

Introduction

This handbook was made for linguistics students by linguistics students. Our goal is to provide helpful information about the linguistics department, programs, and student groups to new and continuing linguistics students. The information provided in this handbook is not a concrete requirement list but a guide from us upper year students on navigating linguistics.

What is Linguistics: Linguistics is the scientific study of language as a human function and a social tool. It approaches language from different perspectives that include cognition, culture, history, etc. Studying linguistics could mean studying core areas like the phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics of language as well as social or psychological elements of language. Many linguists work in language documentation/revitalization, Speech Pathology, Computational Linguistics, and more!

Linguistics at Usask is a small department but a flexible program. With an average of 70 declared linguistics majors and a small group of professors, you will find a strong community with knowledgeable people in linguistics. The program itself gives you all your requirements but still has the opportunity for plenty of electives in other subject areas that can help you get a minor, certificate or language recognition in whatever you need.

Faculty Support

Your Undergraduate Chair (2023-2024):

Dr. Jesse Stewart, jesse.stewart@usask.ca

Your Graduate Chair (2023-2024):

Dr. Zhi Li, z.li@usask.ca

Your Department Head:

Dr. Olga Lovick, olga.lovick@usask.ca

Library Liaison (located in Murray Library):

Kathy Gaynor, kathy.gaynor@usask.ca

Contact Kathy for Research purposes and finding academic sources!

Linguistic Student Committee

The Linguistics Student Committee is a student-run campus group that runs along with the linguistic department to help linguistics students connect with other linguistics students and seek linguistic academic help. We host events and fundraisers throughout the year as well as do projects for students such as the creation of this handbook! Check us out through the info below:

Email: ling.student.committee@ussu.ca

Twitter and Instagram: [@usaskling](#)

Facebook and Discord: [Linguistics Student Committee](#) (find us through the Usask student hub discord)

President: Skyler Weisgerber

Vice President: Kara Leier

Social Media Manager: Maliya Dansereau

Treasurer: Lia Bandet

Secretary: Lubna Fazilat

Members at large: Olivia Poschenrieder, Mary Vargas and Caleb Hecht

Courses

Courses offered every year:

LING 110: Introduction to Grammar
LING 111: Introduction to Linguistics
LING 112: Dynamics of Language
LING 113: Language Use in the Digital Era
LING 242: Phonetics
LING 253: Indigenous Languages of Canada
LING 403: Research Methods

Courses offered every two years:

Most upper year courses (200-499)

New courses this year (2023-2024):

LING 114: Indigenous Languages and Story

Core courses to consider taking:

LING 111: Structure of Language
LING 112: Dynamics of Language
LING 241: Syntax
LING 242: Phonetics
LING 243: Morphology
LING 244: Sociolinguistics
LING 253: Indigenous Languages of Canada
LING 341: Semantics
LING 340: Phonology

Courses that are generally required:

First-Year Courses: LING 111/114, LING 110¹, LING 112 (Prerequisites)
LING 253: Indigenous Studies Requirement

Common Minors/Certificates that are useful for the degree:

- ❖ Psychology (beneficial for Speech Pathology)
- ❖ Language certificates such as French or Spanish (helps with electives)
- ❖ Computer science
- ❖ Anthropology
- ❖ Indigenous studies
- ❖ Religious studies
- ❖ English

¹ Requirement for General and Applied Stream

General Tips

- ❖ Check in with the Undergraduate Chair of the Linguistics Department (currently Jesse Stewart) if you have any questions about the classes! It helps to have a second hand when planning your classes.
- ❖ Take the introductory courses that are prerequisites to upper-year courses: Ling 111, Ling 112.
- ❖ If you plan to take a master's program in Linguistics, generally you need to complete a bachelor's degree with Honours (see FAQ for honours program information).
- ❖ Consider taking a minor, it helps focus your list of electives and allows you to take upper-year classes you enjoy. It helps to get upper-year credits for your degree.
- ❖ You need around 66 credit units of upper-year (200-400) classes. As well, you can't have more than 60 credit units in one subject area.
- ❖ Visual aids help when planning your classes! A lot of us have used excel to visualise our timetables and plan:

First Year		Second Year	
Fall Semester	Winter Semester	Fall Semester	Winter Semester
CMPT 141	CMPT 145	CMPT 270	CMPT 280
MATH 110	LING 112	LING 242	LING 253
LING 111	Language course	ENG 212	Language course
ENG elective	STAT 245	LING 346	LING 340
LING 110 OR 113	INDG 107	LING 349	SR. Lvl LING

➤ An example of the first two years of a computational linguistics student

First Year		Second Year	
Fall Semester	Winter Semester	Fall Semester	Winter Semester
LING111	LING 110	LING 242	LING 340
PSY 120	LING112	LING 346	LING 253
SOC 111	COMP 140	PSY 121	PSY 256
MATH 104	PSY 253	ENG 212	PSY 213
Language course	STAT 245	Language course	CPSJ 112

➤ An example of the first two years of a speech pathology student

- ❖ You don't need to take English classes to get your degree, you can take language courses to substitute!

- ❖ The LSC is here to help you! Reach out to us about any questions you may have regarding your program or professors, and we can assist you!
- ❖ Some graduate institutions need letters of recommendation. Make connections with your professors and faculty to ensure you have options.
- ❖ If you plan for a Master's, post-undergrad programs, or professional programs, consider getting involved with volunteering, clubs and activities.

