# LINGUISTICS

What can I do with this major?

## AREAS

**EDUCATION**
- Teaching
- Research
- Applied Linguistics
- Teacher Training
- Curriculum Development
- Test/Assessment Development
- Foreign Language Instruction
- English as a Second Language (ESL) Instruction
- English to Speakers of Other Language (TESOL) Instruction
- Literacy Development
- Information/Library Science

## EMPLOYERS

- Universities and colleges
- K-12 school systems
- Language institutes
- Community education programs
- Testing companies, e.g. ETS

## STRATEGIES

- To teach in higher education, earn a doctoral degree in linguistics or a related subject such as English, philosophy, speech pathology, or foreign language.
- As an undergraduate, maintain a high GPA and secure strong recommendations from faculty.
- Serve as a tutor, peer mentor, or other student leader.
- Look for opportunities to assist faculty with research.
- Study languages, both Indo-European and non-Indo-European.
- To be more competitive for tenure-track positions in linguistics, plan to complete a post-doc and gain experience with multiple subfields or those that are more applied. Subfields include: phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, historical linguistics, sociolinguistics, dialectology, pragmatics, and language acquisition.
- Earn relevant graduate degrees to prepare for other fields such as, information science, ESL/TESOL, or language education.
- Foreign language instruction requires teacher certification for K-12 and a doctoral degree for post-secondary.
- To prepare for work with non-native English speakers, get involved with the campus or local international community. Study abroad and attend multi-cultural events on campus or in the community.
- Research the many programs available for teaching English abroad. Consider earning a certificate or seeking specialized training to prepare for these positions.
### Areas

**Computational Linguistics**
- Speech Synthesis
- Speech Recognition
- Natural Language Processing
- Text-Content Analysis
- Machine Translation
- Artificial Intelligence
- Database or Lexicon Development
- Information Extraction
- Text Mining
- Research

**Government**
- Translation
- Interpretation
- Localization
- Forensic Linguistics
- Cryptology
- Intelligence
- Analysis
- Writing
- Editing

### Employers

**Computational Linguistics**
- e-Businesses, e.g. Amazon
- Software developers
- Computer companies, e.g. IBM, Microsoft
- Natural-language processor firms
- Search engines, e.g. Google
- Database developers
- Other business firms

**Government**
- Federal government including:
  - National Security Agency
  - Central Intelligence Agency
  - Federal Bureau of Investigation
  - Foreign Service
  - Armed Forces
- State and local government including:
  - Police departments

### Strategies

**Computational Linguistics**
- Earn a master’s or doctoral degree in linguistics, computer science or computational linguistics.
- Supplement undergraduate curriculum with courses in computer science.
- Develop skills in computer programming, computer scripting, natural language processing techniques, and other relevant technologies.
- Gain experience by completing an internship in the computer industry.
- Read use/net or netnews groups and professional journals to understand current trends in the field.
- Be prepared to continuously learn new computer languages and technologies to stay abreast of changes.
- This area represents some of the higher-demand opportunities within linguistics.

**Government**
- Seek leadership roles in relevant campus groups such as model United Nations, student government, and cross-cultural organizations.
- Develop skills in computers, statistics, and data analysis.
- Acquire foreign language competency and travel experience for international positions. Consider studying critical needs languages, e.g. Arabic, Farsi, Chinese, Russian, Spanish, etc.
- Complete an internship with the federal government.
- There are a large number of specialized agencies within the federal government. Do extensive research in order to find the area that best fits your interests and to learn about candidate requirements.
- Become familiar with the government application process. Utilize applicable websites and seek assistance from your college career center.
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<tr>
<th>AREAS</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
<th>STRATEGIES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMMUNICATION DISORDERS</td>
<td>Schools, K-12&lt;br&gt;Universities and colleges&lt;br&gt;Hospitals&lt;br&gt;Physicians’ offices&lt;br&gt;Speech, language, and hearing centers&lt;br&gt;Developmental Learning Centers&lt;br&gt;Home healthcare offices&lt;br&gt;Nursing homes&lt;br&gt;Residential facilities&lt;br&gt;Federal agencies including:&lt;br&gt;  - Department of Veterans Affairs&lt;br&gt;  - National Institutes of Health&lt;br&gt;  - Department of Health and Human Services&lt;br&gt;  - Department of Education&lt;br&gt;  - Armed Services&lt;br&gt;  - Health Maintenance Organizations&lt;br&gt;  - Private individual or group practice&lt;br&gt;  - Public health departments&lt;br&gt;  - Rehabilitation centers</td>
<td>The study of communication disorders is interdisciplinary and draws upon linguistics, speech pathology, audiology, and psychology. Research prerequisite courses for graduate school admission and take the appropriate undergraduate classes.&lt;br&gt;A master's degree from an accredited speech language pathology program is required to enter that field. A doctoral degree is commonly required for audiology. Most states require certification of speech pathologists and all states for audiologists.&lt;br&gt;Obtain the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology or Audiology offered by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.&lt;br&gt;Take courses in American Sign Language.&lt;br&gt;Maintain a high GPA and seek related experiences to be competitive for graduate school.&lt;br&gt;Learn to work well people of varying ages and backgrounds, including those with disabilities.&lt;br&gt;Develop patience as progress in clients may be slow.</td>
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<td>ADDITIONAL AREAS</td>
<td>Government agencies&lt;br&gt;Foreign governments&lt;br&gt;International businesses&lt;br&gt;Hospitals&lt;br&gt;Courts&lt;br&gt;Publishers: magazine, book, textbook, dictionary&lt;br&gt;Internet sites&lt;br&gt;Manufacturers of consumer products&lt;br&gt;Law firms&lt;br&gt;Consulting firms</td>
<td>There are many employment settings in which students can utilize a degree in linguistics.&lt;br&gt;Research areas of interest and seek the appropriate education, skills, and experiences to qualify for that field.&lt;br&gt;Some of these areas will require graduate degrees in linguistics or educational background in other disciplines.&lt;br&gt;Gain relevant experience through internships.</td>
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<td>Interpreting</td>
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<td>Language Documentation</td>
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<td>Fieldwork</td>
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<td>Lexicography (work with dictionaries)</td>
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<td>Technical Writing</td>
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<td>Medical Linguistics</td>
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<td>Forensic Linguistics</td>
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GENERAL INFORMATION

• Linguistics is an interdisciplinary field and therefore good preparation for a wide variety of graduate programs including: linguistics, speech pathology, audiology, cognitive sciences, English, law, journalism, foreign languages, etc.
• Students who major in linguistics develop strong analytical and communication skills and the ability to debate. They are commonly required to gain proficiency in a second language.
• Students should consider a secondary area of study such as, foreign language, computer science, psychology, or other area of interest to increase opportunities for employment or graduate school.
• Consider study abroad and getting involved with the international community on campus. Attend language conversation tables.
• Research career paths of interest and seek to gain the skills, experiences, and degrees necessary to work in that field.
• Conduct informational interviews with or shadow professionals to learn about various work environments.
• Join related professional associations as a student member.
• Because many career paths require graduate education, learn about the graduate school admissions process and build a strong candidacy.
• Gain relevant experience through jobs, volunteer positions, or internships.