

## **Proposal for Concurrent BA in Linguistics/MA in TESL/Applied Linguistics**

4/24/2019

1. Name of the programs or majors  
Linguistics, Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL)/Applied Linguistics
2. Name of the degrees  
BA in Linguistics, MA in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL)/Applied Linguistics
3. Name of the department(s) which administer(s) the program  
English

4. Rationale for the concurrent degree program

The BA in Linguistics at ISU currently has 98 majors. One practical option for students with a linguistics major is to continue to graduate degrees, including MA degrees in teaching English as a second language (TESL). Such a degree, like our MA TESL/Applied Linguistics at ISU, provides the credentials required for seeking employment in many private, educational, and governmental entities throughout the world. A concurrent degree program would enable our linguistics majors to complete the requirements of the MA degree in less time than pursuing each degree separately. We believe that this option will add significant value to our undergraduate program while helping to recruit well-qualified students into the existing structure of our MA TESL/Applied Linguistics degree without requiring additional resources to administer.

Established in 1997, our MA TESL/AL program at ISU is recognized internationally, with a curriculum designed specifically for providing the education required for teaching English as a second language and faculty who are internationally known for their research and teaching in applied linguistics. The courses required for the concurrent MA therefore already exist, and the concurrent degree option will add to the numbers of students in them. Faculty have had some positive experience with undergraduate linguistics majors in these courses because undergraduate linguistics majors occasionally enroll in them. Faculty find the undergraduate linguistics majors well-qualified to succeed in these courses.

Overall, the concurrent MA in TESL/AL offers a better alternative for many undergraduate students in linguistics than other options for pursuing an ESL teaching as a first career move. Other options include spending two additional years after graduation in our MA program or in an MA program at another university, seeking a certificate in teaching English as a second language (which doesn't offer the credentials for potential next steps in life), or simply heading out to South Korea, for example, in search of employment. Each of these options is right for some students, but we propose to add to them the most expedient and educationally valuable option of earning an MA TESL/AL degree while spending only one additional year beyond the BA degree. The MA TESL/AL program at ISU is ideally situated for this type of concurrent degree given its focus on applied linguistics and a set of well-developed TESL courses with a contemporary focus on technology.

The Applied Linguistics area currently has a graduate certificate program. However, we are proposing to eliminate it, as we believe that a concurrent degree program would better meet the needs of our current students and the profession.

5. Admission procedures and requirements  
See description below.

6. Requirements of the program

The requirements for the concurrent program would remain essentially the same for both the BA and MA degrees; however, six graduate credits could be counted toward the requirements of both degrees. In addition, while the current MA program includes an area of specialization in particular content areas, the 'open option' specialization would be utilized by students in the concurrent degree program. Pursuing the open option specialization will provide students with more flexibility in selecting courses based on availability, allowing them to complete the program in just one additional year of study. The concurrent degree program, like the current MA program, will culminate in a thesis or creative component.

7. Expected enrollment

10-12 applicants per year

8. If not already addressed, answer the following:

a. How will the undergraduate degree plan and graduate program of study be developed?

The undergraduate linguistics adviser works closely with Applied Linguistics graduate faculty, and scheduling for most undergraduate linguistics as well as the graduate courses needed for the MA degree is carried out by an area coordinator in consultation with the undergraduate adviser and the full applied linguistics faculty. Thus, the linguistics adviser will have the knowledge needed to advise students enrolled in the concurrent degree program in developing the undergraduate degree plan and graduate program of study. Graduate faculty in applied linguistics will be available for supplemental advising as needed until students select a major professor.

b. When will the student have a major professor?

Students will select a major professor in their 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of the concurrent degree program. However, they will continue to work with the undergraduate adviser until all BA degree requirements are met.

c. Will graduate assistantships be provided?

Students will be eligible to apply for research assistantships upon entry into the program if those positions are available.

Most teaching assistantships in English involve the TA serving as the instructor of record for undergraduate communication courses. Thus, students will be eligible to apply for teaching assistantships only after all BA degree requirements have been met.

d. Will a thesis be required?

Yes.

e. Who will be responsible for the administration of the program?

The English department, with primary responsibilities residing with the Applied Linguistics area group.

f. How much time is required to complete the program? Show a sample semester-by-semester plan.

See below.

g. Will students be allowed to double count credits? If so, how many?

Yes. 6 credits may be used toward the requirements of both degrees.

