

# **MA Ling**

## **Master of Arts in Linguistics**

Under Review | Fall 2025

# Proposal Information

Status

Active

Workflow Status

In Progress

Refresh  **Form Submission, Proposer**

collapse ▼

Submitted for Approval | Proposer

✓ Naomi Shin | 10/23/2024 8:21 AM

**Department Chair Approval, Linguistics**

Approved | Department Chair

✓ Jill Morford | 10/23/2024 8:24 AM

**Registrar Technical Check Approval, Registrar Technical Check**

Approved | Registrar Technical Check

— Michael Raine

✓ Maggie Sumruld | 10/23/2024 10:22 AM

**Notification, Arts & Sciences College Committee**

Notification Sent | College-level Curriculum Committee Member

☒ Marcy Litvak

☒ Anita Obermeier

☒ Derek Hamilton

☒ Jeremy Edwards

☒ Eva Rodriguez Gonzalez

☒ Brisha Cruz-Garcia

☒ Marlene Sanchez

**College/School Approval**

Approved

Error: There are no users in the College or School approver role of College of Arts & Sciences

**College/School Approval, College of Arts & Sciences: Social Sciences & Interdisciplinary**

Approved | College or School approver

✓ Keith Hunley | 11/18/2024 8:50 AM

**Library Approval, Main Campus Library**

Approved | Library Approval

✓ Sever Bordeianu | 11/18/2024 11:04 AM

**SGPC Approval, Faculty Senate Graduate and Professional Committee**

Approved | Chair

✓ Robben Brown | 2/06/2025 2:28 PM

**FSCC Member notification, Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee**

Notification Sent | Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee Member

☒ Antoinette Abeyta

☒ Joe Anderson

- ☑ Randi Archuleta
- ☑ Laura Belmonte
- ☑ Justin Bendell
- ☑ Isabella Goss
- ☑ Sara Ice
- ☑ Megan Jacobs
- ☑ Joan Lucas
- ☑ Justine Ponce
- ☑ Mary Rice
- ☑ John Russell
- ☑ Jennifer Schneider
- ☑ Julia So
- ☑ SueNoell Stone
- ☑ Jonathan Wheeler

**Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee Approval, Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee**

Approved | Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee Chair

- Janet Vassilev
- ✓ Nicole Capehart

FSCC voted to approve.

5/02/2025 9:02 PM

**Provost Approval, Main Campus Provost**

Approved | Provost

- ✓ Pamela Cheek | 5/19/2025 11:48 AM

**Faculty Senate Approval, Faculty Senate**

Waiting for Approval | Faculty Senate Approval

Nancy Middlebrook  
Theresa Sherman

**External Review - HED CIP code approval, External Review**

Approval | HED CIP code approval

Michael Raine  
Anna Gay

**Reg. Final Approval/Processing, Registrar**

Approval | Registrar final approval

Michael Raine  
Maggie Sumruld

**Notification, Proposer**

Notification | Proposer

Naomi Shin

**Notification, Faculty Senate Graduate and Professional Committee**

Notification | Chair

Robben Brown

**EMRT notification, EMRT users**

Notification | EMRT user

Enrollment Mgt Reporting Team

### Notification, LoboTrax Team

Notification | LoboTrax Staff

Sherri DeLeve  
Paula Freitag  
Hannah Epstein  
Allie Martinez  
Glenda Johnson

### Changes

- College
- Program Description
- Plan Options
- Degree Hours
- Requirements

Show All ▼

## Proposal Information

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Proposed

**Sponsoring faculty/staff member**

Naomi Shin

Proposed

**Sponsoring faculty/staff email**

naomishin@unm.edu

Existing

**Sponsoring faculty/staff member**

Rosa Vallejos Yopán

Existing

**Sponsoring faculty/staff email**

rvallejos@unm.edu

Proposed

**College**

College of Arts & Sciences:

Social Sciences &

Interdisciplinary

**Department**

Linguistics

**Campus**

Main Campus

Existing

**College**

College of Arts & Sciences

## Effective Term and Year

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Proposed

**Proposed Effective Term and Year**

Fall 2025

Existing

**Proposed Effective Term and Year**

Fall 2024

## Justification

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Proposed

### **Program Justification**

We propose to replace Plan II (32 credit hours + comprehensive exams) with Plan III (33 credit hours). There are numerous benefits to this change and no negative repercussions. Students say they feel comprehensive exams are not useful for them, which sometimes steers them away from Plan II and propels them to pursue the thesis option (Plan I). This seems to be the case even for students who wouldn't otherwise choose the thesis option. One issue with students pursuing Plan I (thesis) is that that plan leaves almost no room for electives (only one course), which makes the students' experience narrower in terms of coursework. Thus, the proposed change is likely to increase enrollment in our electives courses, which is something we are striving for. More students in elective courses would be a positive outcome with no negative repercussions. We already have sufficient faculty to teach those courses, so our proposed change will not affect hiring needs. While we want to maintain Plan I (Thesis), this option should be reserved for students who are very driven to pursue a research project. Nowadays, it is acceptable and common to complete an MA without doing a thesis and still pursue a PhD.

