



Carleton
University

School of Linguistics
and Language Studies

LING & ALDS

**Undergraduate Information
Packet**

Maintained by the SLALS undergraduate advisor

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1. Choosing the program that's right for you

The School of Linguistics and Language Studies (SLaLS) offers undergraduate degrees in Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies (ALDS), and in Linguistics (LING), as well as a combined degree in Linguistics and Discourse Studies.

In **ALDS**, you can complete either a 4-year (20.0 credit) Honours Bachelor of Arts degree, or a 3-year (15.0 credit) Bachelor of Arts degree.

- ⇒ Courses in **Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies** focus on language use in society, including analysis of written text, corpus linguistics, language policy and planning, and second language learning and teaching.

In **LING**, both Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees are available. Within the Bachelor of Arts degree program, you can complete either a 4-year (20.0 credit) Honours B.A. degree, or a 3-year (15.0 credit) B.A. degree. Within the Bachelor Science degree program, you can complete a 4-year (20.0 credit) Honours B.Sc. degree. The Honours degrees allow you to choose a concentration in either Linguistic Theory or Psycholinguistics and Communication Disorders, but you are always able to take courses from both concentrations.

- ⇒ Courses specific to the **Linguistic Theory** concentration focus on formal theories of grammar, trying to capture how sounds, words, sentence structure, and meaning are represented in the human mind.
- ⇒ Courses specific to the **Psycholinguistics and Communication Disorders (PCD)** concentration focus on experimental and clinical areas of linguistics, including first language acquisition, speech-language differences and disabilities, and language and the brain.
- ⇒ Courses specific to the various **LING Bachelor of Science** degrees focus on developing a background in natural, clinical, experimental, and computer sciences, as well as increased competence in math. As a general rule, the B.Sc. is more specialized, has higher admission requirements, and may appeal to different career paths after graduation. There is more room for electives in the **LING Bachelor of Arts** programs than in the B.Sc. programs. This can be helpful if you want to add a minor or complete a concurrent certificate.

SLaLS offers two **certificates** that can be completed concurrently with an Honours degree – the Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language (CTESL) and the Certificate in Professional Writing (CPW). In both cases a separate application is required. For details, see:

- **CTESL:** <https://carleton.ca/slals/tesl/ctesl/>
- **CPW:** <https://carleton.ca/english/undergraduate-programs/professional-writing-program/>

Regardless of what program you choose, you can always take courses in all of these areas – in fact, you will likely need to do so in order to fulfill your program requirements. Several courses are cross-listed between LING and ALDS, so you are able to take them for major credit in either area.

Here are some more things to consider as you choose a program:

- ⇒ While certain courses are required in all programs, the requirements in upper years are different. Many of the topics covered in the upper-year courses are “previewed” in the first-year courses, so you can use these courses to help you decide which program would best suit your interests.
- ⇒ Look through the course descriptions in the [Undergraduate Calendar](#). It is important to know what the prerequisites are so that you can plan your course sequence in a way that allows you to complete the courses that you need / want. Consult the [Scheduling Habits](#) section of this information packet for help constructing a long-term plan.
- ⇒ If your career goals include graduate school, such as a Masters in Speech-Language Pathology, we recommend that you take note of the prerequisites for the schools you'd like to apply to early on. Many schools have specific requirements for linguistics and other courses, some of which have prerequisites, and you should do your course planning with grad school expectations in mind. Note that graduate schools typically require an Honours degree (20.0 credits) for admission.
- ⇒ If you want to “test out” various options, you can run a “What-If audit” to see how adding a minor or changing some other aspect of your program would affect your requirements:
– <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/your-academic-audit/what-if-audit/>
- ⇒ Don't hesitate to ask upper-year students for their input! You can also consult the undergraduate advisor and other faculty members.

2. ALDS degree requirements

The requirements described in the sections below reflect the 2023-2024 academic calendar. Your specific requirements may be slightly different if you joined the program in an earlier academic year. Consult your [audit](#) to ensure that you are taking the correct courses, and contact the undergraduate advisor if you have questions.

Calendar program description:

<https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/undergradprograms/appliedlinguisticsanddiscoursestudies>

Calendar course descriptions:

<https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/courses/ALDS/>

2.1 B.A. major in ALDS (15.0 credits)

The B.A. with a major in Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies requires completion of the courses listed below. Remember that at Carleton most semester-long courses count for 0.5 credit, so “1.0 credit” usually means “two courses”.

