Why Study Linguistics at UMD?

THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND'S LINGUISTS DEGREE combines a liberal arts education with critical thinking skills that last a lifetime. The study of linguistics develops a sensitivity to language use as well as analytical skills and research tools that are valued in many professions. Students examine the structure of the world's languages and how knowledge of language develops and is represented in the brain. In addition to further study of linguistics, our graduates go on to apply their skills and knowledge to fields such as speech therapy, psychology, education, cognitive science and computer science.

LINGUISTICS CURRICULUM

The undergraduate curriculum offers two tracks: Grammars and Cognition and Language. The Grammars and Cognition track allows students the flexibility to take courses in fields such as philosophy, psychology and computer science, while the Language track is designed for students studying a particular language. Our classes emphasize the grammars of individual languages, the development of language in children and the processing of language in the brain. Students have access to state-of-the-art research labs on campus, where they can explore computer modeling and experimental projects in language acquisition, psycholinguistics and neurolinguistics, among others. Connecting expertise and ideas from other disciplines engages students in an interdisciplinary approach to studying human language.

SAMPLE COURSE TITLES

- Language and Mind
- Philosophy of Language
- Child Language Acquisition
- Topics in Psycholinguistics: Biology of Language
LINGUISTICS DEGREES IN ACTION

92% of recent ARHU graduates are either working full time, interning or pursuing graduate studies.* Here’s where some of our linguistics graduates are working or studying:

- Teaching Assistant Program in France, English Teaching Assistant
- Google, Software Engineer
- Synaptic Advisory Partners, Management Associate
- Center for the Advanced Study of Language, Research Assistant
- Rutgers University, Linguistics
- The Ohio State University, Applied/Forensic Linguistics
- Johns Hopkins University, Biological Sciences

*Placement rate is based on the May 2019 university graduation survey

GRACE HYNES ’17, LINGUISTICS
Product Linguist, Sensory, Inc.
“I help build speech recognition models in my job at a tech company. Every day, I use the analytical skills that I learned in my linguistics classes and in my work as an undergraduate research assistant in the language acquisition lab— whether I’m modeling a grammar, reading spectrograms or just trying to predict the varying pronunciations of ‘Alexa’ around the world.”

TIPS FOR CAREER SUCCESS

It’s never too early to start planning for your career after graduation. Make an appointment to talk with the University Career Center @ARHU. We’ll work with you to assess your skills, values and interests and use them to find opportunities that meet your goals. Academic and career advisors will help you incorporate internships, living-learning programs, global experiences, research and more into your academic plan. Research shows that having one or more internships increases your ability to land a full-time position after graduation. Learn more at careers.umd.edu.

BE WORLDWISE. GET WORLDREADY. CAREER INITIATIVE

The “Be Worldwise. Get Worldready.” initiative prepares students to adapt and thrive in the workplace and shapes the kind of global citizens they can become. It creatively integrates career development in the ARHU academic experience by offering strategic career preparation and academic advising; engages faculty to develop new and reimagined courses, majors and minors; and provides opportunities to apply scholarship to practice. Students learn to communicate the real-world value of their arts and humanities degree through this initiative.

ABOUT THE COLLEGE OF ARTS & HUMANITIES (ARHU)

ARHU is home to 14 departments and 79 bachelor's degrees, minors and certificate programs, so you can tailor your degree (or double major) across various fields of study, including performing and visual arts, languages, literatures and cultures. With an 8 to 1 student to faculty ratio, ARHU offers you the benefits of a tight-knit community with access to the resources of a large, public research institution near the nation’s capital.