

# DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS

Linguistics is the scientific study of language. The department's core disciplines—phonetics, phonology, syntax, semantics, and morphology—aim to uncover the underlying structures of language. Its other linguistic subfields, sociolinguistics, language acquisition, psycholinguistics, and computational linguistics investigate the interaction of language with a variety of social, cognitive, neuroscientific, and computational factors.



Lecturer Lance Forshay teaching American Sign Language.

## Education

The Linguistics department offers an undergraduate BA in Linguistics, a BA in Romance Linguistics, and a minor in ASL and Deaf studies. At the graduate level, the department offers a PhD in Linguistics, a PhD in Computational Linguistics, and a professional MS in Computational Linguistics (CLMS), the last of which is aimed at preparation for careers in industry at the intersection of computer science and linguistics.

The department offers a range of undergraduate and graduate courses, from small research workshops and seminars to large omnibus introductory courses resulting in an average of 2,500 enrolled undergraduates per year. The more advanced courses, which count towards our major, are typically small (less than 30 students), and many are withers—attended by both advanced undergraduate and introductory-level graduate students. Cross-listed courses in eight departments attest to the interdisciplinary nature of the department's offerings.

The undergraduate degree program incorporates concepts of linguistics with a research-driven curriculum to introduce students to the theory and methods of the field, and to nurture critical thinking and analytical reasoning skills that translate to careers inside and outside of academia. Many of our undergraduate students collaborate directly with faculty members, often in one of our four collaborative research laboratories. Students in the undergraduate honors program take one graduate-level research seminar and complete a senior thesis based on their own original research under the direction of a linguistics faculty member. In our highly competitive PhD programs, graduate students are fully supported through a combination of teaching, grant-funded research, and fellowships. Our PhD students are encouraged to apply for their own research and education funding and have a high success rate.



Photo at left: Linguistics' 2016 PhD graduates at the department's graduation ceremony. (Two students are not pictured.)

### STUDENTS (July 2015-June 2016)

100	Undergraduate majors
57	Master of Science students
30	PhD students

### DEGREES AWARDED (July 2015-June 2016)

52	Bachelor of Arts degrees
19	Master of Science degrees
7	PhD degrees

### STUDENT AWARDS (July 2015-June 2016)

4	Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships
1	Fulbright Fellowship
3	Linguistics Research Excellence Awards
1	Li Fang-Kuei Award
1	Hanban Confucius Institute Scholarship
1	Microsoft Research Women's Research Fellowship
1	NSF Graduate Research Fellowship
3	Phi Beta Kappa
1	UW Graduate School Presidential Dissertation Fellowship

## Faculty

Linguistics has 19 faculty members, with an additional 33 adjunct or affiliate faculty. Recent awards and leadership roles of the Department of Linguistics include:

- 1 UW Distinguished Teaching Award
- 1 Mellon Fellowship for Emeritus Faculty
- 2 NSF Career Awards

Editor: *Phonology*

Editor: *Journal of French Language Studies*

Associate Editor: *Language and Speech*

Associate Editor: *Journal of Slavic Linguistics*

President, Linguistics Society of America

President, Washington ASL Teacher Association

Research funding from NSF, NIH, IARPA, and private sources

## Research

The department specializes in the core theoretical areas of syntax, semantics, morphology, phonology, and phonetics as well as in computational linguistics, language acquisition, psycholinguistics, and sociolinguistics. To support this research there are four research/teaching laboratories in the department: computational linguistics, language processing and acquisition, phonetics, and sociolinguistics.

The interdisciplinary nature of linguistics is reflected in the large number of current collaborations within linguistics and with departments outside of linguistics. These include several interdisciplinary research grants, the greatest number of which are with Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, Bioinformatics, and Speech and Hearing Sciences.

## Outreach

The Linguistics Department encourages its faculty and student to engage our community to bring the latest research findings to the public in an effort to address social, cultural, educational, and societal issues. A few highlights include:

- UW Linguistics is a local host for the North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad, an international contest in which middle school and high school students solve linguistics puzzles. Our local participants regularly go on to represent the United States in the International Linguistics Olympiad.
- Graduate students and post-docs in linguistics organize and staff an annual exhibit at Paws on Science at the Pacific Science Center, engaging children and adults with hands-on linguistics activities.
- Graduate students use a variety of communication vehicles to help explain what linguistics research is about including *Making Noise and Hearing Things*, a linguistics blog for non-linguists. It's been visited by more than 50,000 people in 2016 alone.
- Graduate students in linguistics hold Software Carpentry workshops that teach researchers the basics of reproducible scientific computing.
- Our faculty are represented on the advisory group on Standards for World Languages to Washington State Higher Education Coordinating Board.
- UW Linguistics hosts a joint symposium series in computational linguistics with Microsoft.
- Our faculty work with ASL teachers at the state and national levels.
- Our faculty and students work to raise awareness in the general community of signed languages, Deaf culture, and cultural appropriation.
- University Beyond Bars: graduate students give 2-hour talks to inmates at Monroe Correctional Facility on the diversity of world languages.

## FACULTY (SPRING 2016)

- 8 Professors
- 6 Associate Professors
- 1 Assistant Professor
- 2 Senior Lecturers
- 1 Lecturers
- 26 Adjunct Faculty from other campus departments
- 7 Affiliate professors from local industries and other universities
- 4 Emeritus Professors

## AREAS OF SCHOLARSHIP

Computational Linguistics

History of Linguistics

Indigenous Languages

Language Acquisition

Language Processing

Morphology

Perceptual Studies

Phonetics

Phonological Theory

Psycholinguistics

Romance Linguistics

Semantics

## ENDOWMENTS

Howard and Frances Nostrand Professorship

Endowed Graduate Fellowship

## RESEARCH GRANTS

Our research grants come predominantly from the National Science Foundation. The National Institutes of Health and private/corporate sources also make up a significant portion of the funding.

Internal grants, such as UW's Royalty Research Fund and the department's Linguistics Fund, make up a smaller portion of the funding.

In the past 10 years our faculty have acted as PIs or Co-PIs on research grants totaling nearly \$9 million.

last update: September 2016