Requirements

- 1.0 credit in ALDS 1001, LING 1001
- 1.5 credits in ALDS 2201, 2202, 2203
- 0.5 credit from {ALDS 2604, 2704, 2705, LING 2007}
- 1.5 credits from {ALDS 3201, 3202, 3401, 3402, 3405, 3604, 3701, 3705, 3706, 3903, LING 3603}
- 1.5 additional credits in ALDS at any level
- 9.0 credits of electives
- Satisfaction of the [SLaLS language proficiency requirement](#)
- Satisfaction of the [B.A. breadth requirement](#)

2.2 Honours B.A. in ALDS (20.0 credits)

The Honours B.A. degree in Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies requires completion of the courses listed below. Remember that at Carleton, most semester-long courses count for 0.5 credit, so “1.0 credit” usually means “two courses”.

The Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language (CTESL) and the Certificate in Professional Writing (CPW) can be completed concurrently with the Honours B.A. degree. Courses taken for these certificates count toward either the ALDS major requirements or the electives.

Requirements

- 1.0 credit in ALDS 1001, LING 1001
- 1.5 credits in ALDS 2201, 2202, 2203
- 0.5 credit from {ALDS 2604, 2704, 2705, LING 2007}
- 1.5 credits from {ALDS 3201, 3202, 3401, 3402, 3405, 3604, 3701, 3705, 3706, 3903, LING 3603}
- 2.0 credits in ALDS at the 4000 level
- 2.5 additional credits in ALDS at any level
- 11.0 credits of electives
- Satisfaction of the [SLaLS language proficiency requirement](#)
- Satisfaction of the [B.A. breadth requirement](#)

2.3 Minor in ALDS (4.0 credits)

Students majoring in a different program can complete a minor in Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies. The minor requires completion of the courses listed below. Remember that at Carleton, most semester-long courses count for 0.5 credit, so “1.0 credit” usually means “two courses”.

Requirements

- 1.0 credit in ALDS 1001, LING 1001
- 1.0 credit in ALDS 2201, 2202
- 1.0 credit from {ALDS 2203, 2604, 2704, 2705, LING 2007, LING 3603}
- 1.0 credit in ALDS at the 3000-level or higher

3. LING degree requirements

The requirements described in the sections below reflect the 2023-2024 academic calendar. Your specific requirements may be slightly different if you joined the program in an earlier academic year. Consult your [audit](#) to ensure that you are taking the correct courses, and contact the undergraduate advisor if you have questions.

B.A. calendar program description:

<https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/undergradprograms/linguistics-ba/>

B.Sc. calendar program description:

<https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/undergradprograms/linguistics-bsc/>

Calendar course descriptions:

<https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/courses/LING/>

3.1 B.A. major in LING (15.0 credits)

The B.A. with a major in Linguistics requires completion of the courses listed below. Remember that at Carleton, most semester-long courses count for 0.5 credit, so “1.0 credit” usually means “two courses”.

Requirements

- 1.5 credit in ALDS 1001, LING 1001, LING 1002
- 1.0 credit in LING 2005, 2007
- 2.0 credits in LING 3004, 3005, 3007, 3505
- 2.0 additional credits in LING at any level [excluding LING 1100]
- 8.5 credits of electives
- Satisfaction of the [SLaLS language proficiency requirement](#)
- Satisfaction of the [B.A. breadth requirement](#)

3.2 Honours B.A. in LING (20.0 credits)

The Honours B.A. degree in Linguistics includes the option to structure your course work by selecting a concentration in either Linguistic Theory or Psycholinguistics and Communication Disorders.

Important: All Honours B.A. in LING students must complete the “Requirements for all Honours B.A. in LING students” listed below **and** the appropriate set of specific requirements based on whether or not they have selected a concentration. In each case there is a total of 9.5 credits in the major plus 10.5 credits of electives.

The Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language (CTESL) and the Certificate in Professional Writing (CPW) can be completed concurrently with the Honours B.A. degree. Courses taken for these certificates count toward either the LING major requirements or the electives.

Remember that at Carleton, most semester-long courses count for 0.5 credit, so “1.0 credit” usually means “two courses”.

