

Welcome to linguistics!

Linguists investigate how language works. That is, linguistics looks at how and why languages differ (and what they have in common), how the brain processes and produces language, and how languages change.

Where to start:

Depending on your interests, these are good first courses:

Fall:

- LING 110: Language: Introduction to Linguistics [a general overview of the field]
- LING 107: Linguistic Endangerment and Revitalization [languages of the world, threats to linguistic diversity and responses]
- LING 217: Language and Mind [language and cognition]

Spring:

- LING 112: Historical Linguistics [introduction to linguistics and how languages change]
- LING 116: Cognitive Science of Language [intro to linguistics from the perspective of cog sci]
- LING 119: How to Construct a Language [Conlangs and how to make them]

Majoring in Linguistics:

The linguistics major is 12 courses:

- Breadth: 4 courses, one each in Phonology, Syntax, and two other areas [Computational Linguistics, Historical Linguistics, Language and Mind/Brain, Morphology, Phonetics, Semantics/Pragmatics]
- Depth: 2 classes in one of the breadth areas beyond the introductory level
- Electives: 4 classes in linguistics and language-related fields
- Senior sequence: 2 classes: LING 490 (Research Methods) and LING 491 (Senior Essay)

Because of its relative flexible structure, the linguistics major works well as a first or second major. There are linguistics classes that satisfy **So**, **Hu**, **Sc**, **QR**, and **WR** distributional requirements.

What do linguistics majors do after graduation?

Linguistics majors go into many different areas: industry (e.g. NLP-related jobs); education (including language arts, English, ESL/TESOL); translation; Law; policy; speech pathology; and graduate school, among other areas.

For more information, see ling.yale.edu or contact the DUS (claire.bowern@yale.edu)