This major emphasizes the study of language both as an abstract system and in its psychological and social contexts. It focuses on how the human mind structures, processes, and acquires language as well as how similar communication goals are met by diverse means in the languages of the world. Students develop the ability to analyze and work with formal systems, not unlike those found in mathematics and computer science, while at the same time addressing psychological and social issues, such as language teaching & acquisition and language & culture.

Opportunities for Students

- **Combination Majors:** Students can choose to focus solely on Linguistics for their major, or they can combine Linguistics with East Asian Languages & Cultures, Philosophy, or Psychology as well as double majors with computer science or a language department in order to tailor their studies to their specific professional goals.

- **Language Development Lab:** Students have the opportunity to work with a faculty member conducting research on the ways that children learn to speak.

- **Study Abroad:** The Problems without Passports program offers students the opportunity to travel to Taiwan to gain experience in linguistics field methods, concentrating on the native Formosan languages.

- **Undergraduate Students in Linguistics:** USiL is an undergraduate student organization dedicated to the enrichment of linguistics students’ academic experience.

Notable Courses

- **LING 210: Introduction to Linguistics** — Empirical study of the sounds and structures of human language; syntax and semantics; language change; linguistic universals.

- **LING 380: Languages of the World** — Introduction to the world’s linguistic diversity; number of languages spoken and where; grammatical structure and social function of selected languages.

- **LING 405: Child Language Acquisition** — Universal characteristics of child language; stages of acquisition of phonology, syntax, semantics; processes and dimensions of development; psychological mechanisms; communicative styles.

- **LING 412: Language and Law** — Principles of semantics; analysis of speech acts including informing, promising, threatening, warning; linguistic analysis of consumer contracts and advertisements; readability studies.
Bachelor of Arts (BA) Requirements

Lower Division Requirement*
- LING 210: Introduction to Linguistics

Upper Division Requirements*
- LING 301: Introduction to Phonetics and Phonology
- LING 302: Introduction to Syntax and Semantics

Elective Course Requirements (select four)**
- LING 380: Languages of the World
- LING 401: Advanced Phonology
- LING 402: Advanced Syntax
- LING 403: Advanced Semantics
- LING 405: Child Language Acquisition
- LING 406: Psycholinguistics
- LING 407: Atypical Language
- LING 410: Second Language Acquisition
- LING 412: Language and Law
- LING 415: Phonetics
- LING 422: Language Contact and Language Acquisition
- LING 450: New Horizons in Forensic Speaker Identification
- LING 466: Word and Phrase Origins
- LING 485: Field Methodology

Additional Upper Division Course Requirement*
- One (1) LING course or course from a related field chosen with department advisor

*This information is offered as a partial overview only. For additional information, including all major requirements, please consult the USC Catalogue or http://dornsife.usc.edu/ling. Updated as of August 2015.

**This does not represent all options in this category. For a complete list, please consult the USC Catalogue.