

# THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS

## JOINT PH.D. PROGRAM: LINGUISTICS AND ROMANCE LANGUAGE

(REVISED 08/20/07)

The Department of Linguistics offers joint Ph.D. program in Linguistics and Romance Languages. Course requirements in the joint degree program are modified from the usual Ph.D. requirements to permit completion of the Ph.D. in the normal time frame (approximately five years). The Department does not accept M.A. applicants.

The Department of Linguistics at the University of Michigan, founded in 1963, currently has over 20 faculty, 30 Ph.D. students, and 100 undergraduate concentrators. The doctoral program provides a broad-based approach to linguistics as a cognitive and a social science. Students are encouraged to formulate and test theories of speakers' linguistic knowledge, and theories of linguistic variation and use, drawing on observational, experimental, and computational methods. In addition to the collaborations with the language departments, Linguistics also maintains close ties with the Departments of Anthropology, Computer Science, Philosophy, and Psychology, and the English Language Institute.

### Admission

All incoming students must apply to the Department of Linguistics; the application package should include a statement of interest in Linguistics and the relevant language. Copies of the application will be forwarded to the language department, which should be consulted for details. Application materials must be received by December 15 or earlier if the language department has an earlier deadline; applicants should check with the relevant department for their deadline. The application materials for Linguistics must include:

- Completed Rackham School of Graduate Studies application;
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) results;
- Official transcripts of previous work (plus English translations if originals are not in English);
- Three letters of recommendation;
- Sample of written work.

Students whose native language is not English must submit scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the Michigan Assessment Battery (MELAB). Scores of at least 620 (TOEFL) or 87 (MELAB) are normally necessary for admission. The minimum score for the computer based TOEFL is 260, or 84 for the internet-based test (iBT). Other admission requirements may be set by the language department.

For students already in a Rackham degree program who seek admission to a joint degree program, the application package should include:

- Original application materials;
- New statement of purpose describing their converging interests in linguistics and the relevant language(s);
- Current UM transcript;
- List of all courses taken through the Linguistics department, specifying the instructor;
- Current letters of recommendation, including (for students who have taken UM Linguistics courses) at least one letter from a Linguistics faculty member;
- Writing sample (preferably in linguistics).

For all students (i.e., regardless of whether applicants are external or internal to UM), admission materials go to the Linguistics Admissions Committee, following the normal admissions cycle.

## **Advising**

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Each student will choose one advisor from Linguistics to assist them in moving through the Ph.D. program. For first term students, this advisor will be assigned by the beginning of the Fall term on the basis of the student's statement of interest in the application materials, and may be changed later. (Linguistics students not in joint degree programs have two advisors, a primary "A" advisor and a second "B" advisor, and for administrative purposes the single Linguistics advisor for joint degree students will be classified as the A advisor.) Advisors from the language department will be chosen or assigned following the department's procedures. After a dissertation committee has been approved, the Linguistics advisor will usually be a dissertation committee chair, co-chair, or committee member.

## **Requirements**

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In addition to meeting the fee hour and grade point requirements of the Rackham Graduate School (see Rackham's *Graduate Student Handbook*), Linguistics students in a joint degree program must meet the following requirements for **Linguistics**:

- Phonetics (Ling 512); Phonology (Ling 513); Semantics (Ling 514); Syntax (Ling 515). These 4 courses are preferably taken in the first year of graduate study and must be completed by the end of the second year;
- 1 Linguistics course outside of phonetics, phonology, syntax, semantics, and morphology, to be chosen in consultation with the A advisor;
- Seminar on Graduate Study (Ling 801), normally taken in the first year;
- Graduate Student Instructor Training (Ling 993), or a similar course in the language department;
- Research Writing (Ling 792), normally taken in the second year;
- A combined average of at least B+ in Linguistics courses taken in the first two years, and grades of A- or better in at least two of Ling 512, 513, 514, and 515 (or a corresponding 600-level course);
- 1 seminar in Linguistics;
- A Qualifying Research Paper (QRP), applying linguistic models to data from the relevant language or language family, written jointly for Linguistics and the language department;
- After achieving candidacy, a Dissertation Prospectus followed by a Ph.D. Dissertation on a topic suitable for the relevant joint degree program.

(The cognate requirement is met by coursework in the language department.)

Complementary requirements for **Romance Languages and Literatures**:

- Five graduate-level courses in which the analysis of linguistic data from at least one Romance language constitutes a major component of the required work;
- One course in historical linguistics;
- One course in sociolinguistics;
- Qualifying Research Paper (joint with Linguistics), which must deal with one or more Romance languages;
- Dissertation must have analysis of one or more Romance languages as its focus;
- Language requirements, Dissertation Prospectus, and Dissertation requirements are identical to those requirements for students not enrolled in the joint degree program.

## **Portfolios**

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The Department maintains a portfolio on each student to help students develop a research and teaching dossier, and to provide regular faculty feedback on progress. Faculty contributions include coursework evaluation for first and second year students, and teaching assessment for each term that the student is a Linguistics Graduate

Student Instructor. Student contributions include research papers (two term papers of the student's choice in each of the first two years, the QRP, dissertation prospectus, and publications); an abstract of the QRP by the end of the second year; and a two-page statement of purpose and direction, also by the end of the second year.

**For more information**

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Joint degree students are encouraged to consult the *Linguistics Ph.D. Program* brochure for a more detailed description of the Qualifying Research Paper, Dissertation Prospectus, and Dissertation, as well as candidacy requirements.

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