

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN ... LINGUISTICS

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:

Linguistics is the study of how languages work, change, are learned, and are used. Linguists, therefore, see language as an intricate system of interacting semantic, grammatical, phonological, and pragmatic rules and principles to study, describe, and ultimately to understand. The concerns in linguistics overlap with those of other language sciences, making linguistics a truly interdisciplinary field. UNM's Linguistic's program offers a major in Linguistics (B.A.), a major in Signed Language Interpreting (B.S.), and an interdisciplinary major in Languages (B.A.), in conjunction with the Foreign Languages and Literature department.

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENT:

A bachelor's degree is the minimum formal education required, and qualifies one for entry-level positions in business, nonprofit organizations, and government. Depending upon the student's career interests, and due to the major's emphasis on analysis, argumentation and reasoning, and communication, a linguistics major is may pursue a professional degree in law, business, government or education.

EMPLOYERS/INDUSTRIES & SUGGESTED STRATEGY:

Please ask your Career Advisor (CDF) for identifying employers or additional resources for your occupation of choice.

Research/Education: Teaching (ESL, Business English, Scientific English, Linguistics) – International student advisor – Researcher – Curriculum development – Cataloger – Curator – Advisor/administrator of language programs – Librarian/archivist

Suggested Strategy: Gain related experience in areas of interest. For overseas teaching, consider taking at least one year of the language of the country you would like to teach in. Get TESL/TEFL certification. Obtain a teaching or tutoring position.

Government: Interpreter – Voice of America announcer – Special Agent Linguist (FBI) – Forensic Document Analyst (National Crime Lab) – Peace Corps – Teach for America – Secret code analyst – Translator – Literacy programs coordinator – CIA

Suggested Strategy: Develop fluency in a second language for overseas or FBI work. Gain familiarity with federal hiring process. Gain experience in a related field, such as a government internship. Gain tutoring/teaching experience for teaching jobs.

Business/Industry: Cross-cultural communication specialist – Computer language designer – Speech synthesis specialist – Speech recognition specialist – PR or advertising specialist – Travel agent – Foreign purchasing agent – Management trainee

Suggested Strategy: For computer industry jobs, gain computational background (e.g., computer science courses). Microsoft, Xerox, Apple, Hewlett-Packard, and other high-tech companies routinely hire linguistics graduates. Regardless of area of interest, gain related experience through volunteer, internship, and part-time positions.

Writing/Editing: Writer (freelance, technical, feature, copy, educational TV, grants) – Editor (textbook, copy, project) – Reporter – Journalist – Columnist – Public relations specialist – Information specialist – Book critic – Computer software documentation

Suggested Strategy: Supplement curriculum with courses in English, business, or Communication & Journalism. Complete an internship in a related area. Maintain a portfolio of writing samples. Gain experience with desire media outlet.

Interpretation: Counseling – K-12 – Social Work – Hospital – Industry – Private practice/contract work

Suggested Strategy: Complete an internship or practicum in interpretation. Gain related volunteer or part-time work experience, preferably working with the population or in the setting that you wish to gain employment post-graduation.

STATE & NATIONAL WAGES (FOR INTERPRETERS & TRANSLATORS AS OF 2006):

	10 %	25 %	Median	75 %	90 %
New Mexico	\$ 15,400	\$ 27,900	\$ 36,800	\$ 44,000	\$ 55,600
United States	\$ 20,600	\$ 26,900	\$ 35,600	\$ 47,000	\$ 64,300

INFORMATIONAL/ORGANIZATIONAL WEBSITES:

U.S. Department of State
Overseas Jobs
Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages
English Language Teaching Careers
Lonely Planet
Linguistic Society of America
Linguist List

<http://www.state.gov/>
<http://www.overseasjobs.com/>
http://www.tesol.org/s_tesol/index.asp
<http://www.tefl.com/>
<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/>
<http://www.lsadc.org/>
<http://linguistlist.org/>

OTHER INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:



<http://online.onetcenter.org>



<http://www.bls.gov/oco/>