Requirements for all Honours B.A. in LING students

- 1.0 credit in ALDS 1001, LING 1001
- 1.0 credit in LING 2005, 2007
- 1.0 credit in LING 3004, 3007
- 1.0 credit in LING at the 4000 level
- 2.0 additional credits in LING at any level [excluding LING 1100]
- 10.5 credits of electives
- Satisfaction of the [SLaLS language proficiency requirement](#)
- Satisfaction of the [B.A. breadth requirement](#)

Specific requirements for Honours B.A. in LING without a concentration

- 0.5 credit in LING 1002
- 1.0 credit in LING 3005, 3505
- 1.0 additional credits in LING at the 4000 level
- 1.0 additional credits in LING at any level [excluding LING 1100]

Specific requirements for Honours B.A. in LING with a concentration in Linguistic Theory

- 1.0 credit in LING 3005, 3505
- 1.0 credit from {LING 4004, 4005, 4007, 4505, 4510}
- 1.5 additional credits in LING at any level [excluding LING 1100]

Specific requirements for Honours B.A. in LING with a concentration in Psycholinguistics and Communication Disorders

- 0.5 credit in LING 1002
- 2.0 credits in LING 2604, 3601, 3603, 3604
- 1.0 credit from {LING 4601, 4603, 4605, 4606}

3.3 Honours B.Sc. in LING (20.0 credits)

The Honours B.Sc. degree in Linguistics requires you to select a focus in Psychology, Neuroscience or Computer Science, as well as a concentration in either Linguistic Theory or Psycholinguistics and Communication Disorders.

Important: All Honours B.Sc. in LING students must complete the “Requirements for all Honours B.Sc. in LING students” listed below **and** the appropriate set of specific requirements based on their focus **and** the appropriate set of specific requirements based on their concentration. In each case there is a total of 20.0 credits.

Remember that at Carleton, most semester-long courses count for 0.5 credit, so “1.0 credit” usually means “two courses”.

Requirements for all Honours B.Sc. in LING students

- 1.0 credit in ALDS 1001, LING 1001
- 1.0 credit in LING 2005, 2007
- 1.0 credit in LING 3004, 3007
- 1.0 credit in LING at the 4000 level
- 1.5 additional credits in LING at any level [excluding LING 1100]
- 1.0 credit in MATH 1007, MATH 1107
- 4.0 credits of electives
- Satisfaction of the [SLaLS language proficiency requirement](#)

Specific requirements for Honours B.Sc. in LING with a concentration in Linguistic Theory

- 1.0 credit in LING 3005, 3505
- 1.0 credit from {LING 4004, 4005, 4007, 4505, 4510}
- 1.5 additional credits in LING at any level [excluding LING 1100]

Specific requirements for Honours B.Sc. in LING with a concentration in Psycholinguistics and Communication Disorders

- 0.5 credit in LING 1002
- 2.0 credits in LING 2604, 3601, 3603, 3604
- 1.0 credit from {LING 4601, 4603, 4605, 4606}

Specific requirements for Honours B.Sc. in LING with Psychology focus

- 2.0 credits in PSYC 1001, 1002, 2001, 2002
- 1.5 credits from {PSYC 2307, 2700, 3307, 3506, 3702}
- 1.5 credits in BIOL 1103, 1104, 3306
- 1.0 credit in {CHEM 1001 & 1002} or {CHEM 1005 & 1006}

Specific requirements for Honours B.Sc. in LING with Neuroscience focus

- 2.0 credits in NEUR 1202, 1203, 2001, 2002
- 1.5 credits from {NEUR 2201, 2202, 3206, 3207, 3303}
- 1.5 credits in BIOL 1103, 1104, 3306
- 1.0 credit in {CHEM 1001 & 1002} or {CHEM 1005 & 1006}

→

Specific requirements for Honours B.Sc. in LING with Computer Science focus

- 1.5 credits in COMP 1005, 1006, 1805
- 1.5 credits in COMP 2401, 2402, 2404
- 1.0 credit from {COMP 2406, 2804, 3000, 3002, 3004, 3005, 3007, 3008}
- 2.0 credits to satisfy the B.Sc. [experimental science requirement](#)

3.4 Minor in LING (4.0 credits)

Students majoring in a different program can complete a minor in Linguistics. The minor requires completion of the courses listed below. Remember that at Carleton, most semester-long courses count for 0.5 credit, so “1.0 credit” usually means “two courses”.

Requirements

- 1.0 credit in ALDS 1001, LING 1001
- 1.0 credit in LING 2005, 2007
- 1.0 credit in LING 3004, 3007
- 1.0 additional credit in LING at any level [excluding LING 1100]

4. Combined Honours B.A. requirements

Combined Honours degrees allow you to complete advanced course work in two disciplines. The requirements described in the sections below reflect the 2023-2024 academic calendar. Your specific requirements may be slightly different if you joined the program in an earlier academic year. Consult your [audit](#) to ensure that you are taking the correct courses, and contact the undergraduate advisor if you have questions.

4.1 Linguistics and Discourse Studies Combined Honours B.A. (20.0 credits)

The combined degree includes courses from both ALDS and LING. It can only be completed as an Honours B.A. degree. There are no concentrations in the combined degree.

