

PATHWAYS MINORS

LANGUAGE SCIENCES

What is it?

Language is arguably the distinguishing feature of humans. Linguistics is the scientific study of natural language, and the term “language sciences” encapsulates more broadly how this empirical approach to understanding language structure and usage is implemented in a variety of disciplines. Students who finish this minor will not only **understand the fundamental pieces and social significance of language**, but they will also learn how to conduct and evaluate different types of research.



Why do it?

Language is connected to any field which involves human interactions. It is equally crucial to developing engineering solutions and cognitive models of behavior, as it is to understanding power structures and describing stylistic repertoires. The minor should therefore complement any degree, and the built-in flexibility allows students to **build a minor that connects language directly to their primary major(s)**.

Who is it for?

This minor has **special relevance for many majors**, such as pre-education, pre-law, foreign languages, computer science (with an interest in Natural Language Processing), psychology majors, human development , industrial systems engineering (auditory interfaces), electrical engineering (speech synthesis), sociology majors (language and power), and neuroscience majors.

Pathways Core Concepts*

- 1a - Advanced/Applied Discourse
- 2 - Critical Thinking in the Humanities
- 3 - Reasoning in the Social Sciences
- 5 - Quantitative and Computational Thinking

Pathways Integrative Concepts

Ethical Reasoning
Intercultural and Global Awareness

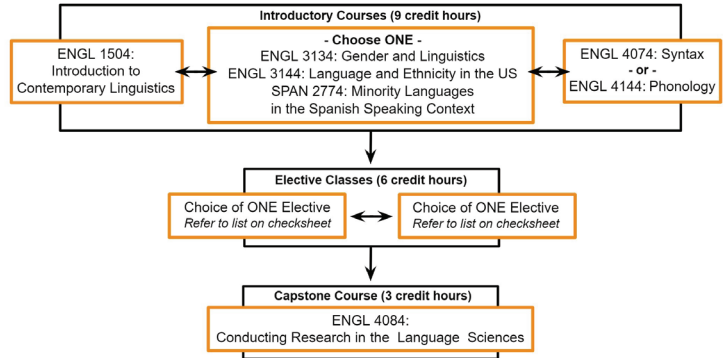
*At least three of these core concepts will be completed, but concepts will vary depending on elective choices.

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Requirements

The 18-credit hour Minor in Language Sciences includes 9 hours of core courses and 6 hours of elective courses selected from a list, as well as a 3-hour language sciences capstone course.



Required courses

ENGL 1504: Introduction to Contemporary Linguistics

ENGL 4084: Conducting Research in the Language Sciences

Elective courses

Students select 6 credit hours of elective courses, with topics such as language and mind, languages of Native America, multicultural communication, Spanish phonetics and phonology, and independent study. For a complete list of elective courses, consult the checksheet at <https://registrar.vt.edu/graduation-multi-brief/index1.html>.



- Explore the various subfields of linguistics, with a focus on language structure.
- Examine variation in language that patterns with social factors.
- Evaluate language from different disciplinary perspectives.
- Learn about different motivations for language research as well as different theoretical and methodological approaches to studying language.
- Develop skills to perform an advanced investigation of linguistic structures.

www.pathways.prov.vt.edu/minors

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PATHWAYS TO GENERAL EDUCATION