

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS:
PH.D. IN LINGUISTICS

NOTE: Effective in the Spring Semester 2007, the Linguistics [Ph.D. Diagnostic Exam \(http://ling.uta.edu/advising/exams/\)](http://ling.uta.edu/advising/exams/) will be based on these Revised Degree Requirements for all students, regardless of their cyber-advising track. Continuing students are thus advised to take LING 5347: Pragmatics as soon as possible.

These degree requirements are effective for students entering Fall 2006 or later. Students who entered the program prior to Fall 2006 can download the [old Ph.D. Linguistics program requirements \(PDF\) \(http://ling.uta.edu/documents/PHD-LING-legacy.pdf\)](http://ling.uta.edu/documents/PHD-LING-legacy.pdf) here.

Ph.D. Linguistics Program Objectives

The primary objective of the Ph.D. Program in Linguistics at UT Arlington is to train professionals with a common grounding in linguistic research (with an emphasis on data collection and management), as well as research expertise in two specialized areas of linguistics. The degree prepares graduates for employment in field work, field program administration, literacy consultation and language planning, teaching, work in industry and other forms of employment appropriate to professional linguists.

Interested in applying to the program? See our [Prospective Students \(http://ling.uta.edu/prospective-students/\)](http://ling.uta.edu/prospective-students/) page.

Admissions Requirements for Applicants

Starting in 2009, new Ph.D. Linguistics students will be admitted for the fall semester only. Students will not be admitted into the Ph.D. program for the spring or summer terms.

Be sure to read the [Admissions Requirements \(PDF\) \(http://www.uta.edu/gradcatalog/LINGTESOL-Admissions Criteria Effective Fall 2006.pdf\)](http://www.uta.edu/gradcatalog/LINGTESOL-Admissions Criteria Effective Fall 2006.pdf) for Linguistics & TESOL graduate programs.

Coursework

Leveling Courses: Students with no prior study in linguistics (as indicated by an official transcript) must complete the following three leveling courses:

1. LING 5300: Linguistic Analysis
2. LING 3330: Phonetics and Phonology
3. LING 3340: Grammar and Morphology

Students required to take the leveling courses must earn a grade of 'A' or 'B' in each to be allowed continued enrollment in the program, regardless of their performance in any other linguistics courses.

Students who present documentation of comparable coursework (with grades no lower than 'B-' in each case) have the leveling course requirement waived from their program of study. The [Ph.D. Advisor \(http://ling.uta.edu/~laurel/\)](http://ling.uta.edu/~laurel/) will be charged with evaluating previous coursework and making

decisions about leveling course waivers.

Theoretical Core Courses: All students must complete one course from each of the following four areas (12 credits):

1. Language in Context: LING 5310: Sociolinguistics
» *alternate courses:*
LING 5311: Sociolinguistics of Society
LING 5314: Comparative & Historical Linguistics
LING 5351: Spoken Discourse
2. Sound Structure: LING 5320: Phonological Theory
3. Grammatical Structure: LING 5330: Formal Syntax
4. Meaning and Use: LING 5347: Pragmatics

Students who have completed any of the Theoretical Core Courses listed above as part of their previous training (e.g., by having earned an M.A. in linguistics at UT Arlington or elsewhere) must substitute an advanced course in the same core area. (See "Area of Specialization" below for advanced courses in each of the four areas.) Under no circumstances may the requirement for 12 credits of Theoretical Core Courses be waived.

Professional Development Courses: All students must complete the following four courses (12 credits):

1. LING 5380: Field Methods
2. LING 5381: Computer and Natural Language
3. LING 6300: Professional Writing for Linguistics
4. Advanced Methodology course – choice:
 - o LING 6380: Advanced Field Methods **or**
 - o LING 6381: Research Design and Statistics(or an approved course in research design or statistics offered by another department)

Students who have completed any of the Professional Development Courses listed above as part of their previous training (e.g., by having earned an M.A. in linguistics at UT Arlington or elsewhere) must substitute another graduate-level course consistent with their overall plan of study and research. The substitution must be approved by the [Ph.D. Advisor \(http://ling.uta.edu/~laurel/\)](http://ling.uta.edu/~laurel/). Under no circumstances may the requirement for 12 credits of Professional Development Courses be waived.