Remember that at Carleton, most semester-long courses count for 0.5 credit, so “1.0 credit” usually means “two courses”.

Requirements

- 1.5 credits in ALDS 1001, LING 1001, LING 1002
- 1.0 credit in LING 2005, 2007
- 2.0 credits in LING 3004, 3005, 3007, 3505
- 1.0 credit in LING at the 4000 level
- 1.0 additional credit in LING at any level [excluding LING 1100]
- 1.0 credit in ALDS 2201, 2202
- 1.0 credit in ALDS at the 3000 or 4000 level
- 1.0 additional credit in ALDS at the 4000 level
- 2.5 additional credits in ALDS at any level
- 8.0 credits of electives
- Satisfaction of the [SLaLS language proficiency requirement](#)
- Satisfaction of the [B.A. breadth requirement](#)

4.2 Other Combined Honours B.A. degrees (20.0 credits)

It is possible to complete an Honours B.A. degree that combines either LING or ALDS and some other discipline. For example, you might complete a combined B.A. in LING and English, or a combined B.A. in ALDS and Psychology.

For requirements, consult the undergraduate calendar “B.A. Combined Honours” entries for the two disciplines you wish to combine.

Calendar program description for ALDS:

<https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/undergradprograms/appliedlinguisticsanddiscoursestudies>

Calendar program descriptions for LING:

<https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/undergradprograms/linguistics-ba/>

5. Suggested paths

There are many different paths that you can take toward graduation. No two students' audits are exactly alike. To help you plan ahead, here are some suggestions for each degree. Take these as examples rather than recommendations. They illustrate various strategies. For instance, one strategy might be to focus on electives in the first year or two, and do more courses in the major later. The opposite strategy might be to front-load major courses, and leave electives for later. Most students pursue a strategy halfway between the two. Another tool to help you plan is in the [following section](#), where we give you an idea of how courses are scheduled from year to year.

The tables below assume you take a full load in fall and winter – i.e. 5 courses worth 0.5 credit each. The filled cells have courses that go toward your major. Blank cells are for electives, which can be used for minors, certificates, and breadth requirements. Again, these are **examples**, not prescriptions or predictions about which courses will be available in specific semesters of your individual program. Your schedule will look different in many details.

5.1 B.A. Honours in ALDS

Front-load electives

year	FALL					WINTER				
1	1001					LING 1001				
2	2201	2203				2202	2704			
3	2604	3706	3903			3202	3402	3205		
4	3604	4308	4414			4604	4709	4801		

Front-load ALDS

year	FALL					WINTER				
1	1001	LING 1001				2202				
2	2201	2203	2604			2705	2704	3903		
3	3205	3401	3604			3202	3402			
4	4308	4404				4709	4801			

Switch into ALDS at the end of your first year and do it in three years

year	FALL					WINTER				
1										
2	1001	LING 1001				2202	2704	2705		
3	2201	2203	3401	3706		3202	3402	LING 2007		
4	4308	4414	4602			3414	4709	4801		

5.2 B.A. Honours in LING with a concentration in Theoretical Linguistics

Front-load electives

year	FALL					WINTER				
1	1001	ALDS 1001				1002				
2	2005	2007				3005	3810			
3	3004	3007	4005			3505	3601			
4	4802	4606	3603	4601		4004	4007	4510		

Front-load LING

year	FALL					WINTER				
1	1001	ALDS 1001				1002	2005	2007		
2	3004	3007	2604			3005	3811	3601		
3	4005	4601	3603			4004	4007	3505	3810	
4	4802									

Switch into LING at the end of your first year and do it in three years

year	FALL					WINTER				
1										
2	1001	ALDS 1001				1002	2005	2007		
3	3004	3007	3603			3005	3505	3601		
4	4004	4007	4601	2604		4005	4505	4603	3810	

5.3 B.A. Honours in LING with a concentration in Psycholinguistics and Communication Disorders

Front-load electives

year	FALL					WINTER				
1	1001	ALDS 1001				1002				
2	2005	2604				2007				
3	3603	3701	3604			3601	4603	3810		
4	3004	3007	4604	4601		4606	4605	3811		

Front-load LING

year	FALL					WINTER				
1	1001	ALDS 1001				1002	2005	2007		
2	3004	3007	3603			3601	3811	2604		
3	4801	4601	3604			4603	4606			
4	4604	4009				4605				

Switch into LING at the end of your first year and do it in three years

year	FALL					WINTER				
1										
2	1001	ALDS 1001				1002	2005	2007		
3	3004	3007	2604	3603		4603	3601	3811		
4	4601	4604	4009	3604		4606	4605	4007		

