Department of Linguistics & TESOL
Admissions Criteria - Effective Fall 2009

Admission Requirements for Graduate Degree Programs in Linguistics
In evaluating candidates for admissions to its graduate degree programs, the Linguistics & TESOL Faculty has adopted a comprehensive approach that is sensitive to the diversity of backgrounds of its applicants. To this end, the following constellation of quantitative and qualitative factors has been established to make explicit the range of criteria upon which admissions decisions will be based. These factors are then applied to the Admission Metrics established for each degree program. (See further below for admission requirements for the Graduate Certificate in TESOL.)

Admission Factors
Admission decisions into a degree program in the Department of Linguistics & TESOL are made on the basis of two types of factors, quantitative and qualitative. Ph.D. applicants must include an academic writing sample.

1) *Quantitative Factors*
   a) Grade Point Average (GPA)
      i) For M.A. program applicants, undergraduate GPA is determined by the UT Arlington Graduate School.
      ii) For Ph.D. program applicants, GPA is based on all graduate work completed and recorded at the time the applicant submits an application for admission.
   b) Graduate Record Examination (GRE) Scores
      All applicants are required to submit GRE scores. There are no exceptions. The Department of Linguistics & TESOL evaluates each applicant's sub-scores separately: verbal, quantitative, and analytical.
   c) TOEFL Scores (international applications only)
      Applicants for whom English is not their native language and who have not been granted either an undergraduate or graduate degree by an English-medium institution must also present a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score. There are no exceptions.
2) *Qualitative Factors*
   a) Letters of Recommendation
      Each applicant must present three (3) letters of recommendation that unequivocally indicate that the applicant is prepared for and capable of successful graduate study in linguistics or TESOL at UT Arlington. The letters should further indicate that the applicant is capable of completing the appropriate degree program.
   b) Statement of Intent for Academic Study in Our Department
      Each applicant must write a statement that explains their plan of study and specialization in our department. The statement will be evaluated on the degree to which it is clear, reasonable, and consistent with the research and teaching agenda of the current faculty in Linguistics & TESOL at UT Arlington. Prospective applicants should consider the departmental website and faculty research and teaching areas as they evaluate whether they would be able to accomplish their plan of study in our department, especially if they are applying to the doctoral program. The statement should also convey a level of commitment and maturity commensurate with the applicant's desired degree goals.
   c) Undergraduate Preparation
      Applicants to the M.A. in TESOL program must have passed the following three courses or reasonable equivalents as determined by the graduate advisor (UT Arlington equivalents are noted in parentheses):
      i) English composition (ENGL 1302);

ii)   a course on English-language literature (ENGL 2319, ENGL 2329);

iii)   the equivalent of a fourth-semester course in a foreign language (SPAN 2314, FREN 2314, etc.). Students whose undergraduate education was delivered in a language other than English are exempt from this requirement.

Applicants to the M.A. in Linguistics or Ph.D. in Linguistics programs must have passed the following three courses or reasonable equivalents as determined by the graduate advisor (UT Arlington equivalents are noted in parentheses):

i)   English composition (ENGL 1302);

ii)   college-level mathematics (MATH 1302);

iii)   a laboratory science (any 1000-level course in BIOL, CHEM, GEOL or PHYS; LING 5322 may also be used to fulfill this requirement);

d)   Previous Graduate Work (Ph.D. Applicants only)

Ph.D. applicants must present at least 30 semester credit hours of previous graduate-level coursework in any field (not necessarily linguistics). Ph.D. applicants who present fewer than 30 semester credit hours will automatically be considered as applicants to the M.A. Linguistics program and will be afforded the opportunity to request entry into the doctoral program once the minimum number of hours have been attained.

e)   Writing Sample (required for PhD applicants, optional for other programs)

Applicants must submit an academic writing sample (research paper) of 20 pages or less. The paper must be in an area of language or linguistic study, and demonstrate a strong prose style, a solid handle on argumentation, and the ability to do academic research in linguistics or a closely related field.

