

Ka Haka 'Ula o Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language

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Linguistics Program

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LINGUISTICS PROGRAM, Yumiko Ohara, Director

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Linguistics is the scientific study of language, examining it both as an abstract system and in its psychological and social contexts. Linguistics focuses on how the human mind structures, processes, and acquires language and on how language use is an integral part of human interaction. With the central role played by language in the social world, linguistics is situated at the intellectual intersection of the humanities and the sciences, including the social, biological, and behavioral sciences. Accordingly, students receive broad training that cuts across and breaks down traditional boundaries between disciplines.

Mission and Goals for Student Learning in the Major

The mission of the B.A. program in Linguistics is to provide students with the fundamental skills to analyze the structure of language, its place in the mind, and its role in society. Located amidst one of the most developed efforts in indigenous language revitalization in the world, the program seeks to support multilingual education and promote international cooperation while preparing students for graduate study in linguistics as well as for careers in fields such as education, marketing, publishing, and translation.

The Bachelor of Arts degree in Linguistics provides students with a broad introduction to the field. Upon successful completion of their degree, students will be able to:

1. Explain the major academic theories of language with a focus on what they say about the relationship between language and human beings.
2. Through the study of phonetics and phonology, demonstrate knowledge of how sound patterns work and analyze phonological data.
3. Through the study of morphology and syntax, describe the structure of words and sentences and analyze morphological and syntactic data.
4. Demonstrate basic knowledge of the semantic and pragmatic properties of languages and analyze semantic and pragmatic data.
5. Through the study of discourse analysis, analyze data to explain how language works in discourse.
6. Identify structural and cultural features of languages relevant in the Hawai'i Pan Pacific such as Hawaiian, Japanese, Chinese, English, and Hawai'i Creole English.
7. Explain the relationship among language, culture, and society and critically evaluate how language plays a central role in social and political issues such as gender and racial discrimination, immigration attitudes and laws, and educational policies.
8. Locate and utilize reliable scholarly information in academic journals and books as a part of engaging in academic linguistic research and write a cohesive research paper on a pertinent linguistic topic.
9. Exhibit effective skills in presenting research findings to an audience.
10. Demonstrate a working knowledge of two languages other than English.

Prospects for Linguistics Graduates

Students majoring in Linguistics will develop skills that will be valuable in many fields including:

- computer programming
- artificial intelligence
- elementary education, as a teacher or counselor
- secondary education as a teacher, professor, administrator
- teaching English as a second language either in the United States or abroad
- translation and interpretation
- language documentation of and fieldwork on indigenous and minority languages
- foreign language teaching
- publishing, as a technical writer or a journalist
- standardized testing
- lexicography (constructing and working on dictionaries)
- language consultant, assisting in such fields as law and medicine
- speech therapy
- foreign service, as a diplomat or embassy administrator
- other governmental work, such as the FBI, CIA, etc.

Graduates from the UH Hilo Linguistics Program have continued on to earn graduate degrees in linguistics at the master's and doctoral level, as well as in other areas of specialization related to language and language teaching.

Contributions to the UH Hilo General Education Program

Linguistics is an important component of a liberal arts education. The Linguistics Program recommends Linguistics 102: Introduction to Linguistics to students wishing to choose a linguistics course to fulfill part of their General Education requirements. A background in linguistics will be useful for majors in anthropology, English, foreign languages, Japanese Studies, Hawaiian Studies, psychology, and communication, as well as for students seeking licensure or certificates in education, Hawaiian, and Teaching English as a Second Language.

Special Aspects of the Program

The University of Hawai'i at Hilo is one of only a few colleges and universities in the United States to offer a bachelor of arts in linguistics. The program offers a broad range of courses taught by experts in the field. We provide students with a strong general background in both theoretical and applied linguistics, including courses related to language learning and teaching. We are also proud to be able to offer specialized courses in Japanese and Hawaiian linguistics.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE IN LINGUISTICS

GROUP 1. General Education Requirements (and Assigned Credits)

- English Composition (3)
- Quantitative Reasoning (3)
- World Cultures (6)
- Humanities (**LING 102 in Group 2, Major Requirements, fulfills 3 of the 9 required semester hours**) (6 more)
- Social Sciences (9)
- Natural Sciences (10)

TOTAL IN GROUP 1: 37 Semester Credits

GROUP 2. Major Requirements (and Assigned Credits)

- **Core Courses**
 - LING 102 Introduction to Linguistics (3)

- LING 311 Phonology (3)
- LING 321 Morphology and Syntax (3)
- LING 345 Historical and Comparative Linguistics (3)
- **An additional 3 semester hours in ONE Structural/Grammar Course selected from: (3)**
 - ENG 324 Modern English Grammar and Usage
 - JPNS 452 Structure of Japanese
 - HAW 454 Hawaiian Morphology and Syntax
- **An additional 3 semester hours in ONE Comparative/Historical Linguistics Course selected from: (3)**
 - ENG/ANTH 347 Pidgins and Creoles
 - JPNS 451 Structure of Japanese
 - HAW 455 Hawaiian: A Polynesian Language
- **An additional 3 semester hours in ONE Applied/Social Linguistics Course selected from: (3)**
 - ANTH 331 Language in Culture and Society
 - ENG 344 Children and Language
 - LING 351 Methodology of Foreign Language Teaching
- **NINE additional semester hours in Linguistics, six of which must be at the 300 level or above (9)**
- **Two years of study of a language other than English, divided between a non-Indo-European language and an Indo-European language, as approved in consultation with a faculty advisor. Courses in the student's native language are excepted.**

TOTAL IN GROUP 2: 46 Semester Credits

GROUP 3. Electives from the total university selection of courses: 37 Credits (Must include enough 300-400 level semester credits to meet graduation requirements for this major: See Note 2)

TOTAL IN GROUP 3: 37 Semester Credits

GROUP 4. Writing Intensive and Hawaiian/Asian/Pacific Courses. These must be fulfilled in GROUPS 1, 2, and 3 above: Credits vary

- Three Writing Intensive courses (one 300 level or above)
- 3 credits of H/A/P courses.

TOTAL IN GROUP 4: Semester Credits Vary

TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS REQUIRED FOR THE B.A. IN LINGUISTICS: 120

Notes:

6. Students must earn at least a 2.0 GPA in courses required for the major.
7. At least 45 semester hours must be earned in courses at the 300-400 level.
8. To earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in Linguistics, students must fulfill the requirements for the major **AND** meet all of the University's other baccalaureate degree requirements. (Please see the chapter on Baccalaureate Degree Requirements in the Catalog.)
9. Students should always check course prerequisites and the frequency with which courses are offered. This information is found in Course Listings in the back of the Catalog.
10. To ensure progress toward degree completion, **students are strongly encouraged to meet with an advisor each semester before registering.**