Another reason for the proposed change is that we no longer see the comprehensive exams as useful for students. For students applying to PhD programs, the essays they write are not suitable for the writing sample that is required for PhD applications in Linguistics. In fact, the best writing sample is more likely to emerge from a term paper written for a course. Having more coursework, therefore, increases the opportunity to write term papers. Additionally, with respect to students who wish to complete a terminal MA but do not wish to pursue a PhD, we do not see a need for them to complete comprehensive exams. To ensure that MA students receive a broad background in Linguistics, we have a highly structured program that includes numerous requirements (see below).

In sum, Plan I is excellent for students who are very research focused during their MA and have research interests that can be undertaken at the MA level. Plan III will provide all other students with a strong background in Linguistics and will also prepare them for PhD programs in Linguistics if this is the route they wish to take.

While we are proposing to have Plan III replace Plan II, please note that this change only involves two concrete changes: 1. the removal of comprehensive exams from the non-thesis option, and 2. the requirement to complete 33 credits instead of 32 credits in the non-thesis option. Up until now, students who have opted for Plan II tend to complete 33 credits, as Linguistics does not offer 2 credit or 4 credit courses. Thus, in practice, the credit change will not bring about a change in the number of courses students will complete. Also, all requirements remain the same. As such, the change essentially consists of removing comprehensive exams.

Note that on October 21, 2024, the faculty held a meeting and voted on the proposal, and 100% (9/9) were in favor of the change.

Existing

**Program Justification**

Correction of error in listing, no change to actual requirements.

**Graduate program revision**

No

## Program Category and Level

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**Program Category**

Degree

**Program Level**

Graduate

**Degree, Minor, or Certificate Name**

Master of Arts in Linguistics

**Certificate or Degree Type**

Master of Arts

**Degree/Certificate Level**

Graduate

Proposed

**Plan Options**

Plan I (Thesis)

Plan III (Coursework only)

Existing

**Plan Options**

Plan I (Thesis)

Plan II (Non-thesis)

**Is this program also offered online?**

No

## File Uploads

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Document uploads

## Associated Quali Forms

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Select any associated course forms that exist

Select any associated program forms that exist

## Shared Credit and Dual Degree information

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**Interdepartmental Program**

No

# Catalog Information

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Proposed

## **Program Description**

The UNM Department of Linguistics is the only degree-granting linguistics program in one of the most multilingual and multicultural states in the U.S. As such, it bears particular responsibilities both to the field of linguistics and to the residents of the region it serves. The department thus has two concerns: (1) teaching and research on language structure and use, and (2) service to society on language-related issues.

The department's approach to linguistic theory takes a primarily cognitive-functional perspective that focuses on language structure as interacting with language use. This orientation emphasizes the study of language typology, change, discourse, interaction, variation, processing, and acquisition. The department is particularly concerned with the study of regional languages (especially Native American languages and Spanish) and signed languages (American Sign Language in particular).

The Department of Linguistics offers the M.A. degree in Linguistics under Plan I (24 semester hours of coursework plus 6 hours of thesis) or Plan III (33 hours of coursework without a thesis) according to the general regulations set forth in the UNM Catalog, with the additional requirement that a minimum of 12 hours of 500-level courses is required under either plan.

Existing

## **Program Description**

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## **Admissions Requirements**

Minimum prerequisites for pursuing the M.A. in Linguistics are 12 credit hours of basic linguistics, including introductory linguistic analysis, phonetics, phonological analysis, and grammatical analysis. Deficiencies in these prerequisites may be made up after admission to the program but such coursework may not be counted toward the degree.



#### Application Deadlines

Fall semester: March 31

Spring semester: October 31

Summer semester: March 31

All applications seeking financial aid must be received by December 15.