Area of Specialization: Students must establish an area of specialization and within that area complete two additional courses (6 credits). The areas (and the approved courses) are:

1. Language in Context:
 - o LING 5310: Sociolinguistics
 - o LING 5311: Sociolinguistics of Society
 - o LING 5312: Language and Gender
 - o LING 5314: Historical and Comparative Linguistics
 - o LING 5351: Spoken Discourse

2. Sound Structure:
 - o LING 5314: Historical and Comparative Linguistics
 - o LING 5321: Advanced Phonological Theory
 - o LING 5322: Laboratory Phonology
 - o LING 5334: Morphology
3. Grammatical Structure:
 - o LING 5314: Historical & Comparative Linguistics
 - o LING 5331: Advanced Formal Syntax
 - o LING 5333: Functional Typological Grammar
 - o LING 5334: Morphology
 - o LING 5335: Language Universals & Typology
4. Meaning & Use:
 - o LING 5314: Historical and Comparative Linguistics
 - o LING 5332: Discourse Grammar
 - o LING 5345: Semantics
 - o LING 5350: Text Analysis
 - o LING 5351: Spoken Discourse
5. Literacy & Translation:
 - o LING 5340: Principles of Translation
 - o LING 5341: Principles of Literacy
 - o LING 5350: Text Analysis
 - o A literacy-oriented course in READ (College of Education)

6. Open Specialization:

Upon approval from the [Ph.D. Advisor \(http://ling.uta.edu/~laurel/\)](http://ling.uta.edu/~laurel/), students may craft their own area of specialization, provided that the courses within the specialization constitute a coherent body of inquiry consistent with the student's plan of study and research. Doctoral students already holding an M.A. in Linguistics may choose an area of specialization outside of the department.

Examples include (but are not limited to):

- o Anthropology: ANTH 5330, 5369, 5370
- o Computer Science: CSE 5360, 5361, 5363, 5366
- o English: ENGL 5334, 5354, 5355
- o TESOL: LING 5301, 5302, 5303, 5304, 5306
- o Education: READ 5316, 5350, 5355, 5357, 5361
- o Other courses as approved by the linguistics faculty

Doctoral students without an M.A. in Linguistics are prohibited from selecting an area of specialization outside of the department. Exceptions to this policy must be approved the Linguistics Graduate Studies Committee.

Dissertation Research (12 credits)

1. Proposal: LING 6391: Research in Linguistics; includes oral exam (Ph.D. Comprehensive Examination).
 - o Students enrolling in LING 6391 must have completed at least 24 credits in the Ph.D. Program, and must have already made arrangements with a faculty member to serve as their dissertation supervisor.
 - o LING 6391 must be repeated for credit until the student has successfully defended his/her dissertation proposal; only then will the student be considered for advancement to

candidacy.

- Students who have completed all required coursework, need to prepare their dissertation proposal, but must be enrolled in more than 3 credits (e.g., for visa or employment purposes), may enroll in LING 6691 or 6991.

2. Dissertation: LING 6999; includes oral exam (Ph.D. Dissertation Defense)

The format of the dissertation defense is as follows:

- Part 1: Candidate gives a public lecture on his/her research (~ 1 hour)
- Part 2: Candidate confers in private with the dissertation committee

Additional Requirements

Foreign language requirement: This is a three-part requirement to be fulfilled using either two (2) or three (3) foreign languages other than English.

1. Research language:

- Evidence of 4 semesters of undergraduate-level study with passing grades; or
- Translation exam (see [Ph.D. Advisor \(http://ling.uta.edu/~laurel/\)](http://ling.uta.edu/~laurel/)); or
- Other (determined by the student's dissertation committee).

2. Spoken (or signed) language:

- Evidence of 4 semesters of undergraduate-level study with passing grades; or
- Conversation exam (see [Ph.D. Advisor \(http://ling.uta.edu/~laurel/\)](http://ling.uta.edu/~laurel/)); or
- Other (determined by the student's dissertation committee).

3. Structural Knowledge of a Non-Western Language (NWL):

- Completion of LING 5360 (or comparable course from another university); or
- Substantial documented research paper covering at least two core theoretical areas (e.g. phonology and syntax, syntax and semantics, etc.) in one language; or
- Master's thesis on a NWL, provided that the work demonstrates a comprehensive knowledge of the language's grammar.