5.4 B.Sc. Honours in LING

Concentration in Theoretical Linguistics with Psychology or Neuroscience focus

FOC = PSYC or NEUR depending on focus

year	FALL					WINTER				
1	1001	FOC	BIOL 1103	CHEM 1001		ALDS 1001	FOC	BIOL 1104	CHEM 1002	
2	2005	2007	FOC	MATH 1007		3005	3801	FOC	MATH 1107	
3	3004	3007	FOC	BIOL 3306		3505	3601	4004	4802	
4	3603	4005	4601	FOC		4007	4801	4510	FOC	

Concentration in Psycholinguistics with Psychology or Neuroscience focus

FOC = PSYC or NEUR depending on focus

year	FALL					WINTER				
1	1001	ALDS 1001	BIOL 1103	CHEM 1001	FOC	1002	BIOL 1104	CHEM 1002	FOC	
2	2005	2007	FOC	MATH 1007		2604	3601	FOC	MATH 1107	
3	3007	3603	3604	BIOL 3306		3702	4603	FOC	FOC	
4	3004	4601	4605	FOC		3801	4004	4510		

Concentration in Theoretical Linguistics with Computer Science focus

SCI = [Experimental Science courses required for the B.Sc.](#) Consult the undergraduate calendar for eligible courses.

year	FALL					WINTER				
1	1001	COMP 1005	MATH 1007	SCI		ALDS 1001	COMP 1006	COMP 1805	MATH 1107	SCI
2	2005	2007	COMP 2401	SCI		2604	3005	COMP 2402	COMP 2404	
3	3004	3007	3811	SCI		3505	4007	4004	COMP	
4	3603	3702	4801	COMP		3801	4009	4510		

Concentration in Psycholinguistics and Communication Disorders with Computer Science focus

SCI = [Experimental Science courses required for the B.Sc.](#) Consult the undergraduate calendar for eligible courses.

year	FALL					WINTER				
1	1001	ALDS 1001	COMP 1005	MATH 1007		1002	COMP 1006	COMP 1805	MATH 1107	SCI
2	2005	2007	COMP 2401	SCI		2604	3601	COMP 2402	COMP 2404	
3	3007	3603	3604	SCI		4603	4007	3005	COMP	
4	3004	4601	4605	COMP		3801	4009	SCI		

5.5 B.A. Combined Honours in Linguistics and Discourse Studies

Front-load electives

year	FALL					WINTER				
1	LING 1001	ALDS 1001				LING 1002				
2	LING 2005	ALDS 2201				LING 2007	ALDS 2202			
3	LING 3004	LING 3007	ALDS 2604	ALDS 3205		LING 3005	LING 3505	ALDS 2704	ALDS 3203	
4	LING 3603	LING 4005	ALDS 3401	ALDS 3706	ALDS 4404	LING 3601	LING 4505	ALDS 4709	ALDS 4808	

Front-load LING and ALDS courses

year	FALL					WINTER				
1	LING 1001	ALDS 1001				LING 1002	LING 2005	ALDS 2202		
2	LING 2007	LING 3004	ALDS 2201	ALDS 2203	ALDS 2604	LING 3005	LING 3601	ALDS 3401		
3	LING 3007	LING 3603	ALDS 3205	ALDS 3604		LING 3505	LING 4007	ALDS 3203	ALDS 4801	
4	LING 4009	ALDS 4404				ALDS 4709				

6. Scheduling habits

The courses offered in LING and ALDS vary from year to year. **Not every course is available every semester or every year**, and so it is important to think ahead when deciding what courses to take.

The information presented here represents our best intentions regarding the scheduling of courses. While we try to follow the scheme laid out below, in any given year things may not work out perfectly due to instructor availability or other factors. Generally, we prioritize teaching required courses on a regular basis, but even taking that into account, it is a good idea not to postpone required coursework on the assumption that the schedule will always follow our best expectations.