9. Attach memos showing approval by appropriate department and college committees, faculty, and administrators.

- ✓ Bethany Gray, DOGE and Chair, Department of English Graduate Studies Committee
- ✓ Volker Hegelheimer, English department chair
- ✓ John Levis, Linguistics program director  
Curriculum Committee, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

10. Proposal Contact

Bethany Gray, DOGE for English and Applied Linguistics area coordinator ([begray@iastate.edu](mailto:begray@iastate.edu))

## **Program Description: Concurrent B.A. in Linguistics and M.A. in TESL/Applied Linguistics**

A concurrent B.A. in Linguistics and M.A. in TESL and Applied Linguistics offers well-qualified students the opportunity for accelerated study, achieving both degrees within a 5-year time frame. A student enrolled in this program pursues a graduate M.A. degree while simultaneously completing the requirements for the B.A. in Linguistics. Completing the concurrent degree program would enable students to enter the workforce one year earlier than through the traditional M.A. degree pathway. Up to six credits can be double-counted toward the requirements for both degrees. Students applying for the concurrent degree program should be motivated, focused, and able to handle a 16+ credit hour/semester schedule.

### **Eligibility (all qualifications must be met to apply):**

- A minimum 45 credits in undergraduate program completed
- Two years of ISU foreign language study or bilingualism demonstrated by an approved language test (completed or in progress)
- At least 12 credits of Linguistics courses completed with a major GPA of 3.2 or higher,
- A minimum cumulative ISU GPA of 3.0

### **Timeline**

Students should know by the middle of their sophomore year if they are interested in pursuing the concurrent program. We recommend that students plan ahead, and notify the undergraduate linguistics adviser as soon as they know of their intent to apply for the concurrent degree; if possible, the linguistics adviser should be notified of intent to pursue the concurrent degrees by the end of the 4th semester.

Students should apply for concurrent enrollment by the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> semester of study (and no later than the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> semester) by filing the **Request for Concurrent Enrollment** and submitting the application materials (listed below).

If accepted into the concurrent enrollment program, students should begin taking graduate courses (by the onset of the fourth year of study). Students accepted into the concurrent enrollment program will continue to work with the undergraduate linguistics adviser until the BA degree requirements are met. By the onset of the fifth year of study, students should have identified an area for their thesis/creative component and establish a program of study committee (including a major professor).

Students become full-time graduate students upon acceptance into the concurrent degree program. Students are eligible for research assistantships upon entry into the concurrent degree program, although it should be noted that these opportunities are rare. Student are eligible to apply for a teaching assistantship once all requirements for the BA degree are met; TA selection will follow the standard procedures for the department (including GRE scores).

### **How to Apply**

The following components make up your application:

- 1 Fill out the **Request for Concurrent Enrollment** form.
- 2 Write a statement of purpose, usually 1-2 pages, explaining why you want to pursue the M.A. degree.
- 3 Obtain three letters of recommendation.
- 4 Create a curriculum plan with the undergraduate linguistics adviser, who works closely with members of the graduate faculty.
- 5 Writing sample (which can be a paper written for an undergraduate course at ISU)
- 6 Submit your materials by e-mail to Teresa Smiley in the Graduate English Office at [englgrad@iastate.edu](mailto:englgrad@iastate.edu)
- 7 GRE scores (not required for initial application; required if applying for a teaching assistantship)

The admission criteria are generally the same as those required for all graduate students in the department. Application materials are reviewed by the graduate faculty in linguistics, the department's Director of Graduate Education (DOGE), and the department chair; their recommendations are forwarded on to the ISU Graduate College.

### **BA in Linguistics**

120 credits

45 credits at 300+

36 credits in major (6 graduate credits can double count with graduate degree requirements)

9 credits English communication

12-16 credits of foreign language

29 credits in general education: 9 in A&H, 9 in SS, 8 in NS, 3 in math

Possible electives:

305, 275, 286, 319, 320 (not computers and language), 422, 309, Spanish LING, ASL LING, 318, 322, 324, 325, 425

### **MA in TESL/Applied Linguistics**

Concurrent degree MA requirements	MA requirements
<i>Pre-requisites</i> Engl 220 (taken for BA) Engl 219 (taken for BA) Engl 510 (counts as elective in BA)	<i>Pre-requisites</i> Engl 220 Engl 219 Engl 510
<i>Core / Applied Aspects (15 credits)</i> Engl 512 Engl 514 Engl 519 Engl 524 Engl 525	<i>Core (15 credits)</i> Engl 512 Engl 514 Engl 519 Engl 524 or 525 Engl 537
<i>Practicum (3 credits)</i> Engl 500 or 588; or SpCm 513	<i>Practicum (3 credits)</i> Engl 500 or 588; or SpCm 513
<i>Electives (open option specialization) (9 credits)</i> *Engl 510 can count as an elective	<i>Electives/Specialization (9 credits)</i> *510 or 511 can count as an elective  516, 517X, 520, 526, 527, 528, 530 SPAN 554, 563X, 545 Relevant courses in HCI, CI
<i>Thesis/Creative Component (3 credits)</i> Engl 699 or 599	<i>Thesis/Creative Component (3 credits)</i> Engl 699 or 599

