

# PROGRAM-SPECIFIC COMPETENCIES - LINGUISTICS

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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.. We worked with the Department of Linguistics to develop this document.

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## 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
- + Analyzes how sentences and their structures convey meaning

## HISTORICAL LINGUISTICS

**Examines how and why languages change through time**

- + Explores the possible origins of language
- + Reconstructs 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