

## **Procedures for earning honors in Linguistics**

As described in the Catalog, a student can earn honors in linguistics by combining an excellent GPA with an honors thesis. Here, we provide a more detailed description of how the process works.

### **Entry to the Linguistics Department Honors Program**

At the end of the junior year, if a student has a grade point average (GPA) of 3.75 or better in linguistics courses and at least 3.50 overall, the student is eligible to enter the Honors Program. In consultation with the undergraduate advisor, the student may approach a tenure-line linguistics faculty member to request that the faculty member serve as the Thesis Advisor. Should a second Thesis Advisor be relevant to the research topic and willing to serve, the first Thesis Advisor and the student may agree to invite a second Thesis Advisor; this second advisor need not be a tenure-line faculty member, nor even a member of the Department of Linguistics. When the student and the Thesis Advisor(s) agree to work together, they fill out an Honors Program Form and turn it in to the Linguistics Office, where it will be placed in the student's file. At this point, the student has entered the Honors Program.

Some Linguistics majors belong to the Society of College Scholars, which expects members to participate in a departmental honors program. We encourage members of the Society of College Scholars to participate in our Honors Program. However, membership in the Society of College Scholars does not guarantee acceptance to participate in the Linguistics Department Honors Program; members of the Society of College Scholars must seek admission by the same criteria as all other Linguistics students.

Some Linguistics majors are required to write a thesis as a part of their program in the Robert D. Clark Honors College; this is separate from the Linguistics Department Honors Program, and completion of the Honors College thesis does not qualify a student for departmental honors in Linguistics. Honors College students are also welcome to participate in the Linguistics Department Honors Program, but must seek admission by the same criteria and complete the same requirements as all other Linguistics honors students, with a Senior Thesis that is substantially different from their Honors College thesis.

Some Linguistics majors participate in the McNair Scholars Program, through which they conduct a summer research project with mentorship of UO faculty, write up the research in the form of a paper that is ideally intended for publication, and make a presentation at the McNair Symposium. A McNair research project is also separate from the Linguistics Department Honors Program, and does not qualify a student for departmental honors in Linguistics. McNair Scholars are also welcome to participate in the Linguistics Department Honors Program, but must seek admission by the same criteria and complete the same requirements as all other Linguistics honors students, with a Senior Thesis that may build on, but is substantially different from, their McNair Scholars project.

Since the decision to serve as a Thesis Advisor is a serious commitment, individual faculty members may limit their participation in the Honors Program (e.g., to only one student at a time, or only when they have experience with the student's work/research ethic). As such, there is no guarantee that every student with a sufficient GPA will be able to enter the Honors Program, as one can only enter the Linguistics Department Honors Program after securing a commitment from at least one Thesis Advisor.

### **During the Honors Program**

The Honors Program requires at least two terms of active work to complete, and it often takes the entire senior year. Students must sign up for at least 6 credits of Thesis (LING 403), taken pass/no pass; generally, we expect students to sign up for 3 credits of LING 403 during any term when actively engaged in thesis work with the Thesis Advisor(s), but other arrangements can be negotiated with the Thesis Advisor(s). The following steps are standard:

- The student and Thesis Advisor(s) meet to decide the topic of the Senior Thesis. Once they agree on the topic, they plan a time line for any research that is necessary in order to successfully complete the Thesis.

- Before any research begins, the Thesis Advisor(s) may require a prospectus that describes the research question, methods, etc. If necessary, the Thesis Advisor(s) will assist the student in securing the approval of the Institutional Review Board for research involving human subjects. If the thesis is to be an expansion of a prior term paper, then the prospectus may be an addendum to that term paper. The Thesis Advisor(s) may note date of approval of the Prospectus on the student's Honors Program Form.
- The student conducts the agreed-upon research, including literature review, in consultation with the Thesis Advisor(s).
- Prior to beginning to write the actual Senior Thesis, the Thesis Advisor(s) may require the student to submit a Thesis Proposal, which includes an expected outline of the Senior Thesis, developing the major findings in some detail. Upon acceptance of this proposal, the student may begin writing the actual thesis, and the Thesis Advisor(s) may note date of approval of the Thesis Proposal on the student's Honors Program Form.
- A completed first draft of the Senior Thesis must be provided to the Thesis Advisor(s) at least one month prior to the last day of the term in which the student intends to graduate. This will allow time for the Thesis Advisor(s) to read and provide comments on the work, and for the student to complete substantive revisions to the work prior to the final deadline.
- The Thesis Advisor(s) and the student should negotiate a mutually satisfactory deadline for turning in the final draft of the Senior Thesis. The latest possible deadline is the last day of Finals week of the term in which the student graduates.
- The thesis must be turned in both on paper and electronically, as a pdf file suitable for posting on the Linguistics Department website.

### **Successfully completing the Honors Program**

The Honors program is successfully completed when, at the time of graduation:

- the student has a Linguistics Department GPA of at least 3.75, and
- the successful completion of the Senior Thesis is attested on the Honors Program Form by the signature(s) of the Thesis Advisor(s).

Note to Thesis Advisor(s): the absolute final deadline for providing the signature(s) on the form is the Friday following finals week of the term of graduation.