Linguistics and Applied Linguistics, PhD

Prepare yourself for entrance into academia as well as a variety of careers through internships and professional development opportunities and an innovative mentoring program. This doctoral program boasts an internationally recognized faculty with expertise in sociolinguistics, discourse analysis, second-language writing, world Englishes, semantics, syntax, phonology and more.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: PHD Linguistics and Applied Linguistics

The PhD program in linguistics and applied linguistics focuses on the study of human language and the application of that study to the human condition.

Students in this program select a research specialization in formal linguistics, applied linguistics or some combination of these areas. The curriculum provides professional training in linguistics and applied linguistics with focused research in several areas, including discourse analysis, Indigenous American linguistics, language and cognition, language contact and change, language planning, language revitalization, phonetics, phonology, pragmatics, second language acquisition, second language teaching and learning, semantics, sociolinguistics, syntax, teaching English to speakers of other languages, World Englishes and professional practices.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** [The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences](#)
- **Location:** [Tempe campus](#)

Degree Requirements
84 credit hours, a written comprehensive exam, an oral comprehensive exam, a foreign language exam, a prospectus and a dissertation

**Required Core (18 credit hours)**

- APL 555 Disciplinary Discourses (3)
- APL 601 Introduction to Applied Linguistics (3)
- LIN 511 Phonetics and Phonology (3)
- LIN 514 Syntax (3)
- LIN 515 American English (3) or LIN 516 Pragmatics and Discourse Analysis (3)
- LIN 655 Advanced Disciplinary Discourses in Linguistics and Applied Linguistics (3)

**Electives and Research (24 credit hours)**

- LIN 501 Approaches to Research (3)
- specialization (21)

**Culminating Experience (12 credit hours)**

- LIN 799 or APL 799 Dissertation (12)

**Other Requirements (30 credit hours)**

If students do not have a previously awarded master's degree, then 30 credit hours is made up of additional elective coursework which must include LIN 510, if they have not previously taken it or its equivalent. The electives must be approved by their supervisory committee.

**Additional Curriculum Information**

Students must demonstrate evidence of a competent knowledge of a natural language other than modern English, to be selected by the student and subject to the approval of the chair of the dissertation committee. The language requirement must be completed before the student is eligible to take the doctoral examinations. This requirement may be met by any of the following:

- earning a "B" or higher (3.00 on a 4.00 scale) in a 400- or 500-level course in an appropriate (approved) language
- demonstrating comparable proficiency by taking a language examination, administered by the School of International Letters and Cultures, in a language approved by the student's supervisory committee
- demonstrating native-speaker proficiency, as determined by the School of International Letters and Cultures, in a language approved by the student's supervisory committee
- earning a "B" or higher (3.00 on a 4.00 scale) in both ENG 530 Old English and ENG 531 Old English Literature or the equivalent of each
- holding a bachelor's degree in an approved foreign language
- having fulfilled a foreign language requirement toward a previously awarded master's degree that was completed within five years of the semester for which the student was admitted to the doctoral program
- two years (four semesters) of successfully completed college level coursework (no more than six years prior to admission to the degree program) at least at the 100 and 200 levels with a "C" or better, for languages which the School of International Letters and Cultures does not offer or does not offer above the 200 level
The foreign language requirement must be in a language approved by the student's doctoral supervisory committee.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00= "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.50 (scale is 4.00= "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. statement of purpose
4. resume or curriculum vitae
5. three letters of recommendation
6. academic writing sample relevant to the field
7. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information

An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency. Students should see the Department of English website for specific details about English proficiency requirements.

Undergraduate degrees in such related fields as anthropology, applied linguistics, communication, cognitive science, comparative languages and literatures, literature, education, history, law, linguistics, modern languages, philosophy, political science, psychology, religious studies, rhetoric, composition, sociology, or speech and hearing science will be considered.

The one- to two-page, single-spaced statement of purpose should explain how the applicant's experience and training have prepared them for the program. It should also indicate career goals and explain how these goals relate to the graduate program in linguistics and applied linguistics. Applicants applying for funding must also submit a statement of teaching philosophy. Students should see the Department of English website for specific details.

Application Deadlines
Career Opportunities

Graduates with research expertise in linguistics and applied linguistics work in a variety of professional contexts, such as academia, government, business, health care, legal settings, publishing, the private sector and nongovernmental organizations.

Career examples include:

- computer-assisted language learning aka CALL expert
- data analyst
- forensic linguist
- language documentation expert
- language-learning app developer
- language policy expert
- language program director or coordinator
- language researcher
- linguistic consultant
- program and curriculum developer or consultant
- publisher
- teacher trainer
- university professor

Contact Information

Department of English | RBHL 125
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Admission Deadlines