

Linguistics

In this section, we will provide an overview of Linguistics departments and programs. The MLA database included 90 Linguistics departments that were already part of the LSA database; these were removed from the MLA database and included in the Linguistics sample. According to information supplied by the LSA, about 40% of their 176 programs had the word “Linguistics” in the department name. About one-fourth were Linguistics programs that reside in English or literature departments. The rest were programs that reside in many different departments, including various foreign languages, cognitive science, and anthropology. The 176 programs in the LSA database were reduced to 140 for this study because 36 of them did not offer a degree in Linguistics. While respondents were instructed to answer questions for Linguistics only, it is not clear that these data are based solely on faculty, students, and degrees in Linguistics. These, however, are the best data available. First we will examine the total number of faculty and students. Then we will examine faculty hiring and recruiting and tenure decisions.

The 140 departments that award degrees in Linguistics employ about 1,630 faculty members as shown in Table LN1. Given the small number of departments responding from two of the three Carnegie classifications (3 of the 89 respondents were from Baccalaureate Colleges and 17 were from Masters Universities), we cannot separate the data by Carnegie classification. We report the data by highest degree only.

Table LN1: Faculty Members in Linguistics¹⁴

Highest Degree Offered	Average Number of Faculty Members	Number of Departments	Total Number of Faculty Members
Bachelors	5.7	28	160
Masters	11.4	43	490
Doctorate	14.2	69	980
Total	11.6	140	1,630

Table LN2 provides information about the distribution of faculty members by tenure status, and Table LN3 presents a view of employment status and the number of faculty members who are men and women. Overall, about 52% of the faculty members in programs that offer degrees in Linguistics are women, about 80% are employed in a full-time position, and 75% are either tenured or in a tenure-track position. Given the small number of faculty in departments that offer a bachelors as the highest degree, we cannot provide the breakdowns by highest degree.

Table LN2: Faculty Members by Tenure Status

Tenured	Tenure-Track	Full-Time, Non-Tenure-Track	Part Time, Non-Tenure-Track
950	270	160	250

¹⁴ Totals given throughout this report are estimates of the population total.

Table LN3: Faculty Members by Employment Status & Gender

Full-Time	Part-Time	Men	Women
1,310	320	790	840

Table LN4 is not included.¹⁵

About 80% of the departments responding are in parent institutions which are classified as a Doctoral University, and only 3% are in parent institutions classified as Baccalaureate Colleges. So, we cannot provide estimates regarding Carnegie classifications. It appears that Linguistics programs are most likely to be located in institutions classified as Doctoral Universities. As shown in Tables LN1, LN5, LN6, LN7, and LN8, we estimate that there are 28 Linguistics departments offering a bachelors as the highest degree, 43 offering a masters, and 69 offering a doctorate.

Students are the lifeblood of any program; without students, it would difficult to justify a program. Certainly some of the courses in Linguistics are offered to non-majors, but the number of majors is an important indicator of the vitality of the department. Table LN5 presents the number of bachelors degrees completed in 2006-07 and Table LN6 shows the number of juniors and seniors who had declared a major as of the beginning of the Fall 2007 term. Almost 70% of the students earning a bachelors degree in Linguistics are in departments that offer a doctorate.

Table LN5: Bachelors Degrees Completed in Linguistics in the 2006-07 Academic Year

Highest Degree Offered	Average Number of Bachelors Degrees Awarded	Number of Departments	Total Number of Bachelors Degrees Awarded
Bachelors	10.0	28	280
Masters	5.8	43	250
Doctorate	17.2	69	1,190
Total	12.3	140	1,720

Table LN6: Number of Juniors and Seniors with Declared Major in Linguistics as of the Beginning of the Fall 2007 Term

Highest Degree Offered	Average Number of Juniors & Seniors with Declared Major	Number of Departments	Total Number of Juniors & Seniors with Declared Major
Bachelors	26.1	28	730
Masters	23.0	43	990
Doctorate	41.7	69	2,880
Total	32.9	140	4,600

¹⁵ Because of the small *n*'s for Baccalaureate Colleges and Masters Universities, the cross-distribution of departments based upon both the Carnegie classification of the parent institution and the highest degree offered is omitted.

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Some of these juniors and seniors will change majors prior to completing a degree and others will not complete a degree at all. However, considering the data presented in Tables LN5 and LN6, it appears that the number of students completing bachelor's degrees in programs that offer a degree in Linguistics will remain stable or show a slight increase for the next two years. Table LN7 shows the number of students completing a minor in Linguistics during the 2006-07 Academic Year.

Table LN7: Number of Students Completing a Minor in Linguistics during the 2006-07 Academic Year

Highest Degree Offered	Average Number of Students Completing a Minor	Number of Departments	Total Number of Students Completing a Minor
Bachelors	5.7	28	160
Masters	6.0	43	260
Doctorate	8.1	69	560
Total	7.1	140	980

We also asked respondents about the number of graduate students in their department or program. Table LN8 provides a summary of their answers. Since the term “graduate student” was not defined in the questionnaire, it is possible that these numbers include undergraduates enrolled in dual-degree programs, post-baccalaureate students who are not necessarily seeking a degree, and students working toward a masters or doctorate.

