February 11, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bonnie Thornton Dill
    Dean, College of Arts and Humanities

FROM: Elizabeth Beise
       Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs

SUBJECT: Proposal to Modify the Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics (PCC log no. 14021)

At its meeting on December 8, 2014, the Senate Committee on Programs, Curricula and Courses approved the proposal to modify the Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics. A copy of the approved proposal is attached.

The change is effective Spring 2015. Please ensure that the change is fully described in the Undergraduate Catalog and in all relevant descriptive materials, including the program’s four-year plan (contact Lisa Kiely at lkiely@umd.edu for more information), and that all advisors are informed.

MDC/
Enclosure

cc: Gregory Miller, Chair, Senate PCC Committee
    Barbara Gill, Office of Student Financial Aid
    Reka Montfort, University Senate
    Erin Taylor, Division of Information Technology
    Pam Phillips, Institutional Research, Planning & Assessment
    Anne Turkos, University Archives
    Linda Yokoi, Office of the Registrar
    Cynthia Stevens, Office of Undergraduate Studies
    Alene Moyer, College of Arts and Humanities
    William Idsardi, Department of Linguistics
College/School: ARHU
Please also add College/School Unit Code-First 8 digits: 01202700
Unit Codes can be found at: https://hvpprod.umd.edu/Html_Reports/units.htm

Department/Program: Linguistics
Please also add Department/Program Unit Code-Last 7 digits: 1272701

Type of Action (choose one):
- [X] Curriculum change (including informal specializations)
- Curriculum change for an LEP Program
- Renaming of program or formal Area of Concentration
- Addition/deletion of formal Area of Concentration
- Suspend/delete program

New academic degree/award program
New Professional Studies award iteration
New Minor
Request to create an online version of an existing program

Italics indicate that the proposed program action must be presented to the full University Senate for consideration.

Summary of Proposed Action:
1. (1) revise the list of course options that counts towards the Linguistics core (without changing the number of requirements)
2. (2) remove a specific required course in each of the tracks (Psyc341 in Cognition track, and the structure/history of language in the Language track) and replace it with an additional upper-level linguistics elective (overall required credits remain the same, and the change removes a roadblock for students)
3. (3) streamline the organization of the major so that the upper-level Ling electives taken as part of both tracks now count as part of the "Ling Core". (No changes to the requirements of the major, just how they are represented in our roadmaps, mainly to make it easier to represent in Degree Navigator and U-achieve.)

Departmental/Unit Contact Person for Proposal: Tonia Bleam

_____________________________ Tonia Bleam _______________ 9/17/14
1. Department Committee Chair

_____________________________ William Tolsardi _______________ 9/17/14
2. Department Chair

_____________________________ Thomas C. Moser _______________ 10/20/14
3. College/School PCC Chair

_____________________________ Alene Moyer _______________ 10/20/14
4. Dean

5. Dean of the Graduate School (if required)

_____________________________ Alene Moyer _______________ 10/20/14
6. Chair, Senate PCC

_____________________________ Elizabeth Beise _______________ 11/19/15
7. University Senate Chair (if required)

_____________________________ Elizabeth Beise _______________ 11/19/15
8. Senior Vice President and Provost
University of Maryland, College Park
Curriculum Change Proposal: Proposed Changes to Undergraduate Degree Program (Linguistics Major)
Linguistics Department
(Revision of Previous Proposal)
(latest revision: 10/30/14)

1 Summary of Proposed Action:

We propose to make the following general changes to the Linguistics major:

(1) revise the list of course options that counts towards the Linguistics core (without changing the number of requirements)

(2) remove a specific required course in each of the tracks and replace it with an additional upper-level linguistics elective (overall required credits remain the same, and the change removes a roadblock for students)

(3) streamline the organization of the major so that the upper-level Ling electives taken as part of both tracks now count as part of the “Linguistics Core”. (No changes to the requirements of the major, just how they are represented in our roadmaps, mainly to make it easier to represent in Degree Navigator and U-achieve.)