Specialised Considerations from the LSC Members

Computational Linguistics

- ❖ Need to take LING 403 (Research Methods) and 478 (Honours Project) if you are doing Honours!
- ❖ Consider MATH 110² (Calculus I), and MATH 164² (Linear Algebra)
- ❖ Consider STAT 244 or STAT 245²
- ❖ CMPT classes that I found good:
 - CMPT: 141, 145, 270, 280 (These classes seem like a good basis for many 3rd/4th year classes in CMPT)
 - I've found that CMPT 384 (Info Visualisation) or CMPT 317 (Intro to Artificial Intelligence) sound like good options for me as well.

Speech Language Pathology

- ❖ There are currently 12 universities in Canada that offer a graduate speech pathology program: University of Alberta, University of British Columbia, Western University, Dalhousie, University of Toronto, McGill, McMaster, Université Laurentienne (French), Université d'Ottawa (French), Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières (French), Université Laval (French) and Université de Montréal.
- ❖ Some of the average grades needed for acceptance: B (70%) Western, 82% at U of A, 3.3 GPA (76%) at Dalhousie, and B+ University of Toronto.
- ❖ LING classes you will need to graduate your bachelors and that will prepare you for grad school:
 - 241 (Syntax)
 - 242 (Phonetics)
 - 253 (Indigenous Languages of Canada)
 - 343 (Child Language Development)
 - 370 (Intro to Speech Pathology)
 - 340 or 243 (Phonology or Morphology)
- ❖ PSY classes you will need to graduate your bachelors and that will prepare you for grad school:
 - 120 (Intro to Psych)
 - 121 (Intro to Psych)
 - 213 (Child Development)
 - 246 (Intro to Neuropsychology)
 - 253 (Cognitive Psychology)
- ❖ Recommended classes:
 - LING 403 (Research Methods)
 - PSY 256 (Psychology of Language)
 - A statistics course (STATs 245 is recommended but can also take PSY 233)
- ❖ Some graduate institutions require an anatomy class as well. BMSC 207 and 208 are good options for anatomy classes to take at Usask, but you will need BIO 120 as a

² UBC Masters of Data Science with Computational Linguistics Program Requirements

prerequisite. Other options may include online anatomy classes such as BIO 235 at Athabasca university which doesn't require a prerequisite.

- ❖ Tips for getting into Grad school:
 - Some graduate programs in Canada (UBC and U of T specifically) may require you to have volunteer/observation hours under a speech pathologist or in the realm of speech sciences. For example, volunteering or even working at language centres, after-school programs, or speech pathology clinics.
 - Graduate programs may also require you to submit one or two letters of recommendation so make connections with people in your field! Talk to your professors and get to know the speech pathologists in your area.
 - Research your program! The more people and things you know about the field and the program before you go in, the better your chances of succeeding are.
 - Have all your prerequisites before you apply and make sure that they are recognized by your graduate program's university. If you are taking your graduate program at a different university than your undergraduate it is important to make sure that your phonetics classes, for example, at Usask is a recognized phonetics class at your graduate program university.

Audiology

- ❖ Only 6 universities in Canada offer an audiology graduate program, three of which are offered in English and three in french: Dalhousie, UBC, Western University, and Université de Montréal, Université Laval, Université d'Ottawa.
- ❖ Most of the course prerequisites for an Audiology graduate program are similar to Speech Pathology.
- ❖ You may also require academic/professional reference letters.
- ❖ Audiology has a heavier focus on neurology, anatomy, and physics than speech pathology so it's recommended to look into your desired graduate program to see which anatomy and physics classes you may need.

Dialectology/Drama, Voice, and Text

- ❖ Consider taking first year Drama classes.
 - Voice classes may be an asset.
- ❖ Consider mingling with the Drama students.
- ❖ Take Phonetics (LING 242) and Phonology (LING 340)
- ❖ Consider Indigenous storytelling courses.
 - wîcêhtowin Theatre Program at U of S
 - Indigenous Storytelling Certificate

Health Care/Medicine

- ❖ Linguistics is flexible enough to allow you to take many minors or concentrations meaning you can take courses that will prepare you for the MCAT while still studying linguistics!

- ❖ Consider taking BMSC 207 and BMSC 208 as electives with your linguistic degree.

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: *What can you do with linguistics?*

A: There are many avenues you can take. You can do field research and documentation, applied linguistics (computational, second language acquisition, etc.), teaching (professor, ESL, language teacher), Speech Pathology, Audiology, dialectology, translation, lexicology, or you can use it as an undergrad for other graduate studies!

Question: Do you have to learn/know multiple languages?

A: You are not required to for your undergraduate degree here or for any Linguistics classes at Usask. Although, many people who study linguistics will often learn other languages out of interest and exposure.

Question: Why should I take linguistics as my undergraduate if I want to do a different Graduate program?

A: Linguistics is a flexible undergraduate option as the program has 48 credits of electives. Many linguistic students use these electives to complete a minor/certificate, gain a recognition in a language or earn credits that can apply as prerequisites to their graduate program. Learning about the human communication system is also quite helpful in everyday life.

Question: What does Honours mean?

A: You can receive your bachelor's degree with Honours by completing a research project. In academia, it shows that you can research and write a thesis/research paper independently. If you plan to go higher in academia (Masters, PhD) then this is a great option.