Admission Metrics

In formulating a recommendation for admission, the graduate advisors will apply the following admission metrics to each applicant's admission dossier.

1)   *M.A. in TESOL*

a)   Unconditional Admission

Applicants for the M.A. in TESOL will be eligible for unconditional admission if they meet either of the following two sets of criteria:

i)   The applicant presents an undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0, a GRE Verbal score of at least 550 (156 on the 2011 or later version), a GRE Quantitative score of at least 450 (141 on the 2011 or later version), a GRE Analytical score of at least 4.5, and a full set of Qualitative Factors. In addition, applicants for whom English in not their native language and who have not been granted an undergraduate degree by an English-medium institution must also present a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of at least 100 iBt, or 250 if computer based, or 600 if paper based, or IELTS equivalent score.

ii)   The applicant presents an undergraduate GPA of at least 3.5, a GRE Verbal score of at least 500 (153 on the 2011 or later version), a GRE Quantitative score of at least 400 (140 on the 2011 or later version), a GRE Analytical score of at least 4.0, and a full set of Qualitative Factors. In addition, applicants for whom English in not their native language and who have not been granted an undergraduate degree by an English-medium institution must also present a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of at least 100 iBt, or 250 if computer based, or 600 if paper based, or IELTS equivalent score.

b)   Probationary Admission

Applicants for the M.A. in TESOL who present a complete application that:

i)   includes a GRE Verbal score of less than 500 (153); or

ii)   includes a GRE Quantitative score of less than 400 (140); or

iii)   includes a GRE Analytical score of less than 4.0; or

iv)   lacks the undergraduate preparation specified above

but who otherwise meet a majority of the remaining admission criteria (including an undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0), will be eligible for probationary admission. Students on probation must:
- complete any undergraduate courses necessary for unconditional admission during their first two semesters of study; and
- achieve a GPA of at least 3.3 in the first 9 graduate-level credit hours as an M.A. TESOL student.

2) *M.A. in Linguistics*
   a)   Unconditional Admission
      Applicants for the M.A. in Linguistics will be eligible for unconditional admission if they meet either of the following sets of criteria:
      i)   The applicant presents an undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0, a GRE Verbal score of at least 450 (150 on the 2011 or later version), a GRE Quantitative score of at least 550 (146 on the 2011 or later system), a GRE Analytical score of at least 4.5, and a full set of acceptable Qualitative Factors. In addition, applicants for whom English in not their native language and who have not been granted an undergraduate degree by an English-medium institution must also present a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of at least 100 iBt, or 250 if computer based, or 600 if paper based.
      ii)   The applicant presents an undergraduate GPA of at least 3.5, a GRE Verbal score of at least 400 (146 on the 2011 or later version), a GRE Quantitative score of at least 500 (144 on the 201a or later system), a GRE Analytical score of at least 4.0, and a full set of acceptable Qualitative Factors. In addition, applicants for whom English in not their native language and who have not been granted an undergraduate degree by an English-medium institution must also present a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of at least 100 iBt, or 250 if computer based, or 600 if paper based.
   b)   Probationary Admission
      Applicants for the M.A. in Linguistics who present a complete application that:
      i)   includes a GRE Verbal score of less than 400 (146); or
      ii)   includes a GRE Quantitative score of less than 500 (144); or
      iii)   includes a GRE Analytical score of less than 4.0; or
      iv)   lacks the undergraduate preparation specified above
      but who otherwise meet a majority of the remaining admission criteria (including an undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0), will be eligible for probationary admission. Students on probation must:
- complete any undergraduate courses necessary for unconditional admission during their first two semesters of study; and
- achieve a GPA of at least 3.3 in the first 9 graduate-level credit hours as an M.A. Linguistics student.

