

OVERVIEW

The master’s degree in English with a concentration in linguistics is theoretically oriented and provides a solid foundation in the major subfields of linguistics: phonology, syntax, and semantics.

Please note: Additional information on this certificate, courses, and graduate student policies are available at linguistics.gmu.edu and in the University catalog.

PLANNING YOUR COURSE OF STUDY

You must minimally complete 30 credit hours of coursework in this program.

You must minimally complete 33 credit hours if you are completing both the MA and the TESL certificate programs concurrently.

You must complete 36 credit hours if you were advised to take LING 520 and you are completing both the MA and the TESL certificate programs concurrently.

Consult the schedule of classes or english.gmu.edu/about-courses each term to see which courses in linguistics are offered. Consult the University Catalog for a complete listing of English courses.

LINGUISTICS COURSES 18 CREDIT HOURS

LING 580: First Language Acquisition (Prerequisite: LING 306/520, 690, or 786; or permission of instructor)

_____ | _____

LING 690: Generative Phonology

_____ | _____

LING 692: Phonology II (Prerequisite: LING 690)

_____ | _____

LING 785: Semantics and Pragmatics (Prerequisite: LING 306/520, 690, or 786; or permission of instructor)

_____ | _____

LING 786: Syntax I

_____ | _____

LING 787: Syntax II (Prerequisite: LING 786)

_____ | _____

ELECTIVE COURSES 12 CREDIT HOURS

_____ | _____ & _____ | _____
 _____ | _____ & _____ | _____
 LING 799, if taken LING 799, if taken

Please note: Electives should be chosen with the help of the adviser. Electives can also be 12 of the 18 credit hours required for the TESL certificate. (See notes above and TESL certificate advising sheet).

THESIS OPTION 6 CREDIT HOURS - OPTIONAL

In lieu of four electives, students may complete two electives and a six credit hour thesis. Students who choose this option should replace two electives with LING 799. Students planning to write a thesis need to put together a committee and have a prospectus approved before enrolling for thesis credits. Students writing a thesis enroll in 6 credits total of ENGH 799 over a minimum of 2 semesters, and may begin thesis work AFTER completing all other coursework.

NON-COURSE REQUIREMENT: INTERMEDIATE LEVEL FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Intermediate proficiency corresponds to Mason’s coursework through the 202 or 210 level. Generally speaking, this level represents four consecutive semesters in a given language (e.g. French 101, 102, 201, and 202), although the number of courses varies depending on the university at which they were taken.

Students may satisfy this requirement in one of the following ways:

- Confirm that your undergraduate (or continuing education) transcript includes courses corresponding to intermediate proficiency. If you completed your undergraduate studies in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at GMU, you have fulfilled the language requirement.
- Take a proficiency exam administered by the English department if your language proficiency is in German, Russian, French, or Spanish. Contact the graduate programs manager to schedule an exam.
- Take a proficiency exam administered in the Modern and Classical Languages department if your proficiency is in a language other than German, Russian, French, or Spanish. Contact MCL to determine whether appropriate exams are administered.
- Take courses at Mason or elsewhere through the intermediate level. Make sure the intermediate level elsewhere corresponds to that at Mason.

Please contact Jay Patel, the Graduate Academic Coordinator soon after enrolling to determine how you will meet the language proficiency requirement. Jay can be reached at jpatel2@gmu.edu, or 703.993.1180.

Please note: Even if you complete your foreign language coursework at Mason, you must contact the graduate academic coordinator to complete the necessary paperwork.