PROGRAM-SPECIFIC COMPETENCIES - LINGUISTICS

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.

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
+ 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