

Degree Requirements
GRADUATE GROUP IN LINGUISTICS
DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PH.D.
REVISIONS: MARCH 8, 2007 AND FEBRUARY 14, 2008

Approved by Graduate Council: February 20, 2008

1. Admissions Requirements. The Ph.D. program course load as it is presented here is designed for students with background in linguistics or an allied field. Students entering without sufficient undergraduate work in linguistics may need to take some undergraduate prerequisite courses, concurrently with other courses. It is advisable to have taken at least 103A, 103B, 111, and 131, or similar courses from another institution, before taking advanced graduate courses in linguistic analysis. The Graduate Advisor will work with entering students to determine the adequacy of their background in linguistics and to assist in designing a course of study.

Each student will be admitted to the program in one of the following areas of emphasis:

- second-language acquisition and development (with socio-cultural, pedagogical, and linguistic dimensions)
- structural and theoretical linguistics

2. Dissertation Plan. This program follows Dissertation Plan B, according to which a committee of three members guides the candidate's dissertation research and passes upon the merits of the dissertation. An oral defense of the dissertation is not required.

3. Course Requirements. 32 units in core graduate courses. An additional 20 units of elective courses to be worked out with the student's major professor and approved by the Graduate Advisor. A minimum of 12 units are required per quarter, which may be made of prerequisite, required, elective, and 299 units.

Core courses:

LIN 280 Theories of Second Language Acquisition 4 units

LIN 281 Research Methods in TESOL/SLD 4 units

Plus two of the following: 8 units

LIN 200A Foundations of Linguistics I

LIN 200B Foundations of Linguistics II

LIN 200C Foundations of Linguistics III

(Each course in the LIN 200A-C set is conceptually independent of the others. 200A focuses on pre-generative linguistics; 220B on generative grammar; and 200C on contemporary alternatives to generative grammar.)

And for students choosing the SLAD emphasis:

A. at least one course on qualitative research methods, from among the following: 4 units

LIN 263, Discourse Analysis

EDU 205A, Ethnographic Research in Schools I

EDU 205B, Ethnographic Research in Schools II

EDU 249, Discourse Analysis in Educational Settings

EDU 201, Qualitative Research in Education

or any 4-unit graduate course on qualitative research methods (with the approval of the Graduate Advisor)

B. at least one course on quantitative research methods, from among the following: 4 units

LIN 260, Variation in Speech Communities

EDU 204A, Quantitative Methods in Educational Research: Analysis of Correlational Designs

EDU 204B, Quantitative Methods in Educational Research: Experimental Designs

STA 205, Statistical Methods for Research

PSY 204A, Statistical Analysis of Psychological Experiments

or any other graduate course on quantitative research methods (with the approval of the Graduate Advisor)

C. any two additional Linguistics courses from among those numbered from 200 to 259, i.e., courses in structural/theoretical linguistics 8 units

Subtotal for SLAD emphasis 32 units

And for students choosing the structural/theoretical emphasis:

any four additional Linguistics courses from among those numbered from 200 to 259

Subtotal for structural/theoretical emphasis 32 units

Elective courses:

Additional graduate courses in Linguistics or other department 20 units

Minimum total for the Ph.D. 52 units

4. Special Requirements

Language Requirements

1. Oral and written competence in English sufficient to complete all degree requirements.
2. Reading knowledge of a language other than English in which there is a significant literature in linguistics and allied fields; this proficiency will be assessed by means of a two-hour translation examination, or *by demonstration of equivalent proficiency to be determined by the Graduate Group*. (See description in M.A. Degree Requirements for more details.)

This language requirement is to be completed no later than the end of the 6th quarter of study.

3. Basic functional proficiency in a language other than the two above. This proficiency will be assessed by means of a brief conversation in the tested language with a member of the Graduate Group or a designated proxy. The conversation should last 5 to 10 minutes. Possible topics of conversation might be how the student came to learn the language, what the student did in a recent visit to a country in which the tested language was spoken, or what the student thinks about some literary work or recent news item.

Teaching. All students will be encouraged to serve as teaching assistants during their graduate training. More details can be found in Section 10. Graduate Studies policy dictates that a graduate student may be employed as a teaching assistant for a maximum of 15 quarters total from the time of their matriculation and a maximum of 9 quarters before advancement to candidacy (see <http://gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/publications/tahandbook.pdf>).

Major Professor. Students must identify a major professor by the end of their first year.

