



Linguist

Studying how languages work prepares you to work in the computer industry on speech recognition, speech synthesis, artificial intelligence, natural language processing, or computer-mediated language learning. You can develop a good background for TESOL credentials, research language acquisition, and preserve endangered languages, among many other possible careers.

Suggested Faculty Contacts:

Dr. Julie Bruch
Dr. Jason Reddoch
Dr. Tyler Anderson

Career Path

Recommended Emphasis:

- ✓ Literature or writing work equally well.

Recommended Specialized Courses:

- ✓ English 343: Language Systems and Linguistic Diversity
- ✓ English 451: Understanding and Using English Grammar
- ✓ English 440: History of English
- ✓ Introductory Latin 1 and 2

Employment Areas:

- TESOL Certification to teach English to non-native speakers in the U.S. or in countries around the world
- Peace Corps assignments around the world
- Native Language Preservation initiatives
- Lexicography, dictionary-writing
- Dialect coach for actors or business people
- The computer industry requires expertise in speech recognition, speech synthesis, artificial intelligence, natural language processing, or computer-mediated language learning.
- Linguists also work to document, analyze, and help preserve endangered languages by conducting fieldwork and establishing literacy programs.
- See long list here: <https://www.linguisticsociety.org/content/why-major-linguistics>

- ✓ Introductory Greek I and 2
- ✓ Foreign Languages

Apply What You Learn:

- ✓ Volunteer to help non-native speakers of English learn to speak and write at the Mesa County Libraries, Mesa County Workforce, or Mesa County Public Schools.
- ✓ Volunteer to teach in Adult Literacy programs at the Mesa County Libraries.
- ✓ Work in the CMU library.
- ✓ Be an online, English-speaking “penpal” and mentor to a non-native English speaker living in another country.
- ✓ Work in the CMU Office of Educational Access to help students with communication disabilities.
- ✓ Work in the CMU Tutorial Learning Center to help students write reports and papers.
- ✓ Work with the Theater Department to help research dialects and accents needed in performances of plays on campus.

Useful Resources:

<https://www.linguisticsociety.org>

<http://www.aaal.org>

<http://clas.ucdenver.edu/lasso/>

Develop Your Expertise. Consider graduate and certificate programs by searching this site:

<https://www.linguisticsociety.org/programs>

Observations and Advice:

As the Linguistic Society explains, “Students who major in linguistics acquire valuable intellectual skills, such as analytical reasoning, critical thinking, argumentation, and clarity of expression. This means making insightful observations, formulating clear, testable hypotheses, generating predictions, making arguments and drawing conclusions, and communicating findings to a wider community.”