Language defines our species. Linguistics tells us how and why.
By nature and approach, linguistics is integrated tightly with the core mission of the University. Linguistics encourages students to analyze data and to “ask why,” to evaluate evidence of various kinds that bears on issues of language acquisition and use, and to see multiple perspectives on problems and evaluate them critically. The Linguistics Minor offers a unique interdisciplinary insight into discourse, cultural diversity, communication, psychology and many other fields in which the analysis of language plays a critical role.

Careers

Students in linguistics minors develop their understanding of the system of human communication as well as their skills in data analysis, problem solving, and logical thinking, all of which can be applied to many fields.

In short, linguistics opens the door to a wide array of careers such as foreign language teaching, computational fields, speech pathology, translating and interpreting, and publishing. Linguistic expertise is also called upon in the professions related to law, healthcare, and business, among many others.

Get Involved

Talks and events take place throughout the academic year, including the Linguistics Speaker Series, which brings in outside experts in the field of linguistics, and the Linguistics Circle Talks, featuring Wake Forest faculty experts. Research opportunities to work with faculty are available.

The Minor

Candidates for the minor are required to complete 15 hours, which includes one required course.

Required Course (3 credit hours required)
- LIN/ANT 150: Introduction to Linguistics

Elective Courses (12 credit hours required)
Linguistic Courses
- LIN 310: Sociolinguistics and Dialectology
- LIN 330: Introduction to Psycholinguistics and Language Acquisition
- LIN 333: Language and Gender
- LIN 337: TESOL Linguistics
- LIN 340: Special Topics in Linguistics
- LIN 350: Language, Indigeneity and Globalization
- LIN 354: Field Methods in Linguistic Anthropology
- LIN 375: Philosophy of Language
- LIN 380: Language Use and Technology
- LIN 383: Language Engineering: Localization and Terminology
- LIN 398/399: Individual Study

Historical Linguistics Courses
- ENG 304: History of the English Language
- FRH 341: Rise of French
- GES 345: History of the German Language
- RUS 332: The History of Russian Language
- SPA 370: History of the Spanish Language

Related Topics
- ANT/EDU 353: Language in Education
- ENG 309: Modern English Grammar
- ENG 390: The Structure of English
- FRH 322: French Phonetics
- FRH 342: Structure of French
- FRH 345: Language and Society
- RUS 330: Structure of Russian
- SPA 320: Introduction to Hispanic Linguistics
- SPA 322: Spanish pronunciation and Dialect Variation
- SPA 371: Contrastive Spanish/English Grammar and Stylistics
- SPA 379: Special Topics in Hispanic Linguistics

Visit linguistics.wfu.edu to see current semester offerings!