Table LN8: Number of Graduate Students During the Fall 2007 Term

Highest Degree Offered	Average Number of Graduate Students	Number of Departments	Total Number of Graduate Students
Bachelors	-	28	-
Masters	34.0	43	1,460
Doctorate	36.1	69	2,490
Total	28.3	140	3,960

Tables LN9, LN10, and LN11 present data about who is teaching upper division undergraduate classes, graduate classes, and graduate-level independent study in Linguistics programs. The total number of upper division sections does not necessarily equal the sum of the sections taught by various faculty members. When the total of the sections taught by various faculty members exceeds the total number of sections offered, it is possible that more than one faculty member taught the same section. When the total of the sections taught by various faculty members is smaller than the total number of sections taught, it is possible that the additional sections are taught by instructors who do not fall into one of the classifications listed.

Table LN9: Upper Division Course Sections in Linguistics Departments, Fall 2007

Highest Degree Offered	Bachelors	Masters	Doctorate	Total
Total Number of Upper Division Sections	130	340	450	920
Taught by Full-time, Tenured or Tenure Track Faculty	100	250	340	690
Taught by Full-time, Non-Tenure Track Faculty	50	20	40	110
Taught by Part-time Faculty	20	70	10	100
Taught by Graduate Students	-	20	50	70
Number of Students Enrolled	3,190	5,790	9,950	18,930
Average Students per Section	24.5	17.0	22.1	20.6

About three-fourths of the upper division courses in Linguistics are taught by tenured or tenure-track, full-time faculty members, about one in eight is taught by a full-time, non-tenure track faculty member, and about 10% of these courses are staffed by a part-time faculty member. About 8% of the courses are led by graduate students.

Table LN10: Graduate Level Course Sections in Linguistics Departments, Fall 2007

Highest Degree Offered	Bachelors	Masters	Doctorate	Total
Total Number of Graduate Level Sections	20	300	730	1,050
Taught by Full-time, Tenured or Tenure Track Faculty	15	290	670	975
Taught by Full-time, Non-Tenure Track Faculty	5	10	40	55
Taught by Part-time Faculty	-	20	20	40
Number of Students Enrolled	580	3,670	5,920	10,170
Average Students per Section	29.0	12.2	8.1	9.7

Over 90% of the graduate courses are led by tenured or tenure-track, full-time faculty members; less than 4% are taught by part-time faculty. The graduate level courses taught in departments that award a bachelors degree as the highest degree could reflect students completing degrees in programs which have since been cancelled, students completing courses in Linguistics for graduate degrees in other programs, or non-degree seeking post-baccalaureate students.

Table LN11: Graduate Level Independent Study in Linguistics Departments, Fall 2007

Highest Degree Offered	Bachelors	Masters	Doctorate	Total
Total Number of Students Enrolled in Graduate Level Independent Study	10	260	1,440	1,710
Taught by Full-time, Tenured or Tenure Track Faculty	10	250	1,200	1,460
Taught by Full-time, Non-Tenure Track Faculty	*	20	10	30
Taught by Part-time Faculty	-	-	*	*
Average Number of Students per Department	0.4	6.0	20.9	12.2

About 90% of the students enrolled in graduate level independent study are working with full-time, tenured or tenure-track faculty, and about 2% are in independent studies under the direction of full-time, non-tenure track faculty. It is not clear who is overseeing the work of the remaining students. Perhaps these students are working with full-time employees outside the university who bring unique perspectives to the topics under consideration or it could be that one faculty member has several students doing independent study projects under his or her direction.

Some data on recruiting, hiring and tenure has already been presented for all disciplines included in this report. (See pages 4 and 5.) We will now focus on recruiting, hiring, and tenure of faculty members for departments that offer degrees in Linguistics.

In summary, departments or programs that award degrees in Linguistics employ about 1,310 faculty members in full-time positions and 320 faculty members in part-time positions. There are approximately 950 tenured faculty members and 270 tenure-track faculty members. As summarized in Table LN12, Linguistics departments recruited about 50 tenured, tenure-track, or permanent faculty members for 2008-09 and had hired about 65 for 2007-08. This represents about 4 – 5% of the full-time faculty workforce. The 35 faculty members who were granted tenure comprise about one-eighth of the tenure-track faculty corps. An additional 4% of those in tenure-track positions were either denied tenure or left before the tenure decision was made.

Table LN12: Faculty Tenure Decisions and Recruiting

Faculty Status	Number	Relative to ...
Tenured Faculty Members	950	58% of total faculty members
Tenure-Track Faculty Members (not yet tenured)	270	17% of total faculty members
Tenure-Track Faculty Members Granted Tenure	35 per year	13% of tenure-track, not yet tenured faculty
Faculty Members Denied Tenure or Leaving Prior to Tenure Decision	11 per year	4% of tenure-track, not yet tenured faculty
Tenured, Tenure-Track and Permanent Faculty Members Recruited for 2008-09	50	4% of full-time faculty
Tenured, Tenure-Track and Permanent Faculty Members Hired for 2007-08	65	5% of full-time faculty