

M.A. in LINGUISTICS

The M.A. in Linguistics provides students with an interdisciplinary education in the scientific study of language. Courses in general and computational linguistics serve students interested in cognitive linguistics, speech synthesis, machine speech recognition, natural language processing, language variation and change, and language documentation. Graduates in linguistics offer a set of highly specialized skills to computer companies working in speech technology and artificial intelligence. Many pursue careers with companies specializing in these areas. A small but significant number of linguistics graduates enter Ph.D. programs for more advanced study. Other graduates pursue teaching careers in language and linguistics in domestic and overseas institutions.

Requirements for Admission to Conditionally Classified Standing

Students holding an accredited Baccalaureate degree and who otherwise satisfy the admissions requirements for the Graduate School of San José State University are eligible for admission as a "conditionally classified student". For students with Baccalaureate degrees from a university where English is not the principal language of instruction, this includes scores from a standardized English proficiency test: for the TOEFL, a minimum score of 90 on the internet-based test (or 577 on the paper-and-pencil test); for IELTS, a minimum score of 7.0; and for Pearsons, a minimum score of 68. Students must have a grade point average of at least 3.0 in the last 60 semester (90 quarter) units.

Students admitted as "Conditionally Classified" may complete the requirements for classified standing after admission to the program concurrently with program courses; however, no more than twelve (12) units completed before the semester in which classified standing is attained may be counted towards the M.A. degree.

Requirements for Admission to Classified Standing

Students holding an accredited Baccalaureate degree with a grade point average of at least 3.0 in the last 60 semester (90 quarter) units and who otherwise satisfy the admissions requirements for the Graduate School of San José State University (for students with Baccalaureate degrees from a university where English is not the principal language of instruction, this includes a minimum score from a standardized English proficiency test: for the TOEFL, a minimum score of 90 on the internet-based test (or 577 on the paper-and-pencil test); for IELTS, a minimum score of 7.0; and for Pearsons, a minimum score of 68) are eligible for admission as "Classified" if they also have completed the equivalent of San José State University's *Introduction to Linguistics* (LING 101), *Introduction to Phonetics* (LING 111), *Introduction to Syntax* (LING 112), with a 3.0 (B or better in each course) grade point average. These courses are all upper division. Lower division courses taken elsewhere are not equivalent.

Requirements for Admission to Candidacy

A student may be admitted to candidacy after completing a minimum of nine (9) units of graded work beyond prerequisites as a graduate student in 100 or 200 level courses. The GPA in all courses taken after the receipt of their bachelor's degree must be at least 3.0 "B". They must also have satisfied San José State University's competency in written English requirement. This requirement may be satisfied in one of the following ways:

- Satisfactory completion of the CSU baccalaureate graduation requirement of competency in Written English (100W course).
- Satisfactory completion of LLD 250W.
- Approval by the Associate Dean or the AVP for Graduate Studies and Research of a (peer-reviewed) professional publication or graduate thesis in which the candidate is a sole author.
- Satisfactory completion of a discipline-specific upper-division writing course at another university judged by the AVP for Graduate Studies and Research to be equivalent in content and writing requirement to the SJSU 100W.

Requirements for the Master of Arts Degree in Linguistics

Students are required to complete a total of 30 units. Units to be counted toward the M.A. degree may not include more than nine (9) units transferred from other institutions or taken through Open University. Students have the option of completing the M.A. Linguistics under one of two plans.

Plan A (Thesis Option). Completion of 30 units (18 core units; 12 elective units: 1–6 units of 299 and electives). The thesis option allows a student to pursue research in an area of common interest to the student and a faculty member. A thesis proposal may grow out of a course or be developed in a LING 298, and must be approved by the student’s Thesis Committee. LING 299 then serves as an opportunity to implement the thesis proposal. See Catalog for details.

Plan B Completion of 30 units (18 core units; 12 elective units); passing of a comprehensive examination.

Degree course requirements are as follows:

A. Completion of the Core Courses		18 units
LING 113	Introduction to Phonology	3 (LING 101, 111- prereqs)
LING 114	Introduction to Semantics & Discourse	3 (LING 101 - prereq)
LING 201	Phonology: Theory and Application	3 (LING 101, 111, 113 - prereqs)
LING 202A	Syntactic Theory	3 (LING 101, 112 - prereqs)
LING 203	Semantic Structures	3 (LING 101, 114 – prereq)
LING 213	Linguistic Field Methods	3 (LING 101, 111, 112, 113 – prereqs)

B. Electives under advisement **12 units**
Students should plan carefully with an advisor for interdisciplinary electives from other departments, which may enrich or supplement Linguistics subareas. At least 3 units must be at the 200-level. A minimum of 60% must be letter-graded coursework. General Education courses cannot fulfill Master’s degree requirements.

Departmental Electives (with advisor's approval)		Units
LING 115	Corpus Linguistics	3
LING 124	Introduction to Speech Technology	3
LING 125	Intro to Historical-Comparative Linguistics	3
LING 161	Psycholinguistics	3
LING 162	Introduction to Morphology	3
LING 165	Introduction to Natural Language Processing	3
LING 166	Sociolinguistics	3
LING 167	Multilingualism and Language Contact	3
LING 298	Individual Studies	3
LING 299	Master's Thesis or Project	3
LLD 250W	Becoming a Professional in Linguistics/TESOL	3
LLD 270	Second Language Acquisition	3
LLD 271	Intercultural Communication and Second Language Acquisition	3

For further information and advising, contact Dr. Julia Swan, Linguistics Program Coordinator.

Email: Julia.Swan@sjsu.edu or telephone: (408) 924-4444

SJSU does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, pregnancy, age, disability, disabled veteran's or Vietnam veteran's status. This policy applies to all SJSU student, faculty and staff programs and activities. Questions regarding this policy should be directed to the Office of Equal Opportunity, Administration Room 112, (408) 924-1115.