- F = fall, W = winter, S = early summer
- If there is no indication of term, a course can appear in either semester

Note that the scheduling is structured in such a way that there are two natural sequences based on prerequisites:

- LING Phonology sequence: 2007 winter → 3007 fall → 4007 winter
- LING Syntax sequence: 2005 winter → 3004 fall → 4004 winter

6.1 LING

CODE	NAME	FREQUENCY	TERM
1001	Introduction to Linguistics I	annual	FWS
1002	Introduction to Linguistics II	annual	W
1100	Mysteries of Language (note: can only be taken as an elective)	annual	W
2005	Linguistic Analysis	annual	FW
2007	Phonetics	annual	FW
2105	History of English (taught by ENGL)	occasional	
2504	Language and Communication (taught by PHIL)	occasional	
2604	Communication Differences and Disabilities I	annual	
3004	Syntax I	annual	F
3005	Morphology I	annual	W
3007	Phonology I	annual	F
3504	Pragmatics (taught by PHIL)	occasional	
3505	Semantics	most years	
3601	Language Processing and the Brain	annual	W
3603	Child Language	annual	F
3604	Communication Differences and Disabilities II	annual	
3701	Corpus Linguistics (taught by ALDS)	occasional	
3702	Sociolinguistics (taught by ALDS)	most years	

CODE	NAME	FREQUENCY	TERM
3801	Structure of a Specific Language	occasional	
3810	Historical Linguistics	alternate years	
3811	Language Typology and Universals	alternate years	
4004	Syntax II	annual	W
4005	Morphology II	alternate years	F
4007	Phonology II	annual	W
4009	Special Topics (topic varies from year to year)	occasional	
4105	Old English (taught by ENGL)	most years	
4412	Diversité du français (taught by FREN)	alternate years	
4413	Diachronie du français (taught by FREN)	alternate years	
4414	Analyse du français (taught by FREN)	alternate years	
4415	Variation du français (taught by FREN)	alternate years	
4505	Formal Semantics	alternate years	
4510	Lexical Semantics	alternate years	
4601	Cognitive Neuroscience of Language	most years	
4603	First Language Acquisition	most years	
4604	Practicum in SLP (by application)	annual	FW
4605	Psycholinguistics Research Methods	alternate years	
4606	Statistics for Language Research	most years	
4801	Linguistic Field Methods	alternate years	
4802	Historical Linguistics: English	alternate years	

6.2 ALDS

ALDS scheduling is a bit less predictable, but the ALDS program is much more flexible than LING. Generally, you should expect:

- ALDS 1001 is taught every semester, including summer (normally)
- 2201, 2202, 2203 are taught every year – typically 2201 and 2203 in the fall, and 2202 in the winter
- CTESL-required courses are taught every year: 4206, 4305, 4306, 4602, 4801
- There are sufficient other courses to fulfill requirements.

7. SLaLS language proficiency requirement

All students completing a B.A. or B.Sc. degree in ALDS or LING must satisfy the SLaLS language proficiency requirement. There are two ways of doing this.

The first and most common way of satisfying the requirement is by taking 1.0 credit of a language other than English at Carleton. The full 1.0 credit must be in the **same** language. For example, you might take ASLA 1010 (0.5 cr) in the Fall semester and then ASLA 1020 (0.5 cr) in the Winter semester. Or, you might take a 1.0 cr French course like FREN 1001 that spans the two semesters. Or, you might take an intensive course like JAPA 1110, where you do 1.0 cr in a single semester.

Carleton offers courses in American Sign Language (ASLA), Arabic (ARAB), Mandarin Chinese (CHIN), French (FREN), German (GERM), Greek (GREK), Italian (ITAL), Japanese (JAPA), Korean (KORE), Latin (LATN), Portuguese (PORT), Russian (RUSS) and Spanish (SPAN).

Note that courses in French Interdisciplinary Studies (FINS) **do not** count for the SLaLS language proficiency requirement, because testing is typically in English.

The second way of satisfying the SLaLS language proficiency requirement is by presenting a diploma or language test results demonstrating that you have the required degree of proficiency in a language other than English. If you would like to discuss this option, you should contact the undergraduate advisor for LING and ALDS.

8. B.A. breadth requirement

All students completing a B.A. degree at Carleton must complete the B.A. breadth requirement by completing 1.0 credit in **three** of the following four areas:

- Culture and Communication
- Humanities
- Science, Engineering and Design
- Social Sciences

ALDS and LING courses count toward the Humanities area, and language courses count toward the Culture and Communication area. So, for the majority of LING and ALDS students, this leaves one more breadth area to fulfill – either Science, Engineering and Design, or Social Sciences.

Eligible course codes for each breadth area can be found here:

<https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsandrequirementsforthebatchelorofartsdegree/>

9. B.Sc. experimental science requirement

All students completing a B.Sc. degree at Carleton must complete the B.Sc. experimental science requirement by completing 2.0 credits from the list of courses found here:

<https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsandrequirementsforthebachelorofsciencedegree/>

The Linguistics Honours B.Sc. degrees with the **psychology** and **neuroscience** focuses build in this requirement by including the courses BIOL 1103, BIOL 1104, CHEM 1001 and CHEM 1002 (or CHEM 1005 and CHEM 1006).

