

Guidelines on the Independent Work Requirement for the LIN Certificate

Princeton Program in Linguistics

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LIN Certificate students are required to complete an independent work requirement, involving linguistic research. This requirement can be fulfilled in one of two ways:

1. by incorporating some linguistic research/work into other independent work (e.g., a JP or ST written for another department), or
2. by writing an independent paper.

Details about these two options, as well as other information about meetings and deadlines can be found below.

Working With Faculty

- ◆ You must contact the LIN Director of Undergraduate Studies (currently Prof. Byron Ahn) to discuss your intentions for completing the independent work requirement.
 - ▶ Get in contact during or before Fall semester of your Senior year.
- ◆ **Before reaching out to the DUS:**
 1. Read the entirety of this guidelines document on independent work for the LIN certificate.
 2. Write 1-3 sentences (or bullet points) about a possible independent work project and any relevant hopes/plans/goals.
 3. Identify some readings, course materials, or other resources that have inspired you and that you think might be relevant for your potential projects.
 4. Write up a (informal) sketch of a plan for an independent work project and/or a set of questions you have about creating a plan (based on the work done for points 2 and 3 above).
- ◆ After completing these steps, send the sketch of a plan to the DUS, to get started.
- ◆ The DUS may then advise you to work with a member of the LIN-affiliated faculty, to have appropriate guidance in your independent work.
 - ▶ In this case, you and this faculty member should meet to discuss your plan, with an appropriate number of subsequent check-in meetings during the research process.

- ◆ Finally, upon completion of the work, you should email it to the DUS (and your LIN-affiliated faculty supervisor, if applicable).
 - ▶ They will review the work and determine whether or not it satisfies the requirement.

Independent Work Options

Option 1: Portion of Other Independent Work

- ◆ You may fulfill this requirement by incorporating linguistics into the independent work that you will complete for your concentration (e.g., some Junior Independent Work or a Senior Thesis).
- ◆ To count towards this requirement, your independent work should...
 - ▶ ...involve application of tools and information that you have gained in the course of your progression through your LIN certificate (by analyzing linguistic data, invoking linguistic concepts, and/or do analysis using linguistic theories).
 - ▶ ...make multiple citations to relevant works published in the domain of linguistics.
- ◆ You must submit your completed independent work to the DUS and/or your LIN-affiliated supervisor, who will determine whether it meets the requirements outlined above.

Option 2: Independent Paper

- ◆ If you choose an independent paper, the topic is up to you, in consultation with the LIN DUS and/or a LIN-affiliated faculty member.
- ◆ The work can build on ideas, facts, skills, and concepts that you learned in your course history, or it can even be based on an existing assignment/final paper from a previous course.
 - ▶ (In the case that you build on an existing assignment/paper, there must be significant improvement and/or expansion upon the original assignment.)
- ◆ When getting started on a topic, you may find it helpful to contact people who can help direct you to good starting points
 - ▶ (Google is usually rather bad at helping find starting points)
 - ▶ Consider contacting Princeton faculty, Princeton research librarians (see this website: library.princeton.edu/staff/specialists), and even linguists and researchers beyond Princeton who have worked on topics that interest you.
- ◆ The research work involved in your project may take on any number of forms, including: synthesizing/critiquing existing research, gathering data with experiments/surveys, measuring/quantifying/analyzing (existing) data, etc., etc.
 - ▶ The specific expectations of your research are at the discretion of the LIN-affiliated faculty member who is supervising your research.
- ◆ There is no length requirement that applies across to all cases.

- ▶ The DUS or faculty supervisor will help determine a target length that will be appropriate for the project, given the work and its goals.
- ▶ (*For reference, a common target length may be around 10-15 pages, double-spaced.*)

Submitting your Completed Work

- ◆ Submit your completed work **via email** to the DUS (currently Prof. Byron Ahn), the Program Manager (currently Ms. Marie Basso), as well as any faculty member supervising the work.
- ◆ The **due date** for submission is at the discretion of the LIN-affiliated faculty member you are working with. Discuss this with them.
 - ▶ The **latest** that the deadline can be is **one week before Dean's Date of Senior year Spring**.
- ◆ For both options, (the linguistic aspect of) your independent work does not receive a grade from LIN, and will not itself appear on your transcript.
 - ▶ However, it must be completed to the satisfaction of your advisor in order for you to receive your LIN Certificate.
- ◆ To avoid a situation where you submit a paper too close to the deadline and it is deemed not to be satisfactory, you are strongly encouraged to...
 - ▶ ...submit a completed draft of your independent work well ahead of the deadline and/or
 - ▶ ...be working closely with your faculty advisor to get continual feedback to ensure that your project will meet expectations.