5. Committees

Admissions Committee

The Admissions Committee consists of four members: the Chair of the Graduate Group, the Graduate Advisor, an at-large member of the Graduate Group elected by the Group as a whole, and a chair, appointed by the Chair of the Graduate Group. All applications are evaluated comprehensively by the members of this committee, who decide which students are to be admitted and how financial support is to be awarded.

Qualifying Paper Committees

1. Qualifying Paper #1. Students will submit their first Qualifying Paper (QP) at the end of their 6th quarter of study. This will be an integrative paper that will demonstrate connections between one or more foundational areas of research and the SLAD areas. The QP needs to conceptualize a research problem, situate the problem in an ongoing discussion in the field, and show awareness of different methodological avenues for addressing the problem. The paper should sustain a clear argument while integrating diverse viewpoints. QPs should be data-based, with the amount and quality of data developed in consultation with the student's major professor (Students will learn methods for doing data-based research in LIN 281, Research Methods in TESOL/SLD.)

The QP will be read by a committee comprised of the student's major professor (who may not chair the committee), and two other members of the Graduate Group. The two other members will be selected by the student and approved by the Graduate Advisor, who will appoint one member Chair. Students successfully completing the QP will be awarded an M.A. (Plan II) in Linguistics, provided they have completed 42 graduate units in Linguistics. No more than 4 of the qualifying graduate units may be in research (299) courses. QP #1 will be accepted in lieu of a comprehensive examination as satisfying the requirements for the M.A. degree. Only those students whose QPs are judged to be of superior quality will be advanced to the next stage of study.

2. Qualifying Paper #2. Ph.D. students will complete a second qualifying paper of 25-35 pages of publishable quality in the student's area of specialization. While the first qualifying paper may be a survey of a topic in the field, the second paper should focus in depth on a topic of the student's choice. This paper should be completed in the third year of study (normally, by the end of the 8th quarter). It will be evaluated by a three-member faculty committee established under the same guidelines as for QP #1.

A student may not use his/her Master's thesis as a qualifying paper. While a qualifying paper may be in the same domain/research area as the thesis, it must indicate both a major elucidation of previously addressed concepts as well as a major reconceptualization of previous work.

Dissertation and Qualifying Exam Committees

After acceptance of QP#2, a three-member Dissertation Committee will be formed whose members will work with the student in developing a dissertation research prospectus. The Graduate Adviser, in consultation with the student, the major professor and other program faculty, will recommend appointment of faculty members to serve on the committee. Final approval of the membership on the committee rests with the Dean of Graduate Studies. Once completed, this prospectus will serve as part of the basis for the Qualifying Examination, along with the student's previous qualifying papers and any other work deemed appropriate by the student and his/her faculty advisors. The Oral Qualifying Exam will be conducted by a five-member Examination Committee, which will include the student's major professor, but will be chaired by another faculty member. Following Graduate Council policy on membership in Doctoral Qualifying Examinations (<http://gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/gradcouncil/doctoralqe.pdf>), with the proviso that a member from outside the Graduate Group in Linguistics need not be included, members of the Qualifying Examination committee will be nominated by the Graduate Advisor, in consultation with the student and the major professor, and appointed by the Graduate Council. The outcome can be reported as "pass," "not pass," or "fail." A "not pass" outcome gives the candidate the option to re-take the exam, in which case the only possible outcomes are "pass" or "fail."

A dissertation on a subject chosen by the candidate, bearing on the principal subject of study and of such character as to show ability to prosecute independent investigation must receive the approval of the special committee in charge of the dissertation and of the Graduate Council before the degree is recommended. The dissertation committee ensures that the dissertation is of sufficient scope and quality to merit awarding of the degree.

6. **Advising and Mentoring.** The Graduate Advisor is responsible for advising students concerning program requirements and course options, for determining if students need to take any courses to make up for insufficient preparation at the undergraduate level, for approving elective course options, for approving the members of the Qualifying Paper Committees, for assisting students in suggesting members of the Dissertation Committee, and for nominating the members of the Qualifying Examination Committee. The major professor, the student's principal mentor, is responsible for assisting with course choices, for serving on Qualifying Paper and Qualifying Examination Committees, and for chairing the Dissertation Committee.
7. **Advancement to Candidacy.** Immediately following the successful completion of the Qualifying Exam, the student must file for advancement to candidacy for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. This should take place by the end of the student's third year of study. At this point the dissertation committee will be nominated by the Graduate Advisor and the nomination sent to the Graduate Council (part of Graduate Studies) for approval.
8. **Normative Time and Time to Degree.** The normative time for completion of the Ph.D. is five years.
9. **Typical Timeline and Sequence of Events.** The following sample 3-year programs assume that students have sufficient prior training in linguistics. Those who need to make up for preparatory deficiencies may need to extend the timeline by up to one year.