The Linguistics Honours B.Sc. degrees with the **computer science** focus do not build in this requirement. Students in this focus must choose courses from the list linked above in order to ensure that they satisfy the requirement. There are an extra 2.0 credits of electives in this focus to accommodate these courses.

10. Independent studies

In addition to scheduled classes, students may get credit for more individualized projects. Independent studies are available to LING and ALDS students with at least third-year standing. They may be worth 0.5 or 1.0 credits. The course codes are as follows (both LING and ALDS are available):

- 0.5 credit: 3901, 4901
- 1.0 credit: 3900, 4900

Note that 1.0 credit independent studies are approved relatively rarely. A project that is of sufficient scope to be worth 1.0 credit is often better undertaken as an [Honours thesis](#).

What is an independent study?

An independent study is a course where you are the only student. Rather than having lectures and assignments, you typically complete a project of some sort under the supervision of a faculty member. Exactly what the project is and how it is assessed is negotiated between you and the supervising faculty member. You are expected to be **much more independent and self-directed** than in a typical course.

How to arrange an independent study

If you are interested in pursuing an independent study, you should first think in some detail about what kind of project you would like to do / what you would like to study. Then, you should prepare a short proposal (roughly one page) and approach a faculty member who does research related to that area. Normally this would be a faculty member who taught you in a related course. For example, if you wanted to do a project about sociolinguistics, you could ask the professor who taught your sociolinguistics course. The professor must be a regular faculty member in SLaLS (Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor, or full-time Instructor) – not a contract instructor.

The topic must be something that is not covered in any of the courses we regularly offer, but it can be a more advanced / specific project in an area where you have already taken the "top-level" course. For example, if you already took Phonology II, and you wanted to do something about a specific phonology topic, that would be fine. We do not find supervisors for students; you must reach out to a professor yourself.

Note that faculty members are **not required** to supervise independent studies, and they consider requests on a case-by-case basis, so the more prepared you are when you approach them, the more likely they are to agree to your request. You should reach out to potential supervisors well before you need to register for classes.

How to register

Once you have found a supervisor, you should fill out the course approval form (available on the [SLaLS website](#)), and have it signed by your supervisor and the undergraduate advisor. During registration, file an override request for the relevant course, and once the forms have been processed, the Undergraduate Administrator will let you into the course.

11. Honours theses and projects

Honours theses and projects give students a pathway to do more advanced work. They are especially suited to students who have an interest in research and/or are planning on going to grad school in the future. Honours theses / projects are **completely optional** in LING and ALDS.

There are three options; they are all worth 1.0 credit, and they all have CGPA requirements. You must have 4th-year standing or be entering your final full year in a LING or ALDS Honours degree program to complete a thesis / project. Normally they are completed over the course of two semesters – Fall + Winter.

- LING 4905: Honours Project in Experimental Linguistics [CGPA 9.0 required]
- LING 4910: Honours Thesis in Linguistics [CGPA 10.0 required]
- ALDS 4908: Honours Project in ALDS [CGPA 9.0 required]

In LING, the most common option is the Honours Thesis (LING 4910). An Honours thesis generally involves some form of data gathering (an experiment, structured observations, corpus data analysis, etc.), as well as literature review and analysis. The final product is typically a written document of 30-40 pages.

In ALDS, students can complete an Honours Project (ALDS 4908). It can involve a variety of activities, including research (a thesis) or a practicum placement. Students work out a plan and the expectations individually with their supervisor.

For more information, consult the [LING Honours thesis guidelines](#) or the [ALDS Honours project guidelines](#).

Note that if you are interested in completing a smaller project, you might want to consider an [Independent study](#) instead.

Identifying a topic and supervisor

The first step in completing an Honours thesis is to identify a topic and supervisor. Ideally, this should be done sometime **between March and May of your third year**.

You should start by thinking about topics that are of interest to you, and considering whether there is a project that you began working on during a course that you would like to develop further, etc. You will be working on your thesis for a full year, so it is important that the topic be something that will hold your interest. The more specific you can be, the easier it will be for you to move forward with your project. Note that it is normal for topics to evolve during the thesis process; the initial goal is simply to identify a topic that will serve as a starting point for developing your thesis.

Once you have identified a potential topic, make a meeting with a potential faculty supervisor and ask them if they would be willing to advise your thesis. Normally you should ask a faculty member who has research interests related to your desired topic. It is recommended that you provide them with a one-page summary of your potential topic in advance, but this should not dissuade you from meeting with someone to talk about preliminary ideas.

