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

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

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
### What can I do with this major?*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREA / English Interpreting (Deaf and hearing interpreters)</th>
<th>Employers</th>
<th>Information/Strategies</th>
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| Interpreting agencies, state and federal agencies, schools, hospitals, freelance, specializations in medical, legal, community interpreting | • 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 | • 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 | • 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 | • 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](http://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/cecd](http://usm.maine.edu/cecd)

**Study Abroad**
For more information contact the USM Office of International Programs. [https://usm.maine.edu/international/study-abroad](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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://onetonline.org)

**Occupational Outlook Handbook:**
Learn more about a career opportunity by researching it with OOH. [bls.gov/ooh](http://bls.gov/ooh)

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**
American Association for Applied Linguistics  
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
Linguistic Society of America  
The Linguitst List  
Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf