

Linguistics Curriculum Change Student FAQ

Who must use the new curriculum requirements?

If your first term of enrollment at UCSD will be FA26 or later you must use the new curriculum requirements. If you enrolled at UCSD prior to FA26 but have not started a linguistics degree until FA26, you are strongly encouraged to also use the new requirements.

Who must use the old curriculum requirements?

If you are graduating before FA26 you must continue to use the old curriculum requirements.

Who can choose either curriculum?

If you enrolled at UCSD prior to FA26 but do not complete your graduation requirements before FA26, you can choose to use either set of curriculum requirements for your degree.

If I can choose either curriculum, which one should I pick?

There's no one-size-fits-all answer, and your individual situation will need to be taken into consideration in selecting a curricular plan. You should consult with the Linguistics Department's Undergraduate Advisors (using the VAC or linginfo-g@ucsd.edu) to select the plan that will work best for your situation.

What is the difference between LIGN 1, LIGN 102, and LIGN 103 and how are these different from LIGN 101?

LIGN 1: Introduction to Language is a general purpose introduction to the field of linguistics and the scientific study of language. It is designed for people from any major, to help them discover the field and learn more about language. Because it is a lower division class, it cannot be used to satisfy any upper division requirements for a major or minor. You don't have to take LIGN 1 if you want to major or minor in linguistics, but if you're trying to decide whether linguistics is a field you might be interested in, it's a good place to start!

LIGN 102: Linguistic Analysis: Phonetics, Phonology, and Morphology and *LIGN 103: Linguistic Analysis: Syntax, Semantics, and Pragmatics* are two classes designed to help you learn how to

scientifically analyze language data. They are required for all linguistics majors and minors under the new curriculum requirements. These courses cover different subfields of linguistics, so they can be taken in either order or even at the same time. LIGN 102 focuses on how speech sounds and gestures are produced and perceived, how they combine and change, and how they form larger units like morphemes and words. LIGN 103 focuses on how words combine into sentences and how the meaning of sentences is built up from individual words and context. If you already know you want to major or minor in linguistics, you can jump right into these classes with no prior coursework in linguistics. If you took LIGN 1 already and you're interested in going deeper into linguistics, these classes are a good next step!

LIGN 101: Introduction to the Study of Language is being retired in Summer 2026. This means it will no longer be offered at UCSD. It combined some elements of LIGN 1, LIGN 102, and LIGN 103, but each of these new courses also contains new elements that were not part of LIGN 101 (and in fact, the ability to do a more thorough introduction to linguistics than a single quarter allows is part of what motivated the new curriculum). This means that LIGN 101 cannot count in place of any of these three new courses. Similarly, no single course out of the three new ones can be substituted for LIGN 101. Since LIGN 101 is required for all linguistics majors and minors under the old curriculum requirements, you must take it before Fall 2026 if you plan to use the old curriculum requirements to graduate. If you've taken LIGN 101, you are welcome to take LIGN 102 and 103 as a gateway to the new curriculum, or as upper division Linguistics electives in the old curriculum.

Why are the curriculum requirements changing?

The field of linguistics is a young discipline that is growing and changing very quickly. The new curriculum is designed to allow you to explore more parts of the field as you complete your degree so that you walk away with a broader view of what questions linguistics can help to address and what career pathways you might pursue with your degree. The new curriculum also is designed to give you more flexibility in tailoring your degree to your interests and in switching between different linguistics degrees at UCSD if you decide partway through your time that you would like to shift your focus.

What if these curricular changes cause a problem with my degree plans?

Although we've tried to give enough flexibility for this to work for everybody, inevitably, every significant adjustment to the curriculum causes some bumps for some students. In the event that this change causes a problem, question, or ambiguity for you, reach out to the Linguistics Department's Undergraduate Advisors (using the VAC or linginfo-g@ucsd.edu) who can help you to find the best approach, or, if needed, help you to make a petition to the department to address your particular situation.