Master of Arts

Linguistics

Benedictine University
“THE JOB OF THE
LINGUIST, LIKE THAT OF
THE BIOLOGIST OR THE
BOTANIST, IS NOT TO TELL
US HOW NATURE SHOULD
BEHAVE, OR WHAT ITS
CREATIONS SHOULD LOOK
LIKE, BUT TO DESCRIBE
THOSE CREATIONS IN
ALL THEIR MESSY GLORY
AND TRY TO FIGURE OUT
WHAT THEY CAN TEACH US
ABOUT LIFE, THE WORLD
AND, ESPECIALLY IN THE
CASE OF LINGUISTICS, THE
WORKINGS OF THE HUMAN
MIND.” - ARIKA OKRENT

Master of Arts (M.A.) in Linguistics

WHAT IS THE M.A.
IN LINGUISTICS?

Linguistics, the scientific study
of language, is a highly diverse
field with many specializations of
relevance to today’s increasingly
globalized educational and
business environments. The M.A. in
Linguistics at Benedictine University
focuses on the study of linguistics
applied to Teaching English to
Speakers of Other Languages
(TESOL) or to literature.

WHAT IS UNIQUE ABOUT
BENEDICTINE UNIVERSITY?

Benedictine University is a private
institution in Lisle, a western suburb
of Chicago, a hub for cultural
and linguistic diversity as well as
information technology. We are
internationally focused, partnering
with institutions in China and
Vietnam for more than a decade
and hosting graduate students from
Europe, the Middle East, Africa,
and Central and South America.
Graduate classes are intentionally
kept small and highly interactive.
Courses may be offered in face-to-
face, online or hybrid formats.

HOW LONG IS THE PROGRAM?

The program requires 32 semester
credit hours of completed
coursework including a thesis.
Students may undertake the
program full time or part time. The
program is based on traditional
15-week semesters.

CONCENTRATIONS

Students may choose between the
TESOL and the Literary Studies
concentrations. The foundation
course, “Introduction to Linguistics,”
is common to both concentrations.
In either case, there are required
courses and electives.

WHO ARE OUR FACULTY
AND STUDENTS?

Our teaching faculty members have
doctoral degrees in linguistics,
literature or TESOL. They are
internationally experienced and
highly attuned to the needs of a
diverse student population. Our
students come from a range of
backgrounds and participate in
global and cultural studies as well
as scholarly exchange programs.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN IN OUR
M.A. PROGRAM?

The M.A. in Linguistics program
enables students to develop a
deeper understanding of the nature
of human language and a deeper
appreciation of how language is
used to communicate different
concepts in a variety of social,
cultural and professional contexts.
The program provides a thorough
grounding in the basics of linguistics
as a discipline as well as skills in the
application of linguistic theory to
the analysis of literary texts or the
教学 of English as a second or
foreign language. M.A. in Linguistics
students may also pursue part of
their studies in languages such as
Mandarin, Arabic or Spanish.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

The requirements include a
one-page essay discussing your
education and career goals, as well
as an interview with departmental
representatives. Two letters
of recommendation are also
required: one that addresses your
academic potential, and one that
addresses your interpersonal skills
and work ethic. The Graduate
Record Examination (GRE) is not
required. For a full list of application
requirements, please
visit ben.edu/GradApply.
M.A. in Linguistics with TESOL Concentration

PROGRAM GOALS
With globalization, the field of English language teaching continues to grow. The M.A. in Linguistics with TESOL concentration opens doors to teaching opportunities worldwide. Students are prepared to teach English as a second or foreign language in the United States or abroad.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?
This program is suitable for applicants with previous teaching experience who now wish to specialize in TESOL in the United States or abroad. Benedictine University welcomes diversity, and international students are strongly encouraged to apply. We offer specialized preparatory or concurrent English for Academic Purposes courses for students whose first language is not English and who require additional English language support.

PLEASE NOTE: At this time, the M.A. in Linguistics with TESOL concentration does not satisfy State of Illinois requirements for P-12 ESL certification. Also, this program does not offer a practicum, so it is not suitable for students who have no teaching experience. However, it is suitable for anyone with teaching experience who wishes to teach in the higher education sector or abroad.

