplinary, students also develop a solid foundation in a language other than English, and engage in a concentration based in one of the following departments or programs: Anthropology, Communication Sciences and Disorders, Computer Science, Educational Linguistics, English, Modern and Classical Languages, Neuroscience, Philosophy, Psychology, and Teaching of English as a Second Language. Our classes engage in critical inquiry and best research practices, thereby providing students with the necessary tools and experiences to follow their intellectual curiosity, to work across disciplines, to effectively contribute to evolving societal needs, and to become informed participants and leaders in public discourse about language and its role in our world, both locally and globally.

**Linguistics Program Student Learning Outcomes**

Students graduating with a major in Linguistics are expected to:

1. Demonstrate foundational knowledge of language as a biological system: phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the social factors that shape language use and the dynamic nature of human language.
3. Identify and precisely describe patterns found in language data and construct well-reasoned linguistic analyses by formulating, testing, and refining hypotheses about these patterns.
4. Effectively and ethically conduct linguistic research and present the findings.
5. Critically evaluate popular beliefs regarding the nature and use of language and provide informed contributions to contemporary debates about language.
6. Explore the inherent interdisciplinarity of linguistics.