WHAT CAN I DO WITH A DEGREE IN LINGUISTICS?

WHAT IS LINGUISTICS? Linguistics is the scientific study of language. Linguists (experts in linguistics) work on specific languages, but their primary goal is to understand the nature of language in general. Since language is universal and fundamental to all human interactions, the knowledge attained in linguistics has many practical applications.

WHY MAJOR IN IT? The undergraduate degree program in Linguistics provides students with at least two general types of skills that are applicable to a broad range of career fields: general organizational and analytical skills, and facility in analyzing linguistic data, regardless of specific language. Linguistics, like other sciences, develops logical thinking skills and ways to “formalize” one’s claims. Linguistics majors prepare students for jobs where general knowledge about language, “logical thinking,” and/or knowledge and skill in one or more specific languages are useful.

CAREER PATHS: GENERAL AREAS & INDUSTRIES

Depending on what direction you take your career, you will likely want to continue to grow, develop, and enhance your education. This can include more formal education, like a master’s degree or doctorate, or it can come from certification and training by recognized organizations. Outside of the classroom experience is imperative for your career and professional development. Whether it is through an internship, RAship, a work-study job or a volunteer opportunity, gaining practical experience will make you a competitive candidate for a graduate school or in the job market.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EDUCATION</th>
<th>LANGUAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teacher, Professor, Education Researcher, Education Administrator, Language or Speech Therapist</td>
<td>Foreign Language Teacher, Interpreter, Translator, Customs Adviser, Interviewer, Speech Pathologist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMUNICATIONS</td>
<td>BUSINESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing Coordinator or Researcher, Advertising Consultant, Communications Manager, Journalist, Librarian</td>
<td>International Business, Accountant, Business Consultant, Industrial Relations Advisor, Market Analyst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCHOLOGY</td>
<td>COMPUTER SCIENCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Researcher, Professor, Guidance Counsellor, Psychologist, Human Resources Manager</td>
<td>Computer Programmer, Systems Analyst, Information Specialist, Software Developer, Computational Linguist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL SCIENCE AND LAW</td>
<td>HUMANITIES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forensic Linguist, Immigration Law, International Business Law, Legal Drafter, Employment Adviser, Social Worker</td>
<td>Author, Editor, Professor, Policy Analyst, Archivist, Critic, Researcher</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LINGUISTICS ALUMNI OCCUPATIONS & JOB TITLES

- Developer Relations @ Apple, Inc.
- Digital Marketing @ Disney
- Marketing Consultant @ Conceptual
- Speech Language Pathologist
- Professor or Researcher at major universities
- Computational Linguist @ SoundHound, Apple, Google
- CEO @ Evalx
- Software Engineer @ Factual
- High School Language Teacher
- Immigration Counselor
**CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROCESS**

When you know your strengths and interests, you can target the industries and positions that best match your skills and personality. There are different phases in the career development process, each of which you may visit at multiple points throughout your life. They may occur in any order, but it is important to start by knowing yourself:

- **Know Yourself.**
  Evaluate who you are and what you want. Assess your interests, personality, and skills. Meet with a career counselor!

- **Explore Options.**
  Learn about careers that interest you. Research career information, attend career events, and network with professionals.

- **Gain Experience.**
  Clarify your direction through experiential education. Intern, volunteer, or work part-time in the fields that interests you.

- **Set Goals.**
  Determine what path you want to pursue. Reflect on your experiences to develop an action plan. Meet with a career counselor again!

- **Seek Goals.**
  Develop skills to achieve your goals. Write a strong resume and cover letter, and practice you interview skills.

- **Enhance Career.**
  Develop as a professional & seize opportunities for growth. Maintain positive relationships to build a strong network.

See the full version and more on the UCLA Career Center Career Guide: [career.ucla.edu](http://career.ucla.edu)

**TRANSFERABLE SKILLS GAINED AS A LINGUISTICS MAJOR:**

- Written & Verbal Communication
- Analytical Skills
- Critical Thinking
- Research Skills
- Cross-Cultural Skills
- Problem-Solving
- Organizational Skills
- Data Analysis

**DEPARTMENTAL SUPPORT & CAMPUS RESOURCES**

**UNDERGRADUATE ADVISOR**
Leigh Bagood
leigh@humnet.ucla.edu
Campbell Hall 3126C

**DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRAD STUDIES**
Dr. Kie Zuraw
kie@humnet.ucla.edu
Campbell Hall 3122A

**UCLA CAREER CENTER**
Help students clarify professional interests through career exploration and provides students with the knowledge, skills, resources, and experience necessary to pursue professional goals with confidence and self-assurance.

career.ucla.edu
501 Westwood Plaza
Strathmore Building
North Entrance, 2nd & 3rd Floors

**UCLA HANDSHAKE**
The UCLA Career Center's online platform that connects students with job & internship opportunities, career exploration resources, events calendar, and making appointments career counselors!

ucla.joinhandshake.com

**UCLA ONE**
Search for jobs & internships, seek alumni & mentors, and connect with other Bruins.

alumni.ucla.edu/ucla-one

**MORE INTERNSHIP & JOB SEARCH RESOURCES**

- linkedin.com
- indeed.com
- higheredjobs.com
- usajobs.gov
- linguistlist.org
- teachcalifornia.org
- K12jobs.com
- academic360.com
- mediabistro.com/joblistings
- efinancialcareers.com
- marketingjobs.com
- lawjobs.com

For more information, please visit [career.ucla.edu](http://career.ucla.edu)