Optional Ph.D. Emphasis in Applied Linguistics

The field of applied linguistics is a growing and vibrant one in universities nationally and internationally. Applied linguistics is an interdisciplinary field of research and instruction that provides theoretical and descriptive foundations for the empirical investigation of language-related issues, especially those of language education (first-language, second-language, foreign-language, and heritage-language teaching and learning), but also issues of bilingualism and biliteracy, language planning and policy, language assessment, translation and interpretation, lexicography, rhetoric, and composition. Students who demonstrate competence in these areas increase their opportunities for employment, as many job descriptions indicate a preference for candidates with an emphasis in applied linguistics or second language acquisition. Also, with the ever-increasing number of second language learners at the K-12 levels, it is essential for all teachers and educational researchers to have a fundamental understanding of language learning and teaching theories and practices.

Students pursuing a Ph.D. in the Departments of Education, French and Italian, Germanic, Slavic, and Semitic Studies, Linguistics, and Spanish and Portuguese may petition to add an emphasis in applied linguistics. The interdisciplinary program in applied linguistics involves over 30 faculty members in 12 departments on campus.

Students who petition to add the emphasis must fulfill the following requirements in addition to the requirements for the Ph.D. in their home department: (1) a minimum of two courses taken from the core group of applied linguistics courses, which provide them with the basics of linguistics, second language acquisition theories, second/foreign language teaching methodologies, and practical applications of theory to teaching (Second Language Acquisition Theory and Research; Second Language Teaching Methodology; Foreign/Second Language Teaching Practicum; Topics in Applied Linguistics); (2) a minimum of two courses in one of five sub-areas (Linguistics, Discourse, Second Language Acquisition; Language and Society, Socio-cultural Perspectives, Multilingualism and Multiliteracy; Language, Literacy and Composition Studies; Language and Cognition, Psycholinguistics; Language Acquisition Using Technology); (3) required independent study (4 units), taken with an appropriate faculty member, leading to a research paper describing theoretical, empirical, or applied work in applied linguistics.

In addition to the course and unit requirements described above (including the research paper), a Ph.D. qualifying examination (or a separate exam) will test the student’s knowledge within the applied linguistics emphasis. At least one faculty member of the applied linguistics program shall participate in the qualifying (or separate) examination. Students are also strongly encouraged to attend the Applied Linguistics lecture series and will be asked to present their research papers informally as part of the lecture series.

Additional information may be found at: www.appliedlinguistics.ucsb.edu. Questions may be directed either to a participating faculty member or to Dorothy Chun, Department of Education, Gervitz Graduate School of Education, UCSB, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9490.