\*\*6 credits (including 510) can count as an elective in the BA degree

### **5-Year Plan for Concurrent BA in Linguistics and MA in TESL/Applied Linguistics**

	Fall	Spring
First Year (Freshman)	ENGL 150 (3) LIB 160 (1)	ENGL 250 (3) Gen Ed (Statistics) (4)

	LING 119 (3) Psych 131 (1) World Language (3-4) Gen Ed (Natural Sci) (4) Total 15-16	LING 219 (3) World Language (3-4) LING 101 (1) Gen Ed (A&H) (3) Total 17-18
Second Year (Sophomore)	LING 220 (3) LING 207 (3) World Language (3-4) Gen Ed (Social Sci) (3) Gen Ed (A&H) (3) Other for Undergrad (3) Total 18-19	LING Elec (319 or 422) (3) LING 413 (3) World Language (3-4) Gen Ed (Natural Sci) (4) Gen Ed (Social Sci) (3) Total 16-17
STUDY ABROAD	A summer study abroad can add up to 9 credits. It is best if they can be transferred back as 300+ credits. This will ease the stress in one or more semesters if you plan carefully.	A semester study abroad will add 12+ credits. Again keeping those credits at the 300+ level is most helpful. To stay within the 5-year time frame, you would need to take at least 15-18 credits.
Third Year (Junior)	LING 420 (3) LING 300+ Elec (3) LING 437 (3) Gen Ed (A&H) (3) Other 300+ (3) Total 15	LING 371 (3) LING 300+ Elec (3) LING 320 (Comp Ling) (3) Gen Ed (Social Sci) (3) Other 300+ (3) Other for Undergrad (3) Total 18
Fourth Year (Senior)	Other 300+ (3) Other 300+ (3) LING 510 (3) LING 524 or 525 (3) LING 512, 514 or 500+ (3) Total 15	ENGL 314 (3) Other for Undergrad (3) Other for Undergrad (3) LING 519 (3) LING 512, 514 or 500+ (3) Total 15
Fifth Year (MA)	LING 524 or 525 (3) LING 588 (3) LING 512, 514, or 500+ (3) Total 9	LING 512, 514, or 500+ (3) ENGL 599/699 (3) Total 6

\*\*500+ refers to a graduate elective

**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Department of English  
203 Ross Hall  
Ames, Iowa 50011-1201  
515 294-2180  
FAX 515 294-6814

August 30, 2019

To whom it may concern:

The Graduate Studies Office in the Department of English wholeheartedly supports this proposal for a concurrent BA in Linguistics and MA in TESL/Applied Linguistics degree. The applied linguistics area faculty have taken care to develop a proposal which capitalizes on the well-established undergraduate linguistics degree and the existing MA in TESL/Applied Linguistics. This proposal was then discussed extensively by the Graduate Studies Committee in the Department of English, where it was voted to move it to the full graduate faculty. The proposal was approved by the English Department graduate faculty on April 2019.

As DOGE of all graduate programs in the Department of English, I also support this proposal for the new concurrent MA/BA, as we anticipate that it will (a) benefit our many excellent undergraduate majors who go on to pursue graduate degrees, (b) build robust enrollment in the MA degree program with high-achieving students, and (c) rely on existing resources within the department.

Sincerely,



Bethany Gray  
Director of Graduate Education, Department of English  
Associate Professor  
[begray@iastate.edu](mailto:begray@iastate.edu)

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OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Department of English  
527 Farmhouse Lane  
203 Ross Hall  
Ames, Iowa 50011-1201  
515 294-2180  
FAX 515 294-6814

**To:** Whom it may concern  
**From:** Volker Hegelheimer, Professor and Chair, Department of English  
**Date:** September 4, 2019  
**Re:** Concurrent BA/MA program in Linguistics and TESL



I strongly support the proposal for a concurrent BA/MA program in Linguistics (BA) and Applied Linguistics/TESL (MA) at Iowa State University. The Department of English is home to a strong undergraduate program in Linguistics with over 100 majors and second majors. The department also offers a strong MA Program in Teaching English as a Second Language. This proposal will provide additional opportunities for our undergraduate linguistics majors and better prepare them for a successful career after graduating from ISU. An influx of highly-motivated and linguistically-trained MA students will also bolster enrollment in our MA program. This proposal does not require additional resources, but rather builds on the synergies already in place among the programs and the faculty and thus receives my highest recommendation.



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August 30, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I enthusiastically recommend the initiation of a concurrent BA/MA program in Linguistics (BA) and Applied Linguistics/TESL (MA) at Iowa State. As the linguistics program has grown to now over 100 majors with many other minors, many of our best students have gone on to study at MA programs after their BA degrees are done. The institution of a concurrent program would allow these students to integrate their undergraduate and graduate studies and would strengthen our enrollments in the graduate program with excellent students that are already at ISU.

Sincerely



John M. Levis  
Angela B. Pavitt Professor of English  
Director, Cross-disciplinary Program in Linguistics