

If you have questions, or would like to know more, please contact  
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Visit us online at  
<https://www.carleton.edu/linguistics/>.



# Linguistics



# FAQs



## How many languages do you have to know?

None! (Okay, that's not entirely true; you have to know one language.) Being a linguist doesn't mean you know how to speak a ton of languages, although a background in linguistics can facilitate learning languages. **Linguists study the structure of language, and seek to understand what humans know about it, and how they are able to acquire it.**

## What's the comps process like?

The process starts in the spring of junior year, when the cohort agrees on a common theme for their individual projects. In the fall of senior year, there is a 3-credit weekly seminar. Most of the research and writing occurs in the winter (6 credits), supervised closely by a faculty member. Comps culminates in a public presentation, which is (usually) in the spring.

## What courses are offered?

Our curriculum emphasizes formal, theoretical approaches to linguistics. We offer two core sequences, in syntax and phonetics/phonology. Our electives include **The Noun** (an A&I), a course on **Invented Languages**, **First Language Acquisition**, **Structure of Dakota**, and **Syntax of an Unfamiliar Language**. Linguistics also offers an off-campus study program each spring in Kyoto, Japan.

## What kind of job can I get with a linguistics degree?

Every kind! Linguistics majors go far and wide, and pursue many careers. These are but a few of our recent esteemed alumni.

- Chase Garcia ('19), **Consumer Insights Associate, C Space**
- Paul Mains ('14), **Program Manager for Internationalization of the Assistant, Google**
- Ilana Mishkin ('16), **Baseball Operations Fellow, Cleveland Indians**
- Hannah Quinn ('16), **Party Affairs Director, Minn. Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party**
- Daamir Robinson-Johnson ('20), **Admissions Officer, Carleton College**

## What kind of internships are there?

There are many paid internship opportunities available nationwide to linguists. On the linguistics side, our students have obtained competitive internships at the **Educational Testing Service** and **Linguist List**, and externships at the **Smithsonian**. Our students have also recently taken up internships not directly oriented towards linguistics at organizations including **Google**, **Booz Allen**, **Verilogue**, and the **Legacy Land Conservancy**.

## What kind of research opportunities are there?

Research opportunities abound, on campus and off. Many students present their own research at undergraduate and professional linguistics conferences. They support the efforts of the **Dakotah Language Institute** (Lake Traverse) to document and revitalize their language and participate in faculty research on cutting-edge topics like **Icelandic ditransitives** and **ellipsis in Indonesian**. Our students also obtain competitive research internships at institutions like **Stanford** and **UC Berkeley**.