2 Table showing proposed changes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current (Old)</th>
<th>Proposed (New)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) As part of “Linguistics core” students are required to take 2 out of a list of 6 courses = LING312 Syntax 2; LING322 Phonology 2; LING410 Grammar &amp; Meaning; LING420 Word Formation; LING330 Historical Ling; HESP403 Phonetics</td>
<td>As part of “Ling core” students are still required to take 2 out of a list of 6 courses but list of choices is modified: LING312 Syntax 2; LING322 Phonology 2; LING410 Grammar &amp; Meaning; =&gt; LING320 Phonetics =&gt; LING440 Grammar &amp; Cognition =&gt; LING444 Child Language Acquisition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) As part of Grammars &amp; Cognition Track,</td>
<td>As part of Grammars &amp; Cognition Track,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• PSYC341 (Intro to Memory &amp; Cognition) is required</td>
<td>• PSYC 341 is no longer required (replaced with Ling3/4XX elective – see below)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• LING350 (Philosophy of Language) is required (but the cross-listed version Phil360 is not listed)</td>
<td>• PHIL360 will count as LING350 (these are the same, cross-listed course; students can register under either number)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) As part of Language Track,</td>
<td>As part of Language Track,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• required 15 credits of a single chosen language courses (but</td>
<td>• required 15 credits of single specified language; 3 of these credits must be</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1
3 Rationale

a) Rationale for changing the Linguistics Core “2 of” choices
Our conception of the “core” linguistics courses is that these are core areas of research in the department and that students can take more than one course in that area to develop a specialization within the major if desired. These areas have changed over the years due to staff changes and the changes we are proposing are meant to reflect these changes.
- We are adding LING440 Grammars & Cognition (Psycholinguistics) and LING444 Child Language Acquisition because these topics represent current research foci in the department.
- We are removing LING330 Historical Linguistics because historical linguistics is no longer a research focus in the department.
- We are removing LING420 Word Formation because this course has not been offered in the department for many years, and we do not foresee it being offered regularly (if at all) in the near future.
- We are removing HESP403 Phonetics and replacing it with our own version of the course: LING320 Phonetics.

All of these courses would still be options for students to take and count towards the major as Upper Level Electives.

b) Rationale for changes to the Cognition track:
The Psychology department has recently added 2 new prerequisites for PSYC341 (PSYC200 & 300 in addition to PSYC100). Because of the additional prerequisites, we think that requiring PSYC341 now places an unreasonable burden on linguistics majors. The proposed change is to add one more upper level Ling course to the
required courses instead of requiring PSYC341. (Students still have the option of taking relevant PSYC courses in the “approved electives” category.)

LING350 Philosophy of Language is cross-listed as PHIL360. However, PHIL360 is not currently listed as fulfilling the requirement. Thus, we would like to add the cross-listed name “PHIL360” to the requirements so that this will automatically count as the same course as LING350. That is, students should be able to register for this course through either number and it should fulfill the requirement for the Philosophy of Language requirement. (Currently, we need to make the exception by hand in each case.)

c) Rationale for changes to language track:
Currently, we require students in the language track to take 15 credits of language courses (in a single language). We would like to make sure that students reach at least an intermediate level in their chosen language, and not allow cases where students would take all 15 credits at the 100-level (as might be possible in Arabic where there are different versions of Arabic taught at the 100-level). We already advise students when we meet with them that we want to see them reach the 200-level in their courses, but we’d like to make this a formal requirement.

In addition to the 15 credits of language courses, we currently require language track linguistics majors to take a course in linguistic theory that focuses on their chosen language. This is the “structure/history of language X” requirement. Generally, such courses are offered in the language department, and instead of just teaching the language itself, the course uses linguistic theory to analyze the language. However, not every language department offers a “structure/history of” course, and, even if they do, it is hard to ensure consistency and relevance of content across different departments/courses. Also, some departments, such as Spanish, require a high level of proficiency in the language and other prerequisites that are beyond the requirements of the Linguistics major itself. Often we end up substituting a LING course for this requirement because it is impossible for the student to take such a course (and still finish the major in a reasonable time). Thus, changing the requirement would reflect current advising practices. We propose that the “structure/history of X” requirement be replaced with the requirement of an additional upper-level LING course of the student’s choosing. We will still allow (and in fact encourage) students to take relevant “structure/history of X” courses, and we will count these courses as part of the 15 credits in the language.

(d) Change (d) in the chart follows from changes (b) and (c). That is, an additional upper-level LING course will replace the course that we are removing from each of the tracks (PSYC341 in the Cognition track, and the “structure/history of language X” requirement in the Language track).

(e) Currently within each track of the major (of which the student chooses one), students must take 2 upper-level Ling electives (although now we are proposing to add one more of these electives to replace a previously required course in each
track – see (d)). Since these requirements overlap in two the tracks, we would like to shift them out of the tracks and instead list them under the "Linguistics core" part of the major. The idea is that we want to shift the visual representation and organization of the major without changing the content of the requirements. This matters mainly for how the major is represented in systems like Degree Navigator and U-Achieve, so that rather than listing these requirements separately and repetitively under each track, we factor them out and list them once under the LING core.

