LINGUISTICS, MA: TEACHING ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

Related Certificates

• Adult/University-Level TESOL Graduate Certificate (http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/adult-university-level-tesol-certificate)

Overview

The Department of Linguistics offers master’s and doctoral degrees and a graduate certificate in Adult/University-Level Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL).

Admission Requirements

Admission

An applicant must meet Graduate School requirements (http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/admission) plus these departmental requirements to be considered for admission to the program:

1. Undergraduate major in linguistics or related field (e.g., languages, psychology, anthropology, philosophy).
2. Undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 (4.0 scale).
3. Three letters of recommendation to the Department’s Director of Graduate Studies from persons familiar with applicant’s academic ability and achievement.
4. A sample of academic writing.
5. Though not required, submission of scores on the Graduate Record Examination (http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/admission/#gre) may enhance the application.

Applicants may be admitted with course deficiencies provided that the deficiencies amount to no more than two courses.

The student is expected to satisfy deficiency requirements within three enrolled semesters. The deficiencies are monitored by the Graduate School and the individual graduate program unit. No course credits earned in making up deficiencies may be counted as program credits required for the degree. Applicants should contact the Linguistics Department office for additional information and deadlines.

Credits and Courses

Students admitted to the master’s program earn the degree by completing a minimum of 30 credits of graduate coursework, submitting a final project, and passing an oral examination on the final project.

Students who demonstrate a capacity for doctoral work and wish to earn a PhD at UWM are advised to proceed as rapidly as possible to doctoral status. No more than 30 credits earned at the master’s level may be included in the 54 credits required for the PhD.

The MA in Linguistics requires 30 graduate credits, including:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LINGUIS 415 or LINGUIS 420</td>
<td>First Language Acquisition or Introduction to Second Language Acquisition</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>LINGUIS 450</td>
<td>General Phonetics and Phonetics Practicum</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>LINGUIS 460</td>
<td>Introduction to Phonology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>LINGUIS 464</td>
<td>Introduction to Syntax</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>LINGUIS 466</td>
<td>Semantics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINGUIS 468 or LINGUIS 470</td>
<td>Language in its Various Forms: Historical/Comparative Linguistics</td>
<td>3</td>
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TESOL Concentration Requirements

Students may elect to complete a concentration in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages as part of their MA studies. The TESOL concentration requires that students complete the Linguistics, MA courses, and the TESOL Concentration courses as part of their electives:

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<tr>
<td>LINGUIS/MALLT 708</td>
<td>Proseminar in Linguistics</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>LINGUIS 410</td>
<td>Literacy, Grammar, and Methodologies in ESL Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGLISH/LINGUIS 565</td>
<td>Introduction to Adult/University Level TESOL</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGLISH/LINGUIS 569</td>
<td>Practicum in Adult/University TESOL</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINGUIS 799</td>
<td>Independent Reading and Research for Master’s Students (TESOL-related paper/project)</td>
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Total Credits 43-45

The TESOL concentration will be noted on the student’s transcript.

Program Requirements

Major Professor as Advisor

The student must have a Major Professor to advise and supervise the student’s work as specified in Graduate School regulations. The director...
of graduate studies serves as an initial advisor. It is recommended that
the student have a permanent advisor by the end of the second semester
of enrollment.

**Final Project**
A research paper or other project appropriate to the student’s
professional goals, to be defended in an individualized oral examination.

- **Final project.** The project is a research paper on a topic chosen in
  consultation with the student’s advisor; for students specializing in
  Teaching ESL to Adult Learners, the project may take some other
  form as approved by the major professor.

- **Oral examination.** The oral examination, usually lasting an hour and a
  half, focuses on the final project but also covers other elements of the
  student’s program of study.

**Regulations concerning final projects and oral examinations**

1. Students should consult with their advisors before completing
   24 credits in order to determine a final project. Ordinarily, this is a
   revised and expanded course or seminar paper of at least 30 pages.
   The project should demonstrate the student’s skills in research,
   analysis and argumentation. For students specializing in Teaching
   ESL to Adult Learners, the project may consist of documentation of
   the outcome of a pedagogical investigation undertaken during the
   student’s internship. The project serves both as a concluding effort at
   the master’s level and as an indication of the student’s potential for
   doctoral study.

2. In consultation with the student, the Director of Graduate Studies
   appoints an MA Examining Committee. At least two of the three
   members must be Linguistics Department faculty members. The MA
   Examining Committee administers the final Oral Examination.

3. The project must be submitted and the oral examination completed
   within one year after the completion of 24 credits. Students should
   remember that a maximum of 30 credits at the master’s level is
   applicable to the PhD 54 credit requirement.

4. Students who express intent to go on for the PhD are evaluated by
   the MA Examining Committee regarding their qualifications for further
   graduate study at the doctoral level. The Committee Chair puts the
   Committee’s recommendation in writing and places it in the student’s
   academic file.

5. Students who fail the oral examination may be required to revise their
   final project, retake the examination, or both. The oral examination
   may be retaken only once. Students must register for 1-3 credits
   when revising the final project after a failed examination; however, the
   additional credit(s) may not count toward the 30 credits required for
   the degree.

**Time Limit**
The student must complete all degree requirements within five years of
initial enrollment.