Notes:

- English may not be used to fulfill any part of the Foreign Language Requirement.
- "Non-Western" is defined as follows: Non-Romance, Non-Germanic, Non-Slavic, and Non-Hellenic. All other branches of the Indo-European family (e.g. Gaelic, Indo-Aryan, Armenian) are considered "Non-Western," as are all other languages outside of Indo-European.
- The knowledge to be presented for area (3) must be in a single language; partial linguistic study of multiple languages is not sufficient.
- Students who have earned a bachelor's or master's degree from a university at which the medium of instruction is a Non-Western language will automatically have completed requirements (1) and (2) but not (3); meeting the structural knowledge component requires documented academic study of the language in question.

Diagnostic Examination: All doctoral students must sit for the [Diagnostic Examination \(http://ling.uta.edu/advising/exams/\)](http://ling.uta.edu/advising/exams/) prior to the completion of 27 credits in the program. Students who have completed 27 credits in the program but have not yet attempted the Diagnostic Examination will not be allowed to take additional courses until the examination has been passed. (For those students studying full time, the Ph.D. Diagnostic Examination is usually taken at the end of the second or third semester.)

The examination covers material from four theoretical core areas of linguistics (as defined above):

- Language in Context
- Sound Structure
- Grammatical Structure
- Meaning & Use

The Diagnostic Examination is given twice each year, in the fall semester (early November) and the spring semester (early April); a specific exam date will be announced at the beginning of each semester.

A passing grade on the Ph.D. Diagnostic Exam is defined as follows: of the twelve evaluations received for the entire examination (i.e. three evaluations for each of the four sections), at least eight must be either Pass or High Pass; moreover, no more than one of the twelve evaluations may be a Fail. A student who fails the exam and is granted permission to be re-examined must sit for the entire exam again; no "partial exams" will be administered.

Doctoral students who have already passed this examination as part of their M.A. requirements at UT Arlington must have passed at the Ph.D.-level; if they have not done so, they must sit for the examination again and receive a passing grade at the doctoral level. All other students must sit for the examination, regardless of their previous experience and education.

See the [Exams \(http://ling.uta.edu/advising/exams/\)](http://ling.uta.edu/advising/exams/) section of our website to get information that will help you prepare for the Diagnostic Exam.

Comprehensive Examination: In the Linguistics Doctoral Program, the "Dissertation Proposal Defense" (see "Dissertation Research," above) functions as the Comprehensive Examination. Students intending to defend a thesis, dissertation, or dissertation proposal must submit a complete draft – including all chapters plus references and supporting materials – to all members of their committee **no later than noon on the Monday of the ninth week of the semester**. After the draft has been read by the committee, students will then be notified whether or not the committee will approve a request to defend the work that same semester.

Students who do not meet this deadline will not be eligible to defend the work that semester.

Students who have presented a Dissertation Proposal Defense must afterwards file a "[Comprehensive Exam Report](http://grad.uta.edu/pdfs/Current/Comprehensive%20Examination%20Report.pdf)" (<http://grad.uta.edu/pdfs/Current/Comprehensive%20Examination%20Report.pdf>) with the Graduate School.

Professional Activity Requirements: All doctoral students are required to develop professional experience by actively participating in the intellectual life of our discipline. To this end, all students must meet the following minimal requirements. (Students are strongly encouraged to go beyond these requirements.)

1. Two oral presentations at organized conferences or colloquia for which presentations are competitively selected on the basis of abstract evaluation. The two papers must represent research on two different topics (e.g. one in phonology and another in translation). Students must supply the [Ph.D. Advisor \(http://ling.uta.edu/~laurel/\)](http://ling.uta.edu/~laurel/) with proof of participation in the conference (letter of acceptance, copy of the acceptance letter, etc.).

2. Two research papers.
 - a. One paper must be submitted to an organization for review.
 - b. The second paper may be a research paper submitted for review, a book review, or an M.A. thesis in linguistics.
 - o At least one of these papers must be accepted for publication in a professionally recognized venue.
 - o Co-authored presentations / publications may not be used to satisfy these requirements.

Admissions Requirements

If you are interested in enrolling in this program, consult the [Prospective Students \(http://ling.uta.edu/prospective-students/\)](http://ling.uta.edu/prospective-students/) page.