
San Diego State University
Department of Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages
Master's in TESOL/Applied Linguistics
Degree Requirements (2025/26)

Pre-requisites:

- LING 550 Theory and Practice of English Second Language Teaching
This course is a prerequisite to almost every 600- and 700-level course in TESOL/Applied Linguistics. Applied students should take 550 during their first semester in the MA program.

A. Five core courses (13 units) in Linguistics

LING 501 Fundamentals of Linguistics
LING 503 Functions of Language
LING 600 Professional Development in Linguistics (1 unit)
LING 795 Seminar in Linguistics (with Applied Linguistics content)

And **one** of the following:

LING 502 Language in Mind and Society (1 course, 3 units)
LING 551 Sociolinguistics (1 course, 3 units)
LING 552 Psycholinguistics (1 course, 3 units)

B. Four courses (12 units) in TESOL/Applied Linguistics

LING 652 Second Language Acquisition LING 656
Quantitative Research Methods

And **two** of the following:

LING 650 Materials Development LING 653 ESL
Reading and Writing
LING 655 English for Specific Purposes and Content-Based Instruction LING 657
Foundations of Language Assessment

C. Internship in ESL (3 units)

Students who lack ESL/EFL teaching experience are required to take the Internship as one of the elective courses; those with ESL/EFL teaching experience can choose another 3-unit open elective. Students are asked to consult with the graduate advisor to determine whether they need to take LING 740, the Internship course.

D. Open electives needed to fill a 31-unit degree program

E. Culminating experience (3 units)

Plan A: Thesis

Students who choose to complete a thesis must enroll in LING 799A (3 units), usually in the last semester of the program.

Plan B: Completion of M.A. Comprehensive Exams

Students who choose to take the Comprehensive exams must take a 3-unit open elective with the approval of the graduate advisor; they can also enroll in LING 799C (0 units).

Keep in mind the following:

1. Courses are 3 units each with the exception of Ling 600, which is only 1 unit; 31 units (11 courses) are needed to complete the MA program.
2. The pre-requisite course (LING 550) taken as part of M.A. coursework can count toward the 31 units required of the M.A. degree as an elective.
3. 400-level courses and LING 505 (Graduate Writing) do not count towards the M.A. degree.
4. Graduate-level linguistics courses are not offered during the summer.