Emphasis area: SLAD

Year 1:

- LIN 200 A (Foundations of Linguistics I)
- LIN 280 (Theories of Second Language Acquisition)
- LIN 231 (Advanced Syntactic Theory & Analysis)
- LIN 281 (Research Methods in TESOL/SLD)
- LIN 212 (Advanced Phonetics)
- LIN 282 (Individual and Social Aspects of Bilingualism)

[24 units]

(Students interested in pedagogy who do not have backgrounds in TESOL may, alternatively, want to take the LIN 300 methodology series in their first year.)

Year 2:

- LIN 200 B (Foundations of Linguistics II)
- LIN 260 (Variation in Speech Communities)
- LIN 241 (Advanced Semantic Theory & Analysis)
- LIN 263 (Discourse Analysis: Text in Context)
- LIN 299 (independent study; work on Qualifying paper)
- LIN 289 (Pedagogical Applications of SLA Theory)

[24 units]

Emphasis area: structural and theoretical linguistics

Year 1:

- LIN 200 A (Foundations of Linguistics I)
- LIN 280 (Theories of Second Language Acquisition)
- LIN 231 (Advanced Syntactic Theory & Analysis)
- LIN 281 (Research Methods in TESOL/SLD)
- LIN 205 (Topics in Linguistic Theory & Methods)
- LIN 211 (Advanced Phonology)

[24 units]

Year 2:

- LIN 200 B (Foundations of Linguistics II)
- LIN 212 (Advanced Phonetics)
- LIN 241 (Advanced Semantic Theory & Analysis)
- LIN 200C (Foundations of Linguistics III)
- LIN 299 (independent study; work on Qualifying paper)
- Elective area of emphasis course

[24 units]

All students:

Year 3: *Electives and 299s for:*

- Remaining area of emphasis coursework needed
- Preparation of research proposal
- Preparation for exams

[24 units]

All students:

Y-2 (anytime):

Foreign Language Exam

End of Spring Qtr of Y-2:

Qualifying Paper # 1

End of Winter Qtr of Y-3:

Qualifying Paper #2 due

Spring Qtr of Y-3:

Dissertation Prospectus Due

End of Spring Qtr of Y-3:

Qualifying Exam/Advancement to Candidacy

Year 4:

Dissertation research

Year 5:

Dissertation writing, completion & submission

* With the exception of the common set of required courses, the three-year program of study will vary from student to student, depending on which electives they choose and which area of emphasis they have selected.

10 Sources of Funding

The UC Davis campus provides a variety of financial support possibilities for graduate students. **All students are required to file a FAFSA to receive any of these awards and to determine eligibility for work study.** Forms are available online at: <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>.

The main source of funding for linguistics graduate students comes in the form of teaching assistantships (TA-ships). Other types of funding are also available including graduate student research assistantships (GSR-ships), readerships, block grant funding, and both UC Davis-internal and external fellowships. Each of these types of funding is discussed below. For detailed information about the kinds of academic appointments available to registered graduate students (including salary and fee waiver information), see the Office of Graduate Studies web site: <http://gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/facstaff/>. Also, keep in mind that you are eligible to apply for TA appointments outside of the Linguistics Department for which you have appropriate academic training and background.

Teaching Assistantships and Readerships

“A teaching assistant is a registered graduate student in full-time residence, chosen for excellent scholarship and for promise as a teacher, and serving an apprenticeship under the active tutelage and supervision of a regular faculty member” (from the Academic Personnel Manual, Section 410). A limited number of TA-ships are available through the Linguistics Department each year. Readerships are also available for some Linguistics courses.

Notification of TA and Reader positions is generally made by e-mail announcements. Newly admitted students will automatically be considered for these positions. Eligible continuing students will be considered if they indicate an interest when asked to respond to the notifications.

Graduate Student Research Assistantships

From time to time, faculty who have obtained grants have GSR positions available. When a GSR is needed, a flyer or e-mail message is sent out to all graduate students announcing the position. For further information, please contact the Graduate Secretary.

Fellowships, Tuition Fellowships, Stipends

The Office of Graduate Studies awards a number of centrally-managed fellowships that range from small stipends of \$1,000 to packages that include full fee waivers and substantial stipends (http://gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/ssupport/internal_fellowships.html). Competition for these awards is campus-wide. To be considered for one or more of these, new and continuing graduate students should submit a fellowship application by January 15 (<http://gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/prospective/application.html>) for the following academic year. Initial announcement of fellowship and stipend awards is made by mid-March. Application packets are available online at <http://gradstudies.ucdavis.edu>. Please note that *three letters of recommendation* are needed in support of your application. The letters you

submit with your M.A. or Ph.D. program application can be used to support your fellowship applications for both your first *and second* years of study.

