What competencies do linguistics students gain?

**Linguistics**

Program-specific competencies

**Competencies** are the skills, knowledge and attributes gained through every work, educational, volunteer and life experience. UVic students in *Linguistics* develop the following program-specific competencies.

### Phonetics and phonology

*Examines and classifies the inventories of sounds found in human languages*

- Describes how the human vocal tract is used to create sounds
- Describes the physical and acoustic properties of sounds produced by the human vocal tract
- Describes the properties of specific sounds
- Explains how sounds can change in different contexts
- Explains how sounds are used to distinguish meaning
- Describes the limits on the combinations of sounds in words

### Morphology and syntax

*Examines and explains how words are formed and how words are put together to form sentences*

- Identifies the smallest meaningful units of language
- Analyzes the internal structure of words
- Analyzes those properties of words which determine their role in sentences
- Analyzes the relations between different elements of sentences
- Analyzes the meaning conveyed by sentence structure

### Semantics

*Examines how language conveys meaning*

- Analyzes how words and their components convey meaning
- Analyzes how the relations between and among words convey meaning
- Analyses how sentences and their structures convey meaning

### Historical linguistics

*Examines how and why languages change through time*

- Explores the possible origins of language
- Reconstructions languages that are no longer living
Psycholinguistics
Examines how cognition and language are related

• Analyzes how we produce and understand spoken and written language
• Analyzes how children and adults learn language
• Analyzes the pathologies that affect language use

Sociolinguistics
Examines the way language is used by speakers

• Describes the different dialects of languages
• Explores how and why different social contexts, such as gender or class difference, affect language use

Anthropological linguistics
Examines the relation between language and culture

• Analyzes the extent to which language affects our view of the world
• Analyzes the extent to which culture shapes the language we use

Applied linguistics
Examines how linguistics can be used to contribute to the teaching and learning of languages

• Demonstrates understanding of the structures of language
• Demonstrates understanding of the theoretical background of language acquisition
• Demonstrates understanding of the principles of language teaching
• Teaches English to speakers of other languages

UVic Co-op and Career worked with the UVic Linguistics Department to develop this competency document.