PROGRAM OF STUDY
REQUared CO upheld
• LING 501 Introduction to Linguistics
• LING 502 Second Language Acquisition
• LING 503 Materials and Methods for Teaching ESL
• LING 504 Assessment of ESL and Bilingual Students
• LING 599 Thesis

ELECTIVES (CHOOSE 3)
• LING 505 Sociocultural Studies in ESL
• LING 506 World Englishes
• LING 507 Modern English
• LING 508 Style
• LING 520 Research Methods: TESOL
• LING 521 TESOL and the Adult Learner
• LING 522 Issues in Second Language Writing
• LING 523 English for Specific Purposes

Note: Every required course/elective totals 4 semester credit hours and may consist of a 3-semester-credit-hour course plus a mandatory 1-semester-credit-hour lab.

Curriculum example:

Fall:
Introduction to Linguistics
Second Language Acquisition
Sociocultural Studies in ESL

Spring:
Materials and Methods for Teaching ESL
Assessment of ESL and Bilingual Students
Research Methods: TESOL

Summer:
Issues in Second Language Writing
Thesis
M.A. in Linguistics with Literary Studies Concentration

PROGRAM GOALS
The Literary Studies concentration of the M.A. in Linguistics program allows students to pursue advanced coursework and research with special focus on the application of linguistics to literature, either in English or in translation, and global cultural studies. Students will gain a nuanced understanding of the nature of language in literary and related contexts through a specialized study of either critical/global literary theory, stylistics, or literature in a language other than English.

PROGRAM OF STUDY
REQUIRED COURSES
•   LING 501 Introduction to Linguistics
•   LING 507 Modern English
•   LING 509 Literatures and Issues in Translation
•   LING 530 Research Methods: Context Studies
•   LING 599 Master's Thesis

PLUS ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CHOICES:
•   LING 508 Style
•   LING 535 Critical Theory/Global Literary Theory
•   LING 537 Advanced Literary Studies in a Language Other than English

ELECTIVES (CHOOSE 2)
•   LING 502 Second Language Acquisition
•   LING 505 Sociocultural Studies in ESL
•   LING 522 Issues in Second Language Writing
•   LING 523 English for Specific Purposes

WHO SHOULD APPLY?
The program will be of particular interest to those who work in intercultural or multilingual contexts, such as teachers or military personnel. Benedictine University welcomes U.S. and international students of diverse backgrounds. Specialized preparatory or concurrent English for Academic Purposes courses are available for those whose first language is not English, and who need additional support with academic language.

Note: Every required course/elective totals 4 semester credit hours and may consist of a 3-semester-credit-hour course plus a mandatory 1-semester-credit-hour lab.

Curriculum example:

Fall:
Introduction to Linguistics
Modern English
Sociocultural Studies in ESL

Spring:
Literatures and Issues in Translation
Research Methods: Context Studies
Critical Theory/Global Literary Theory

Summer:
Issues in Second Language Writing
Thesis

Faculty

M.A. in Linguistics (Literary Studies)
Rafael Iglesias, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Languages and Literature
(630) 829-6268
riglesias@ben.edu

M.A. in Linguistics (TESOL)
Sandra Gollin Kies, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Department of Languages and Literature
(630) 829-6279
skies@ben.edu

Olga Lambert, Ed.D.
Associate Professor, Department of Languages and Literature
(630) 829-6291
olambert@ben.edu

Benedictine University is located in Lisle, Illinois, just 25 miles west of Chicago, and has branch campuses in Springfield, Illinois, and Mesa, Arizona. Founded as a Catholic university in 1887, Benedictine enrolls 10,058 students in 56 undergraduate and 20 graduate programs.

The Annual Security Report and Annual Fire Safety Report are available at ben.edu/police.

For more information, call the Enrollment Center at (630) 829-6300, email admissions@ben.edu or visit ben.edu.

Benedictine University • 5700 College Rd. • Lisle, IL 60532

Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. 2015-2016