3) *Ph.D. in Linguistics*
   a)   Unconditional Admission
      Applicants for the Ph.D. in Linguistics will be eligible for unconditional admission if they meet either of the following sets of criteria:
      i)   The applicant presents a graduate GPA of at least 3.3, a GRE Verbal score of at least 500 (153 on the 2011 or later version), a GRE Quantitative score of at least 600 (148 on the 2011 or later version), a GRE Analytical score of at least 4.5, and a full set of excellent Qualitative Factors. In addition, applicants for whom English in not their native language and who have not been granted an undergraduate degree by an English-medium institution must also present a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of at least 100 iBt, or 250 if computer based, or 600 if paper based, and must also

submit a score from the speaking section of the TOEFL or the speaking section of the IELTS.

    ii)   The applicant presents an undergraduate GPA of at least 3.6, a GRE Verbal score of at least 450 (150 on the 2011 or later version), a GRE Quantitative score of at least 550 (146 on the 2011 or later version), a GRE Analytical score of at least 4.0, and a full set of excellent Qualitative Factors. In addition, applicants for whom English in not their native language and who have not been granted an undergraduate degree by an English-medium institution must also present a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of at least 100 iBt, or 250 if computer based, or 600 if paper based, and must also submit a score from the speaking section of the TOEFL or the speaking section of the IELTS.

b)   Probationary Admission
Applicants for the Ph.D. in Linguistics who present a complete application that:
    i)   includes a GRE Verbal score of less than 450 (150); or
    ii)   includes a GRE Quantitative score of less than 550 (146); or
    iii)   includes a GRE Analytical score of less than 4.0; or
    iv)   lacks the undergraduate preparation specified above
but who otherwise meet a majority of the remaining admission criteria (including a graduate GPA of at least 3.3 and for doctoral admissions, presents strong qualitative materials), will be considered for probationary admission. Students on probation must:
- complete any undergraduate courses necessary for unconditional admission during their first two semesters of study; and
- achieve a GPA of at least 3.3 in the first 9 graduate-credit hours (in LING courses) as a Ph.D. Linguistics student.

For those applicants whose credentials do not meet the conditions for unconditional or probationary admission as outlined above, the graduate advisor will recommend one of the following:

c)   Deferred Admission
Applicants for whom the admission file is incomplete will have a final decision about their admission deferred. In such cases, a final decision will be made only when the applicant presents a complete admission file.

d)   Denial of Admission
Applicants who do not meet a majority of the admission standards (both quantitative and qualitative) set forth above will be denied admission. For doctoral admission in particular, qualitative factors such as writing sample, statement of intent, or area of intended work may result in a student being denied admission even when quantitative factors are met.

e)   Regarding Provisional Admission
The Department of Linguistics and TESOL does not permit Provisional Admission. All applicants must present a complete set of credentials before their application will be evaluated.

Special Admissions Requirements for the Graduate Certificate in TESOL
Students wishing to apply to the UT Arlington Graduate School solely for the purpose of earning the Graduate Certificate in TESOL must have earned an undergraduate degree at an accredited institution and present an undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0 (as determined by the UT Arlington Graduate School). Applicants for whom English is not their native language and who have not been granted an undergraduate degree by an English-medium institution must also present a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of at least 100 iBt, or 250 if computer based, or 600 if paper based.

Students seeking to transfer from Graduate Certificate Student status into a graduate degree program at UT Arlington must re-apply to the UT Arlington Graduate School as degree-seeking students and meet all

published admissions requirements, including those pertaining to standardized tests. No student will be "automatically" or "exceptionally" moved from Graduate Certificate Student status into any graduate degree program.

The Web site for the UT Arlington Office of Research and Graduate Studies provides additional information about graduate study at UT Arlington and about the admission process, including general testing requirements and other paperwork. Students may apply for admission online or request application materials be sent via post.

All Ph.D. students must demonstrate knowledge of core areas in linguistics by passing a diagnostic examination by the end of the first year of enrollment in the doctoral program. In addition, there are foreign language and professional activities requirements that must be met. Visit ling.uta.edu for details.