

LANGUAGE AND MIND (BA)

Department Website (<http://as.nyu.edu/philosophy/>)

NYSED: 21237 HEGIS: 4903.00 CIP: 30.2501

Program Description

The College's Language and Mind major is an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the human mind through the study of language. At the core of cognitive science, this endeavor has emerged as a preeminent research frontier, forging links across the humanities, the social sciences, and the natural sciences. Reflecting the interdisciplinary character of this frontier, the Language and Mind program is strongly integrative, drawing courses from three departments: Linguistics, Psychology, and Philosophy. Human language is at the center of the Language and Mind program of study, but the major is broader than Linguistics; the program also incorporates psychological experimentation techniques and philosophical inquiry. The aim is to give students the necessary background for exploration of new perspectives for both language and the human mind.

Joint Honors

The Department of Linguistics offers an honors track for students pursuing the major in Language and Mind. To graduate with honors, students must complete an honors thesis, which is an original research project of 40 to 50 pages conducted over two semesters. The thesis is due on **April 1st** of the student's senior year. Additionally, students must take two advanced courses: LING-UA 102 Senior Honors Thesis Seminar (4 credits) in the fall semester, and one other advanced undergraduate course, graduate course, or independent study chosen in consultation with the thesis adviser (totaling 8 credits). The Senior Honors Thesis Seminar and the additional course chosen with the student's adviser may be counted as advanced electives toward the major. The thesis must be presented either at an oral conference presentation or in a private defense/discussion.

Admission to the honors program is by application (<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe8qx-YoX2mPlwZLcrSL4Vz2-DfZHWf8xKjOPdzekoxZuCPGw/viewform/>) in the second semester of the junior year. To be eligible, students must have a GPA of 3.65 or higher both overall and in the major. Applications are due by April 15th and must include a one- to two-page description of the proposed thesis topic. The student must identify faculty members from two departments in the Language and Mind major (Linguistics, Philosophy, and Psychology) who will be co-advisers. The thesis topic must reflect contributions to both disciplines.

Students who excel in the Language and Mind major are encouraged to begin developing their honors project as early as the second semester of their sophomore year.

Admissions

New York University's Office of Undergraduate Admissions supports the application process for all undergraduate programs at NYU. For additional information about undergraduate admissions, including application requirements, see How to Apply (<https://www.nyu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/how-to-apply.html>).

Program Requirements

The Language and Mind major requires ten 4-credit courses (40 credits) as outlined below, which must be completed with a grade of C or higher. Courses graded Pass/Fail do not count. Four courses are in Linguistics, one is in Philosophy, and four are in Psychology; the tenth course is in any of the three departments and is chosen from the lists below. Majors must consult with the directors of undergraduate studies of the three participating departments for advisement.

Course	Title	Credits
General Education Requirements		
First-Year Seminar		4
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing as Inquiry	4
Foreign Language ¹		16
Physical Science		4
Life Science		4
Texts and Ideas		4
Cultures and Contexts		4
Expressive Culture		4
Major Requirements		
<i>Linguistics Courses</i>		
LING-UA 3/ PSYCH-UA 27 or LING-UA 1	Language and Mind Language	4
Select two of the following:		8
LING-UA 4	Intro to Semantics	
LING-UA 12	Phonological Analysis	
LING-UA 13	Grammatical Analysis	
Select one of the following:		4
LING-UA 4	Intro to Semantics	
LING-UA 5/ PSYCH-UA 56	Intro Psycholinguistics	
LING-UA 6	Patterns in Language	
LING-UA 11	Sound and Language	
LING-UA 12	Phonological Analysis	
LING-UA 13	Grammatical Analysis	
LING-UA 19	Advanced Semantics	
LING-UA 37	The Syntax/Semantics Interface Cross-linguistically	
LING-UA 43/ PSYCH-UA 300	Neural Bases of Language	
LING-UA/ PSYCH-UA 48	Linguistics as Cognitive Science	
LING-UA 52/ DS-UA 203	Machine Learning for Language Understanding	
LING-UA 54	Learning to Speak: First and Second Lang Acquisition of Sound	
LING-UA 55	Intro to Morphology at An Advanced Level	
LING-UA/ PSYCH-UA 59	First Language Acquisition	
LING-UA 61	Experimental Syntax and Semantics (Human Sentence Processing)	
<i>Philosophy Course</i>		
Select one of the following:		4

