

Frequently Asked Questions

I am not a language major. Does it make sense for me to have a linguistics minor?

Absolutely! Linguistics has applications to a wide variety of fields, and courses from many different majors may be applied to the minor.

I already took Intro to Linguistics (LIN/ENG230). Are all courses in the minor similar to that one?

LIN/ENG230 provides a foundation to the study of linguistics, but other courses in the minor explore many additional areas of this field. Courses in linguistics focus on aspects of language development in children, the history of languages, or the use of language in society and communication, to name a few.

Will my linguistics minor have direct applications to any future career paths?

Yes! Linguists are in demand in a variety of fields, such as translation and interpretation, social services, software development, language teaching, publishing, and law enforcement, among others.

Can I get credit towards the linguistics minor by taking language courses?

No. All courses eligible for the minor are topics courses. While students with knowledge of other languages may find courses in linguistics illuminating, the knowledge of a language other than English does not provide the awareness of linguistic mechanisms that linguistics courses do.

The Linguistics Club

Interested students can attend a Linguistics Club meeting for an informal chat on languages, linguistics, and other relevant topics. The Linguistics Club also organizes field trips, hosts guest presentations, and is present at a variety of events. Students can contact the minor coordinator for more details.

Contact information

For more information, students can go to the linguistics Web site: http://www.wcupa.edu/_academics/sch_cas/ling_stu/

or contact the minor coordinator:

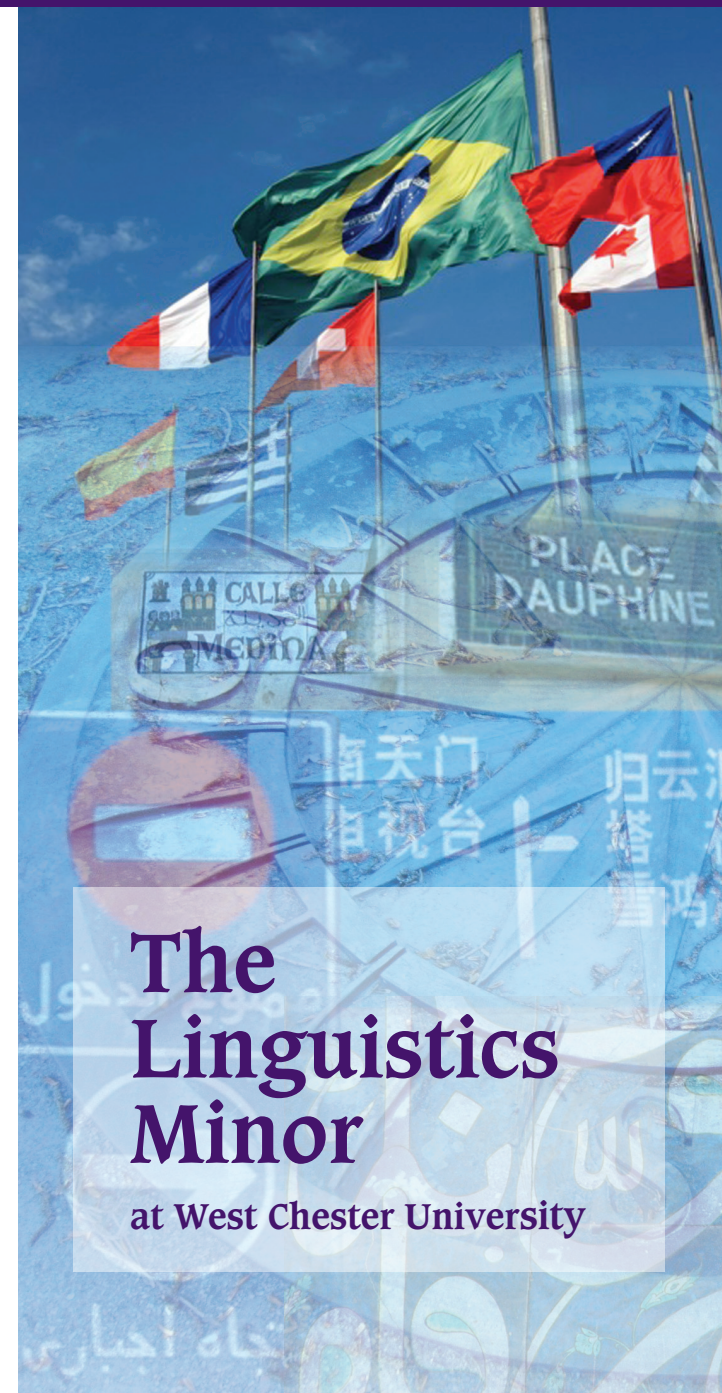
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Linguistics Minor West Chester University



The Study of Linguistics

Linguistics is a large field of study that strives to understand all aspects involved in the use of human language. Linguists examine the structure of languages and try to understand how these are built. They also look at how human beings use language to communicate in different social settings, how languages change over time, how children acquire languages as they grow up, and how languages can be used as effective vehicles for power discourses. The study of language has as many facets as human society, and it constitutes a central part of our world and who we are as human beings.

The Importance of Linguistics Today

In the study of language, linguistics helps people understand their diversity as humans, as well as their shared capacity for communication. Because of this, a background in linguistics is directly relevant to areas like translation, interpretation, social services, speech pathology, teaching, publishing, software design, communication, the media, national defense, and law enforcement, among many others. Linguists are required in some of the fastest-growing fields within these areas.



The Linguistics Minor at WCU

The linguistics minor allows students to develop a concentration in linguistics by completing course work from a variety of academic programs. Eligible courses are currently available in the following programs of study: communicative disorders, computer science, early and middle grades education, English, languages and cultures, and philosophy. The structure of the minor allows students to explore a wide variety of issues and to tailor their program to their own personal interests.



Reasons to Minor in Linguistics

Countless opportunities exist for linguists to apply their knowledge to an increasingly interconnected world. The United States is a widely multilingual country where about 20% of the population speaks a language other than English at home. At the same time, cultural, social, and economic connections between our country and the rest of the world are multiplying the need to understand human interaction at the level of languages. The demand for linguists exists in a variety of careers: interpreters in hospitals or multinational companies, translators for the armed forces, and social workers in multilingual communities or as language teachers, to name a few. By minoring in linguistics, students strengthen their academic background, which allows potential employers in a wide range of professions to give additional consideration to applicants with this background.

Requirements for the Linguistics Minor

In order to minor in linguistics, students must complete 18 credits in 6 courses. Two courses are required for all students: LIN/ENG230 (Introduction to Linguistics) and ENG331 (Structure of Modern English). The remaining course work may be completed with electives (including internships) from the list of eligible courses, available on the linguistics minor Web site. All electives must be pre-approved in consultation with the minor coordinator. Students may also transfer course work in linguistics from other universities, provided that these transfers are officially pre-approved.

Completion of the Minor

Students may be able to apply several of the required courses in their major (either as requirements or electives) to the linguistics minor. Since the courses that are eligible for the minor are also part of their respective majors, students often find that they have already fulfilled a significant part of the course work needed to complete the program even before they declare the minor. The minor coordinator will be able to advise students on how many additional courses they would need to complete a linguistics minor.

