

Elective Options for Undergraduate Linguistics Majors

San Francisco State University – Department of English Language & Literature

updated February 2023

All undergraduate linguistics majors are required to take 3 electives in the area of linguistics to complete their major. The following is a list of approved elective options. Any other elective courses need advisor's approval.

Once you have satisfied your electives, meet with an advisor who will submit advisor requests to the registrar for your transcript (and graduation) processing.

All linguistics professors serve as advisors: Dr. Smirnova (smirnov@sfsu.edu), Dr. Lederer (lederer@sfsu.edu), and Dr. Pratt (tpratt@sfsu.edu).

English Department electives ([course offerings](#))

For students interested in teaching English abroad / applying to the MA-TESOL program

- **ENG 423:** Intro to TESOL (*Fall only*)
- **ENG 426:** Second Language Acquisition (taken with a foreign language) (*Fall only*)
- **ENG 653:** TESOL Pedagogical Grammar
- **ENG 657:** Grammar and Rhetoric of the Sentence

For students interested in the [Certificate in Computational Linguistics](#):

- **ENG 620:** Intro to Computational Linguistics (*Fall only*)
- **ENG 680:** Applied Computational Linguistics (*Spring only*)
 - Prerequisite: ENG 620 or instructor approval

Other:

- **ENG 122:** Language Evolution in the Digital Age (*typically Fall*)
- **ENG 429:** Stylistics (*offered infrequently*)
- **ENG 501:** Age of Chaucer (*offered infrequently*)

Foreign language classes

- Foreign language classes offered at SFSU include: [ASL](#), [Chinese](#), [French](#), [German](#), [Italian](#), [Japanese](#), [Persian](#), [Russian](#), [Spanish](#)
 - Students may count 1 introductory level language class as an elective if the language was not studied before taking at the university level.
 - Any 300-level or above language classes (except conversation classes) will count as electives provided the language is not a native language for the student. If it is a native language for the student, only the 300-level linguistics courses in that language will be counted.
 - Courses completed at community college (introductory or advanced) count as well.
- **MLL 325:** Linguistics and Foreign Languages (*Fall only*)

Statistics / Quantitative Analysis courses (various departments)

- Any statistics course taken above the 100-level counts as an elective (up to 4 units).
- **ANTH 652:** Anthropological Statistics (*offered infrequently*)
- **PSY 171:** Quantitative Reasoning in Psychology (*multiple sections offered each semester*)
 - o Satisfies B4: Math/QR
- **PSY 371:** Psychological Statistics (*multiple sections offered each semester*)
 - o Prerequisite: PSY 171
- **SOC 393:** Quantitative Analysis of Social Data

Anthropology ([course offerings](#))

- **ANTH 651:** Ethnographic Field Methods (*Fall only*)

Communication Studies ([course offerings](#))

- **COMM 240:** Non-Verbal Communication (*multiple sections offered each semester*)
 - Satisfies D1: Social Sciences GE
- **COMM 503:** Gender and Communication (*multiple sections offered each semester*)
- **COMM 525:** Sexualities and Communication (*multiple sections offered each semester*)
- **COMM 538:** Language and Identity in Interaction (*offered each semester*)
- **COMM 561:** Social Semiotics (*offered each semester*)

Computer Science ([course offerings](#))

- **CSC 206:** Python Programming (*offered infrequently*)
 - Courses in Python are recommended for those interested in computational linguistics or natural language processing.
- **CSC 620:** Natural Language Technologies (*offered each semester*)
 - Prerequisite: Upper-division standing
- **Note:** any CSC courses at the 200-level or above can count as Linguistics electives. Those not listed here require several prior CSC courses to enroll.

Philosophy ([course offerings](#))

- **PHIL 205:** Formal Logic (*offered each semester*)
- **PHIL 630:** Philosophy of Language (*Spring only*)
 - Prerequisite: GE Area A2 or equivalent.

Psychology ([course offerings](#))

- **PSY 431:** Developmental Psychology (*at least 1 section offered each semester*)
 - Prerequisite: PSY 200
- **PSY 432:** Cognitive Development: Language, Thinking, and Perception (*offered each semester*)

- Prerequisite: PSY 431
- **PSY 494:** Cognitive Psychology (*multiple sections offered each semester*)
 - Prerequisite: PSY 200, PSY 371, or equivalent
- **PSY 531:** Psycholinguistics (*Spring only*)
 - Prerequisite: PSY 200 or equivalent

Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences (SLHS) ([course offerings](#))

- **SLHS 150:** Difference and Disability (*offered infrequently*)
- **SLHS 300:** Introduction to Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences – recommended (*offered each semester*)
 - Satisfies UD-D: Social Sciences
- **SLHS 655:** Language Development (*offered each semester*)
 - Satisfies UD-D: Social Sciences
 - Prerequisites: GE Areas A1*, A2*, A3*, and B4* all with grades of C- or higher
- **SLHS 651:** Anatomy and Physiology of the Speech Mechanism (*Spring only*)
 - Prerequisites: B1: Physical Science, Statistics, Biological Science, and Social & Behavioral Science
- **SLHS 652:** Audiology (*Fall only*)
 - Prerequisites: B1: Physical Science, Statistics, Biological Science, and Social & Behavioral Science
- **Note:** any SLHS courses can count as Linguistics electives, those not listed here require several prior SLHS courses to enroll.