

Seeking a Ph.D.

Please note that enrollment in the UH M.A. program does not guarantee admission to the Ph.D. program. In order to gain admission to our Ph.D. Program you must go through the following steps before you finish your M.A. (typically during the last semester of your M.A. studies):

Apply to the Department for admission to the Ph.D. program by the Graduate Division deadlines.

Submit to the Department:

- a detailed statement of purpose describing your research interests and how you think you are qualified for Ph.D. work (see 3 below). _____
- a writing sample (e.g. a term paper). _____

Letters of recommendation are not needed because the whole Linguistics graduate faculty will be polled regarding your admissibility.

Should you be admitted you have 2 options:

- If you do not intend to actually receive your M.A. degree you must write a memo to the department requesting permission to enter the Ph.D. program.
- If you do plan to receive your M.A. degree (and thus terminate your enrollment in that program) you must petition Grad Division (using their form) for permission to enter the Linguistics Ph.D. program.

Notes:

1. All applications must be submitted in accordance with the Graduate Division deadlines for applications to graduate programs, i.e. **September 1** for Spring admission and **January 10** for Fall.
2. It is not necessary to take the **Preliminary Examination** before petitioning for admission to the Ph.D. program, but the exam remains an obligatory part of the Ph.D. program. (All students in the Ph.D. program must take and pass this exam.)
3. Like other Ph.D. programs around the country, we have a limited number of openings and must be highly selective in our admissions decisions. The merit of each "inside" application is evaluated using the **same criteria** as for outside candidates. For each criterion listed below we have added a self-evaluation question for you to ask yourself.
 - a) a record of academic accomplishment as reflected in outstanding work in previous linguistics courses. *Have any of my professors suggested I go on to PhD? How many? Have my grades been very strong?*
 - b) a match between the interests of the student and the strengths of the faculty. *Does the Department currently have faculty who are willing and able to support the kind of research I hope to do?*
 - c) analytic (problem-solving) skills. *Do I have demonstrated skills at analyzing linguistic data and critically evaluating hypotheses proposed to explaining the workings of language?*
 - d) evidence of an ability to work independently and to think critically. *Can I think critically and work independently with minimal direction?*
 - e) writing ability. *Can I express myself clearly in writing?*
 - f) *Do I speak out in class, asking incisive questions and offering novel insights?*
 - g) *Have I made any presentations to the department (e.g., Tuesday Seminars, LLL conference)?*