PHIL-UA 5	Minds and Machines	
PHIL-UA 70	Logic	
PHIL-UA 85	Philosophy of Language	
Psychology Courses		
PSYCH-UA 10	Statistics for The Behavioral Sciences	4
or PSYCH-UA 11	Statistics and Data Analysis for Research in Psychology	
PSYCH-UA 29	Cognition	4
Select one of the following:		4
PSYCH-UA 56/ LING-UA 5	Psycholinguistics	
PSYCH-UA 300	Spec Topics Psych: (Language Acquisition and Cognitive Development)	
PSYCH-UA 300/LING-UA 43	Spec Topics Psych: (Neural Bases of Language)	
PSYCH-UA 300	Spec Topics Psych: (Speech: A Window into the Developing Mind)	
Select one of the following:		4
PSYCH-UA 22	Perception	
PSYCH-UA 25	Cognitive Neuroscience	
PSYCH-UA 46	Lab in Cognition and Perception	
PSYCH-UA 56/ LING-UA 5	Psycholinguistics	
PSYCH-UA 300	Spec Topics Psych: (Language Acquisition and Cognitive Development)	
PSYCH-UA 300/LING-UA 43	Spec Topics Psych: (Neural Bases of Language)	
Additional Course		
Select one course from the lists above that has not already been taken to satisfy the departmental components.		4
Electives		
Other Elective Credits		44
Total Credits		128

¹ The foreign language requirement is satisfied upon successful completion through the Intermediate level of a language. This may be accomplished in fewer than 16 credits, but those credits must then be completed as elective credit.

Sample Plan of Study

Course	Title	Credits
1st Semester/Term		
LING-UA 1 or LING-UA 3	Language or Language and Mind	4
Foreign Language		4
First-Year Seminar		4
Texts and Ideas		4
Credits		16
2nd Semester/Term		
PSYCH-UA 1	Intro to Psychology ¹	4
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing as Inquiry	4
Foreign Language		4
Cultures and Contexts		4
Credits		16

3rd Semester/Term		
LING-UA 11	Sound and Language	4
PSYCH-UA 10 or PSYCH-UA 11	Statistics for The Behavioral Sciences or Statistics and Data Analysis for Research in Psychology	4
PSYCH-UA 29	Cognition	4
Foreign Language		4
Credits		16
4th Semester/Term		
LING-UA 12	Phonological Analysis	4
Select one of the following: (see footnote below) ²		4
Foreign Language		4
Expressive Culture		4
Credits		16
5th Semester/Term		
LING-UA 13	Grammatical Analysis	4
Physical Science		4
Elective		4
Select one of the following: (see footnote below) ⁴		4
Credits		16
6th Semester/Term		
Select one of the following:		4
PHIL-UA 5	Minds and Machines	
PHIL-UA 70	Logic	
PHIL-UA 85	Philosophy of Language	
Life Science		4
Elective		4
LING-UA XXX: Elective ³		4
Credits		16
7th Semester/Term		
Joint Major Elective ⁵		4
Elective		4
Elective		4
Elective		4
Credits		16
8th Semester/Term		
Elective		4
Elective		4
Elective		4
Elective		4
Credits		16
Total Credits		128

¹ Prerequisite for entering major; does not count toward its requirements.

² Select one of the following: PSYCH-UA 56/LING-UA 5 Psycholinguistics or PSYCH-UA 300 Language Acquisition and Cognitive Development or PSYCH-UA 300/LING-UA 43 Neural Bases of Language or PSYCH-UA 300 Speech: A Window into the Developing Mind.

³ Consult list of all approved LING-UA courses.

⁴ Select one of the following: PSYCH-UA 22 Perception or PSYCH-UA 25 Cognitive Neuroscience or PSYCH-UA 46 Laboratory in Cognition and Perception or PSYCH-UA 56/LING-UA 5 Psycholinguistics or PSYCH-UA 300 Language Acquisition and Cognitive Development or PSYCH-UA 300/LING-UA 43 Neural Bases of Language.

⁵ Select from LING-UA, PHIL-UA, or PSYCH-UA courses.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of program requirements, students are expected to have developed:

1. An understanding of how the fields of linguistics, psychology, and philosophy approach the study of the human language faculty within the cognitive sciences.
2. An understanding of linguistic approaches to the study of human language in the areas of phonetics, phonology, syntax, and semantics.
3. The ability to analyze, interpret, and assess linguistic and behavioral data that contribute to the cognitive science of language.
4. Knowledge of different experimental methods used to study the human language faculty.
5. The ability to discuss technical work in the cognitive science of language, both in writing and orally, to an interdisciplinary audience.

Policies

NYU Policies

University-wide policies can be found on the New York University Policy pages (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/nyu/policies/>).

College of Arts and Science Policies

A full list of relevant academic policies can be found on the CAS Academic Policies page (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/undergraduate/arts-science/academic-policies/>).