



LINGUISTICS

Program Objectives

Linguistics at USM provides a rigorous undergraduate education focused on the nature, organization, acquisition, and origins of human natural language. The Linguistics major provides three pathways:

[B.A. in Linguistics \(general linguistics, no concentration\)](#)

[B.A. in Linguistics with concentration in ASL/English Interpreting*](#)

[B.A. in Linguistics with concentration in Speech and Language Science](#)

* Nationally accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Interpreter Education since December 9th, 2009. The linguistics major consists of linguistics courses designed to foster a deep understanding of human natural language (spoken and signed), including an appreciation of the structure and organization of natural languages, the variety of natural languages, the commonalities that underlie the vast apparent differences among languages, the processes of language acquisition in children, the psychological and neurological bases of language use, and the form and significance of social variation in language.

The goals of the linguistics major are 1) to help each student develop an understanding of the nature of natural language, 2) to help each student develop a foundation of more specialized expertise relevant to the student's career goals, and 3) to help each student compile a record of achievement that will facilitate the student's search for employment or further education.

Degrees & Concentrations Offered

Graduation Planner: usm.maine.edu/advising/degreeplanning

Degree Offered: Bachelors of Arts

Major Offered: Linguistics

Concentrations Offered: ASL/English Interpreting, Speech and Language Science

Minors Offered: Deaf Studies, Linguistics

Department of Linguistics

Portland Campus, 65 Exeter Street

(207) 780-4582, Video phone: (207) 766-7107, (866) 971-1185

Web Address: usm.maine.edu/linguistics

Career Possibilities*

Actor
 Anthropology
 ASL instructor
 Audiologist
 Case Manager/Direct Service Provider
 Computational Linguist
 Forensics linguistic
 Deaf Educator
 ESOL Instructor in U.S. or Abroad
 Expert Witness in Language and Culture
 Field Linguist
 Interpreter Educator
 Interpreter Referral Specialist
 Interpreter/Translator
 Journalist
 Lawyer
 Librarian
 Speech/ Language Pathologist
 Teach ESL in United States or abroad
 Teacher/Professor
 Technical Writer/Editor
 Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

* Additional education, training or experience may be required.

Acquired Transferable Skills

Academic writing
 Analyze text
 Apply linguistic knowledge to other domains
 Community involvement
 Complex problem solving
 Critical thinking
 Employ language skills at an advanced level
 Public speaking
 Research skills
 Work as a team
 Work independently

For more information on transferable skills go to:
usm.maine.edu/community-engagement-career-development/career-tools

What can I do with this major?*

AREA	EMPLOYERS	INFORMATION/STRATEGIES
ASL/English Interpreting (Deaf and hearing interpreters)	Interpreting agencies, state and federal agencies, schools, hospitals, freelance, specializations in medical, legal, community interpreting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in training and field opportunities in preparation for national credentialing • Participate in peer mentoring and tutoring • Participate in Deaf community events • Observe and apprentice under working professionals • Attend and volunteer at national conferences
Computational Linguistics	e-Businesses, e.g. Amazon Software developers Computer companies, e.g. Apple, Microsoft Big data firms, natural-language processing Search engines, e.g. Google Database developers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supplement undergraduate curriculum with courses in computer science • Develop skills in computer programming/scripting, natural language processing, machine learning, and other relevant technologies • Intern in the computer industry
ESL Instructor	Adult Education K-12 schools College Deaf Schools Abroad Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tutor ESL at USM and in the community • Study abroad • Build cultural competence • Study additional languages
Speech/language pathology or audiology	K-12 schools Clinics Developmental learning centers Hospitals Nursing homes Rehabilitation centers Freelance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain high GPA • Prepare for GRE • Observe working SLPs or audiologists • Study ASL • Participate in faculty research • Attend professional conferences

*To learn about these areas and much more visit: whatcanidowiththismajor.com/major • © 2011 What Can I Do With This Major

Enrichment Opportunities

Internships

For more information contact the Department of Linguistics.
usm.maine.edu/cccd

Study Abroad

For more information contact the USM Office of International Programs.
<https://usm.maine.edu/international/study-abroad>

Clubs & Organizations

American Sign Language Club
For a complete list of student organizations:
webapp.usm.maine.edu/pathways/list

USM Corporate Partners

The USM Corporate Partners are over 350 business people, from nearly 100 companies. usm.maine.edu/corporatepartners

Helpful Career Links

USMCareerConnections:

USM's career network for job and internship searches. usm.maine.edu/community-engagement-career-development/usmcareerconnections

O*NET OnLine:

Learn more about a career opportunity by researching it with O*NET. onetonline.org

Occupational Outlook Handbook:

Learn more about a career opportunity by researching it with OOH. bls.gov/oooh

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

[American Association for Applied Linguistics](http://www.aal.org)
[American Speech-Language-Hearing Association](http://www.aslha.org)
[Linguistic Society of America](http://www.linguisticsociety.org)
[The Linguist List](http://www.linguistlist.org)
[Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf](http://www.nad.org)



Office of Community Engagement and Career Development • usm.maine.edu/cccd

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