In addition to these awards, Graduate Studies distributes a large portion of available fellowship monies to the various graduate programs in the form of “Block Grants.” Individual programs use these funds as they best see fit to allocate financial aid to their graduate students.

Because the Block Grant amounts given to Linguistics are not very large, and because the fees required of graduate students, especially those who are not California residents, are high, the program generally uses its Block Grant to award tuition waivers to outstanding students, both new and continuing. The criteria used in determining these awards have been set forth by the UC Davis Graduate Council as follows:

Awards are made as a mark of honor, primarily on the bases of scholarship and promise of outstanding academic and professional contribution. In evaluating applications, consideration is given to the extent and quality of previous graduate work, evidence of ability in research or other creative accomplishment, evidence of intellectual capacity, and promise of productive scholarship. In general, favorable consideration will not be given to students with less than a 3.5 grade point average in upper division work if the applicant is beginning graduate study, or in such graduate work as completed if they have already undertaken graduate study. An applicant with a grade point average of less than a 3.0 will not be considered for a fellowship or graduate scholarship.

11. PELP and Filing Fee Status

There are various circumstances under which a graduate student might need to consider alternate student status options (a full-time graduate student must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 units each quarter). One such circumstance is that all degree requirements have been completed but additional time is needed to complete the dissertation. Another is that extended time away from campus is needed for research related to the dissertation. The problem that arises in such cases is that if the student does not officially register for courses each quarter, the Graduate Studies Office assumes that the student is no longer an official graduate student at UCD, and then the student and the program encounter various administrative difficulties when the student finally finishes up the last of his/her requirements and tries to graduate (see <http://gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/students/handbook/1.html>).

There are ways that this situation can be avoided. First, *make sure that you have filed for Advancement to Candidacy*. You should have already done this anyway if you are at this stage in your graduate student career. You then need to do one of the following:

- (1) Sign up for 12 units of credit each term. You can register for up to 12 units of LIN 299 (Research) in any quarter, but you need not sign up only for research credits. You could, for example, register for 4 units in some Linguistics course which you are interested in and only 8 units of 299. In any case, as is noted above, this is the more expensive

approach because you register for courses in the usual way each term. On the other hand, the advantage is that you are clearly still registered as a course-taking student, and so Graduate Studies will not be tempted to count you as someone who is no longer in the program. Moreover, actually registering for courses allows you to continue to be eligible for health services, housing, Library access, and other benefits provided by the University, something that would not happen if you were not registered.

- (2) Go on Filing Fee Status. The Filing Fee is a reduced fee paid in place of Registration Fees. You are generally eligible for Filing Fee Status if you have advanced to candidacy and if you only need to finish your Thesis/Comprehensive Examination or Dissertation requirement. This fee is paid only once, before you submit the application to Graduate Studies. (According to university regulations, filing fee status can only be used for one quarter, but an alternate, longer-term option of reduced fees for finishing the thesis/dissertation is being created by Graduate Studies.)

The advantage to this approach is that it is considerably less expensive than the approach in (1). There are, however, some disadvantages to it. The idea behind Filing Fee Status is that you have basically completed your graduate work and just need a bit more time to tie up some remaining loose ends. Hence, Filing Fee Status permits you to continue as an official student in the program. At the same time though, you are no longer considered a regular student taking courses at the University. Because of this, there are restrictions that are placed on your interactions with the University, as detailed in Graduate Studies policy: <http://gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/forms/filingfee.pdf>.

- (3) Go into the Planned Educational Leave Program (PELP). This is a program designed to allow a student to suspend his/her program of study for good cause, leave the campus, and be guaranteed the right to return at a later time and resume academic work with a minimum of procedural difficulty. "Good cause" here means temporary leave from the University for employment or research away from the campus, illness, financial problems, or personal problems.

Going on PELP is recommended only in cases where you are certain of the quarter in which you plan to return to your studies. As with Filing Fee Status, the advantage here is that it is very inexpensive. The disadvantage is, again, that you are basically a non-student while you are on PELP, and so you may not use the health services, housing, or the Library in the way that regularly registered students can. You are allowed to use placement, student employment, and advising and counseling services to a limited degree. For details, please contact the Graduate Secretary.

12. Dissertation Requirements

The program imposes no dissertation requirements beyond those of Graduate Studies (see <http://www.gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/students/filing.html>). An exit seminar is not required.