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

Pre-requisites:

- Most 600-level courses require completion of undergraduate courses in phonology, syntax, and/or semantics. Students should take these courses at SDSU if not taken as undergraduate coursework.

A. Five core courses (13 units) in Linguistics

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

And one of the following:

LING 502 Language in Mind and Society
LING 551 Sociolinguistics
LING 552 Psycholinguistics

B. Three courses (9 units) chosen from the following:

LING 602 Advanced Study of Language, Mind and Society
LING 610 Topics in Historical Linguistics
LING 620 Advanced Formal Syntax
LING 626 Pragmatics
LING 651 Seminar in Sociolinguistic Research in the Speech Community
LING 696 Special Topics

C. Open electives (6 units) needed to fill a 31-unit degree program

D. 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. 400-level courses and LING 505 (Graduate Writing) do not count towards the M.A. degree.
3. Graduate-level linguistics courses are not offered during the summer.