

Graduate Program in Linguistics
Ph.D. Degree Learning Goals and Assessment
Approved November 18, 2011

The goal of the PhD degree in Linguistics at Rutgers University is to train students at an advanced level in the scientific study of the human language faculty, so that they can assume positions of leadership in research and teaching in this area.

Learning Goal 1 for Students: Attain marked ability, scholarship, and research skills in the area of linguistics

Assessment of student achievement of Goal 1:

- Grades in graduate courses
- Two qualifying papers, assessing depth and breadth of knowledge in two different subareas of the field
- Review by faculty of student progress with close advising and mentoring
- Placement in positions and careers that require ability and scholarship in linguistics.

Role of the program in helping students to achieve Goal 1:

- Close advising to assure that students are being prepared in a coherent and academically rigorous fashion.
- Effective monitoring of student progress, including interviews with the GPD once per semester and semesterly meetings of the faculty to discuss the progress of individual students.
- Evaluations of teaching effectiveness of instructors in graduate courses
 - If effectiveness is below expectations, work with instructors to improve effectiveness
- Periodic review of curricular offerings, program structure, and assessment tools
 - By program faculty
 - In consultation with the office of the dean of the graduate school and/or the unit dean

Learning Goal 2 for Students: Engage in and conduct original research

Assessment of graduate student achievement of Goal 2:

- Preparation of and defense of a Ph.D. dissertation proposal
- Assessment of quality of Ph.D. dissertation:
 - Public defense of dissertation
 - Critical reading of dissertation by committee of graduate faculty members and a committee member from outside of the linguistics program.
- Submission and acceptance of peer-reviewed articles and conference papers based on qualifying projects and the dissertation research.
- Achievement of students as evidenced by professional placements, publications, and individual grant attainment.

Role of the graduate program in helping students achieve Goal 2:

- Provide early introduction to research methods and opportunities for research by way of coursework, mentoring of qualifying projects, reading groups, and research/lab meetings.
- Offer effective mentorship at each stage of the research process.
- Provide opportunities to present research to the larger linguistics community and receive feedback.
- Assist students in finding adequate funding support throughout their graduate program
- Provide comprehensive advising, assist in the identification of mentors, and help set intermediate goals toward the completion of larger scale projects.

Learning Goal 3 for Students: Prepare to be professionals in linguistics and related areas

Assessment of graduate student achievement of Goal 3:

- Review evidence of papers presented, publications, and professional networking.
- Provide graduate students with opportunities to teach linguistics in the class room, and do evaluations of their teaching effectiveness.
- Collect placement data

Role of the program in helping students achieve Goal 3:

- Provide training and mentoring for new graduate teachers by having them work with an experienced faculty teacher, and by partnering with the Teaching Assistant Project and/or Carnegie Academy for Scholarship on Teaching and Learning programs.
- Encourage enrollment in Introduction to College Teaching I and II.
- Provide in-house professional development instruction in such areas as human subjects research, research ethics, library use, course management software, interview skills, presentation skills, development of CVs, use of research tools, and proposal writing, and encourage participation in similar programs offered by the graduate school.
- Offer personalized feedback on students' cvs, research statements, grant proposals, and abstracts.
- Encourage interdisciplinary learning and research, through participation in the Rutgers Center for Cognitive Science and related departments.
- Provide certificate training that will help prepare students for positions doing linguistics in departments outside of linguistics proper, such as cognitive science, English, or foreign language departments.
- Acquaint students with non-academic career opportunities.

The leadership of the Linguistics graduate program will regularly review the structure and content of the program and any feedback received from assessments and surveys. These reviews will be used to provide the best possible education to students in order to meet their needs as they pursue the study of human language.