Arts and Sciences Department

Chairperson

Masters Program Director

Doctoral Program Director
Marie K. Huffman, Ward Melville Social and Behavioral Sciences Building N-251 (631) 632-1388

Degree Awarded
M.A. in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages

Arts and Sciences Department

The Department of Linguistics, in the College of Arts and Sciences, offers graduate training in Linguistics that leads to the Doctor of Philosophy in Linguistics as well as a course of study that leads to the Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL).

The M.A. in TESOL is designed to prepare students to become professional teachers, teacher educators, and curriculum designers. The program offers courses in theoretical linguistics and its applications as well as pedagogy. It provides extensive supervised field experience in schools and in the English courses offered by the university for International students. Graduates of the program are successfully employed in public and private schools at K-12 levels, colleges, and universities in the United States and abroad. The requirements of the M.A. TESOL program satisfy a substantial portion of the requirements for New York State certification in TESOL, and students may arrange to complete the requirements for state certification in conjunction with pursuit of the M.A.

Admission requirements of Arts and Sciences Department

Interested students should begin the application process as early as possible, especially if they plan to apply for financial aid. Usually only applications for full-time study will be considered. M.A. applications are normally considered for fall admission.

M.A. applications should be received by March 1 but will be accepted through April 15. Admission to all programs is competitive and no single factor (GRE scores, letters, grades, etc.) will exclude anyone from being admitted. Similarly, no single factor will ensure admission.

For admission to the graduate programs in the Department of Linguistics, the following, in addition to the minimum Graduate School requirements, are normally required:

A. Baccalaureate Degree: A baccalaureate degree is required. Students must present evidence that such a degree will be awarded by the time they begin graduate work. A final transcript is also required prior to registration.

B. Cumulative Grade Point Average: A minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (or its foreign equivalent) on a four-point scale. If you have attended graduate school and obtained a master's degree, and the GPA is over 3.00, then the GPA of the undergraduate school can be below 3.00 for regular admission.

C. Letter of Recommendation: Letters of recommendation from three former instructors are required.

D. Graduate Record Examination: There is no subject test for linguistics or TESOL; the general test is all that is required. Please have the testing service send a copy of your score to the Linguistics Department.

E. Foreign Language Requirement: Proficiency in a foreign language equivalent to two years of college work is required.

F. Writing Sample: The writing sample should be a short paper written for a previous course taken in linguistics, or if that is not available, a paper on any subject is acceptable.

G. Curriculum Vitae or Resume.

H. TOEFL Score: Non-native speakers of English must have obtained a minimum score of 600 (paper), 250 (computer), or 100 (iBT) on the TOEFL test.

I. Acceptance: Students must be accepted by both the Department of Linguistics and the Graduate School.

Note: Students who do not meet the above requirements may be admitted conditionally. Their status will be reviewed after their first semester of graduate study.

Facilities of Arts and Sciences Department

The Department of Linguistics has several lab facilities. The Semantics Lab houses MacIntosh computers, and is devoted to research and instructional projects in semantics, natural language computation, and software development. The Phonetics Laboratory suite includes a sound-treated room, a teaching lab and a research lab. Speech analysis platforms available are CSL and Praat. Speech perception experiments are run with Superlab and E-Prime. There is also a computer lab for students with internet access and printing facilities.

Arts and Sciences Department
Requirements for the M.A. Degree in TESOL

In addition to the minimum Graduate School requirements, the following are required:

A. Coursework
1. All of the following (21 credits)
   
   LIN 522 Phonetics
   LIN 524 TESOL Pedagogy: Theory and Practice and
   LIN 579 Field Experience N-12
   LIN 527 Structure of English
   LIN 529 Content-based Language and Literacy Development Practice and
   LIN 579 Field Experience N-12
   LIN 530 Introduction to General Linguistics
   LIN 571 Curriculum Design and Evaluation and
   LIN 578 Field Experience in Adult and Tertiary Contexts
   
   2. Two of the following (6 credits)
      
      LIN 525 Contrastive Analysis
      LIN 526 Analysis of an Uncommonly Taught Language
      LIN 532 Second Language Acquisition
      LIN 541 Bilingualism
      LIN 542 Sociolinguistics
      LIN 555 Error Analysis
      
      Or any other TESOL related courses approved by the program director

   Elective (3 credits)
      
      One elective course to be approved by the department

B. Performance
The student must achieve a grade point average (GPA) of B (3.0) or higher in all graduate courses taken at Stony Brook in order to receive a degree.

C. Course Waivers
Certain required courses may be waived for students showing an exceptional background in linguistics or TESOL. Application for such waivers must be made in writing to the department. In any case, all students must complete 30 graduate credits of approved coursework to receive a degree.

New York State Teacher Certification: TESOL Teacher Certification program requirements are listed in the Professional Education Program (PEP) section of this bulletin.

Faculty of Arts and Sciences Department

Professors
Aronoff, Mark, Ph.D., 1974, Massachusetts Institute of Technology: Morphology; orthography.
Broselow, Ellen, Ph.D., 1976, University of Massachusetts-Amherst: Phonology; phonetics; second language acquisition.
Finer, Daniel L., Ph.D., 1984, University of Massachusetts-Amherst: Syntax; semantics; language acquisition.
Harris, Alice C., Ph.D., 1976, Harvard University: Historical linguistics; morphology; languages of the Caucasus.
Kaufman, Dorit, Ph.D., 1991, University at Stony Brook: Language acquisition and attrition; language education.
Larson, Richard K., Ph.D., 1983, University of Wisconsin: Semantics; syntax.

Associate Professors
Bailyn, John F., Ph.D., 1995, Cornell University: Syntax; Russian syntax; Slavic linguistics.
Huffman, Marie K., Ph.D., 1989, University of California, Los Angeles: Phonetics; phonology.
Repetti, Lori, Ph.D., 1989, University of California, Los Angeles: Italian linguistics; Romance linguistics; phonology; Italian dialectology.

Number of teaching, graduate, and research assistants, fall 2009: 19

NOTE: The course descriptions for this program can be found in the corresponding program PDF or at COURSE SEARCH.