In addition, we would like to formalize a restriction that we already place on the upper-level LING electives through advising: that only one of the upper-level electives can be an independent study. We have opportunities in the department for students to receive course credit by working as a research assistant as part of a lab or to work individually with a professor doing an independent study. We greatly encourage students to take advantage of these opportunities and we see these experiences as highly valuable; however, we also think that the course-work is valuable and we do not want students to replace classroom learning with independent studies. Thus, we would like to limit the number of independent study credits that could count towards these upper-level LING requirements. Students could take additional independent studies above and beyond the requirements of the major (and this happens often already). Students can also count additional independent study courses as part of their Grammars & Cognition track electives.

4 Impact

The proposed actions in (a), (b), and (c)/(d) serve to make the major more flexible, and they implement changes that we currently effect through individual exceptions. They will have little impact on related programs and no impact on general education. These changes will not require new resources or any changes in our course offerings. They simply reflect advising practices that are already in place out of necessity (reactions to changes in the shifting staff and course offerings of the department and to changes in requirements/prerequisites imposed by other departments such as Psychology).

Changes (c) and (d) will (very slightly) ease the burden placed on other departments (psychology and foreign language departments) for providing seats for our students. However, since the number of students involved is at most 20 students per year, and these are spread out across the departments (psychology and foreign languages), and because we will continue to encourage students to take such courses, we think the impact to enrollment in any given course will be minimal.

These changes will also allow us (as advisors) to spend less time monitoring the content of courses in other departments and seeking permissions for our students to attend these courses.
We believe that the resources in our department are already in place to accommodate the change in requirements. We already regularly substitute courses in our department for these requirements, and there are a sufficient number of advanced seminars and lecture courses offered every semester that students can choose from.

The first change in (e), just changing the organization of how the requirements are represented, can be implemented in the new U-Achieve system with a minimum of effort. Otherwise, the change has no impact.

The second change in (e) officially implements a practice that we already follow, and thus, we believe, will have no impact, except to make advising more straightforward and streamlined.

5 Overview of Current Major

Linguistics Core required of all majors: 15
- LING240 Language and Mind 3
- LING311 Syntax I 3
- LING321 Phonology I 3
- Two from: 6
  - LING312 Syntax II
  - LING322 Phonology II
  - LING330 Historical Linguistics
  - LING410 Grammar and Meaning
  - LING420 Morphology
  - HESP403 Intro to Phonetics

Choose one of following tracks: (24)
- Grammars and Cognition Track
  - One from:
    - PHIL170 Introduction to Logic
    - PHIL271 Symbolic Logic I
  - LING350/PHIL360 Philosophy of Language 3
  - PSYC100 Introduction to Psychology 3
  - PSYC341 Intro to Memory & Cognition 3
  - ELECT: two approved electives in LING, PSYC, HESP, PHIL or CMSC 6
  - LING: 2 upper level LING electives 6
  OR

- Language Track (24)
  - LANG: 15 credits of a single chosen language (X) 15
  - LANG: 3 credits structure or history of Language X 3
  - LING: 2 upper level LING electives 6
6 Overview of Proposed Version of Major

Linguistics Core required of all majors: 24
- LING240 Language and Mind 3
- LING311 Syntax I 3
- LING321 Phonology I 3
- Two from:
  - LING312 Syntax II 6
  - LING322 Phonology II
  - LING320 Phonetics
  - LING410 Grammar and Meaning
  - LING440 Grammar and Cognition
  - LING444 Child Language Acquisition
- Three upper-level LING electives (including maximum of 1 independent study/lab course) 9

Choose one of following tracks: (15)
- Grammars and Cognition Track
  - One from:
    - PHIL170 Introduction to Logic 3
    - PHIL271 Symbolic Logic I
  - LING350/PHIL360 Philosophy of Language 3
  - PSYC100 Introduction to Psychology
  - ELECT: two approved electives in LiNG, PSYC, HESP, PHIL or CMSC 6

- Language Track (15)
  LANG: 15 credits of a single chosen language 15
  (3 credits of which must be at or above the 200-level)

TOTAL = 39
Hi Mike,

Yes, that would be great! Thanks so much!

-Tonia

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