Program Requirements

1. M.A. courses
2. Qualifying Exam
   or M.A. Thesis (terminal degree)
3. Ph.D. courses
4. Preliminary Exam
5. Thesis and Defense

M.A. Courses

M.A. Admission Prerequisite (2 courses)

1. LING 400: Introduction to Linguistic Structure
2. LING 401: Introduction to General Phonetics

M.A. course requirements (40 credit hours)

Required (28 cr.hrs.):

LING 410: Historical Linguistics
LING 501: Syntax, I
LING 502: Phonology, I
LING 541: Syntax, II
LING 542: Phonology, II

Choose one:
LING 425: Intro Psycholing
LING 450: Socioling, I

Choose one:
LING 509: Cognitive Linguistics
LING 507: Semantics, I
LING 551: Pragmatics, I

Electives: 3 courses from one or more areas:
- computational linguistics
- historical linguistics
- phonology/phonetics
- psycho/neurolinguistics
- semantics/pragmatics
- sociolinguistics
- syntax

Promotion to Ph.D. program

By the end of the 5th semester:

- Complete all required coursework for the M.A.
- Meet minimum GPA requirement of 3.5 in Core M.A. courses (not counting electives)
- Submit two qualifying exam research papers (oral defense in 6th semester)

Terminal M.A.

Students who do not continue in the Ph.D. program may earn the M.A. degree by submitting an acceptable M.A. Thesis.

Also required: 4 credit hours of Ling 599 (Thesis Research)

Consult your advisor for advise on research and writing!

Qualifying Exams

- Two papers, in two distinct areas from list of specializations (see QE webpage)
  - Faculty supervisor required for each paper!
  - Papers due at end of 5th semester; Firm Deadline

- Required enrollment in Practicum (LING 504)

- Oral examination on papers in 6th semester; examining committee of 3 faculty members
Ph.D. Courses
64 credit hours of graduate work beyond the
40 credit hours required for the M.A.:

32 credit hours (typically 8 courses) 
plus
32 credit hours of Ling 599 (Thesis Research)

Ph.D. Courses
Required (12 cr.hrs.):
LING 504: Practicum
LING 516: Field Methods

Electives (20 cr.hrs.):
Choose one:
LING 407: Introduction to Mathematical Linguistics [Statistics]: an appropriate course in Social Statistics

Consult list of courses on Ph.D. Program webpage

Foreign Language Requirement
For the M.A.: one language with significant body 
of linguistics literature (may be English for non-native English speakers)

For the Ph.D.: one language that is neither their 
native tongue nor the same language that 
satisfied the foreign language requirement for 
the M.A. degree. This is satisfied by the 
required Field Methods class.

Preliminary Exam
• Candidates must pass the Preliminary Examination consisting of two parts:

  – a written examination

  – an oral examination in which the thesis proposal is reviewed by the committee

Thesis and Defense
• The doctoral thesis is written under the direction of a thesis director (usually the advisor)

• Thesis is defended at the final oral examination

• Defense is conducted by a committee of 4 faculty members, including advisor