

IPAC Program Description

Name of Program

Linguistics Program

Contributor

Bruce Long Peng
Director of Linguistics

Brief Description of the Program

Considered one of the social and behavioral sciences, linguistics is the study of the structure and function of natural languages. Linguists are concerned with identifying, understanding and explaining the patterns in and variations of linguistic behaviors. As a field of study, linguistics investigates questions regarding: a) the structures of natural languages; b) how languages are acquired and processed; c) how human languages reflect and are influenced by culture and society; and d) how language interacts with other cognitive abilities (i.e. thinking, reasoning, perception). Students can major or minor in linguistics at SUNY Oswego. As it currently stands, the Program has 25-30 majors and 15-25 minors.

Interdisciplinary Nature of the Program

Through intensive study of the structures and functions of many languages over, in particular, the last sixty years, linguists have developed tools, representations and theories that are unique to the discipline. Advances in linguistics provide insights into natural languages and human linguistic behaviors, for sure. But they also inform and influence other disciplines and fields of study. At the same time, linguists continue to draw insights and contributions from disciplines as varied as anthropology, computer science, cognitive science, education, English studies, neuroscience, philosophy, psychology, and sociology. As a result of these interdisciplinary inquiries, we see the emergence of such allied fields as anthropological linguistics, educational linguistics, forensic linguistics, neurolinguistics, psycholinguistics and sociolinguistics. The Linguistics Program at SUNY Oswego offers a program of study that emphasizes not just core areas of linguistics (phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics) but also allied fields such as computational linguistics, psycholinguistics, anthropological linguistics, etc.

Relationship to Interdisciplinarity at Oswego

The Linguistics Program at SUNY Oswego draws its strengths from a faculty with

diverse interests and specializations and with a strong commitment to interdisciplinary inquiries. The linguistic course offerings of the Program are supported by the Departments of Anthropology, Curriculum and Instruction, English, Modern Languages, Philosophy, Psychology and the Cognitive Science Program. Many linguistics majors and minors actively pursue other areas of interest in anthropology, cognitive science, business, communication, modern languages, philosophy, psychology, TESOL, etc.

IPAC Support

The Linguistics Program Faculty plans to meet in the IPAC Conference Room two to four times each academic year.

Students and faculty associated with the Linguistics Program will use the Conference Room, when it is available, for various purposes ranging from program faculty meetings, the meetings of the Linguistics Club, student consultations and advisement, etc.

One adjunct faculty who teaches Linguistics 100 will share office space in the IPAC and make use of certain IPAC resources (desktop machine and printer) on a limited basis.

Relevant Dates

The foreseeable future.