#### Graduation Requirements

## Professional Credential/Licensure Program Information

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License/Certification associated with program

No

Professional Accrediting Bodies

## Degree Information

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Proposed

**Degree Hours**

30-33

**Minimum Major Hours**

Existing

**Degree Hours**

30-32

# Degree Requirements

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## Requirements

- Complete 1 of the following

### Plan I (Thesis)

- Complete all of the following
  - Complete at least 1 of the following:
    - LING502 - Current Approaches to Phonology (3)
    - LING503 - Usage-based Phonology (3)
  - Complete the following:
    - LING512 - Morphosyntax (3)
    - LING546 - Introduction to Language Change (3)
  - Complete at least 1 of the following:
    - LING560 - Child Language (3)
    - **LING562 - Childhood Bilingualism (3)**
    - LING565 - Seminar in Thought and Language (3)
    - LING567 - Psychology of Language (3)
    - LING568 - Seminar in Psycholinguistics (3)
  - Complete at least 1 of the following:
    - ~~LING531 - Language in Society (3)~~
    - LING533 - Sociolinguistic Variation (3)
    - **LING534 - Language and Gender (3)**
  - A 3-credit seminar on a topic related to sociolinguistics may be substituted for the above courses.

### Choose one course in two areas

- Complete 2 of the following

#### Discourse/Syntax

- Complete at least 1 of the following:
  - LING529 - Discourse Analysis (3)
  - LING535 - Language Contact (3)

#### Cognitive Linguistics

- Complete at least 1 of the following:
  - ~~LING519 - Cognitive Linguistics (3)~~
  - LING568 - Seminar in Psycholinguistics (3)
  - LING525 - Semantic Analysis (3)
  - **LING519 - Cognitive Linguistics (3)**

#### Typology

- Complete at least 1 of the following:
  - LING511 - Language Documentation (3)
  - LING513 - Linguistic Field Methods (3)
  - LING517 - Typology and Universals (3)
  - LING548 - Grammaticization (3)
- A seminar on a relevant topic (discourse/syntax, cognitive linguistics, or typology) may be substituted for the above courses.
- Earn at least 3 credits from the following types of courses:  
The remaining required **elective** credit hours, i.e., **electives, must be graduate-level courses in Linguistics. These** are selected by the candidate. **When appropriate to a specialization and** with the approval of the **Graduate Program** Director, **the candidate may take specific research skills courses**

(e.g., logic or statistics), or courses from another department as part of Graduate the Studieselective coursework.

- Earn at least 6 credits from the following:

- LING599 - Master's Thesis (1 - 6)

**Plan II (Non-Thesis) Plan III (Coursework)**

- Earn at least ~~32~~ **33** credits from the following types of courses:  
coursework described above excluding LING599 credits. Electives to reach degree total of ~~3233~~ credits. ~~Plan II students are required to take a written comprehensive examination.~~

**Grand Total Credits: 30 - 33**

## Concentrations

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### Program Concentrations

Code	Title
CON Natv Lang of SW	Native American Languages of the Southwest

### Concentration Required

No

## Emphases

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### Emphasis required

No

### Emphasis Hours

### Emphasis Rules

No Rules

## Program Learning Outcomes

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### Learning Outcomes

#### Goal A: Breadth of Basic Knowledge

To be able to compare and evaluate linguistic theories in several core areas of linguistics

##### A.1. (University Student Learning Objective Alignment: Knowledge)

Students will describe basic principles of leading functional, cognitive and typological linguistic theories in phonology, morphosyntax, semantics or discourse, and language change.

**Goal B: Critical Understanding of the Field**

To be able to critically analyze state-of-the-art research

B.1. (University SLO Alignment: Knowledge)

Students will describe the hypotheses, arguments and evidence presented in current research publications in core areas of linguistics.

**Goal C: Original Data Analysis**

To develop the ability to collect and analyze naturally occurring linguistic data

C.1. (University SLO Alignment: Skills)

Students will analyze a novel set of naturally occurring data following principles of a linguistic theory.

**Registrar Office Only**

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<b>CM Program Code</b> MA Ling	<b>BANP</b>	<b>Banner Program Code</b> MA-LING	<b>Major Code</b> LING
<b>Online Program Code</b>	<b>Online Major Code</b>	<b>Pre-major Program Code</b>	<b>Pre-major Major Code</b>
<b>CIP Code</b> 160102	<b>Concentration Inheritance</b> Yes		
<b>Catalog</b> Main Campus	Proposed <b>Catalog Activation Date</b>		
	Existing <b>Catalog Activation Date</b> 08/01/24		

**Notes**