Normally faculty who are not on leave say “yes” to requests to supervise Honours theses / projects, as long as they know something about the topic you would like to study, and they do not already have too many independent study or thesis students. It is also helpful if they have previous positive impressions of you from their courses – e.g., you showed good work ethic and did well in courses they taught. Try to be as professional as possible in your interactions.

Thesis supervisors should be regular faculty members in SLALS – i.e., Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor, or full-time Instructor (not contract instructors). If you need help identifying who might be appropriate, you should reach out to the undergraduate advisor.

How to register

Once you have found a supervisor, you should fill out the course approval form (available on the [SLALS website](#)), and have it signed by your supervisor and the undergraduate advisor. During registration, file an override request for the relevant course, and once the forms have been processed, the Undergraduate Administrator will let you into the course.

Next steps

Your supervisor will work with you to develop your thesis idea in more depth and to set a timeline for completion of its various components. Normally students meet with their thesis / project supervisor a few times before the Fall semester begins to plan for the project and complete some preliminary work (e.g., reading or ethics training).

There are no regular class meetings for LING 4910, LING 4905 or ALDS 4908. Instead, during the Fall and Winter semesters, students typically meet with their supervisor on a regular basis (roughly once every week or two).

Toward the end of the Fall semester, all thesis students present their work-to-date at the Fall Honours thesis workshop. Then, toward the end of the Winter semester, all thesis students present their final results at the Winter Honours thesis conference. Both of these presentations allow students to get feedback from other students and faculty members, and serve as a way of making connections between people in the program.

The final thesis document is due on the last day of the April exam period.

For more details about the timeline, see the [LING Honours thesis guidelines](#) or the [ALDS Honours project guidelines](#). You can also contact the undergraduate advisor with any questions.

12. Practicum in Speech Language Pathology (LING 4604)

LING 4604 is a field placement course (0.5 credit) that allows students to pursue learning objectives related to the clinical application of research in psycholinguistics, communication differences and disabilities, and language development. Placements are typically at a Speech-Language Pathology clinic, in an educational setting (school or other educational program), or with another organization that provides services to people with communication differences or disabilities. Placements are roughly 7 hours per week for one semester.

Eligibility

To be eligible to take LING 4604, students must satisfy the following requirements:

- Fourth-year standing
- Enrollment in the Honours B.A. or B.Sc. in Linguistics with a concentration in Psycholinguistics and Communication Disorders
- Completion of LING 2604 and 3604 (Communication Differences and Disabilities I & II)
- Linguistics major CGPA of at least 10.0

Students enrolled in the Psycholinguistics and Communication Disorders (PCD) concentration are given priority, assuming that they satisfy the other eligibility criteria. If additional spots are available, consideration will be given first to other LING majors, then to ALDS majors. Students with majors outside of SLaLS are generally not eligible. If you are unsure about your eligibility, you should consult the practicum coordinator or the undergraduate advisor.

How to apply

To apply for the practicum, you must submit:

- the application form, including a one-page statement describing your interest in the program
- an up-to-date CV
- your unofficial transcript / audit

Application form: <https://carleton.ca/slals/wp-content/uploads/LING4604-application.pdf>

All of these materials should be compiled into a **single pdf document** and e-mailed to the practicum coordinator – Tamara Sorenson Duncan (tamara.sorensonduncan@carleton.ca).

Deadline

For your application to be considered, it must be submitted no later than **MAY 24** of the year before you plan to complete the practicum. For example, if you wanted to complete the practicum in Fall 2023 or Winter 2024, you would submit your application by May 24, 2023. The deadline is the same for the Fall and Winter semesters.

You should wait until you have received all (or almost all) of your final grades for the Winter semester before submitting your application.

More information and answers to FAQ can be found on the information sheet available here: <https://carleton.ca/slals/wp-content/uploads/LING4604-information.pdf>

13. Graduate programs in SLaLS

The School of Linguistics and Language Studies offers M.A. programs in Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies and in Linguistics. If you are interested in pursuing one of these options, you should make sure to discuss your plans with faculty members in your area of interest. For more information see:

- ALDS: <https://carleton.ca/slals/applied-linguistics-discourse-studies/ma-program/>
- LING: <https://carleton.ca/slals/linguistics/ma/>

Information sessions for interested students are typically held in the Fall semester each year.

14. Contact information

Undergraduate Advisor:

Karen Jesney (karen.jesney@carleton.ca)

Undergraduate Administrator:

Kimberley Seguin (kimberley.seguin@carleton.ca)
(613) 520-2802

SLP Practicum (LING 4604) Coordinator:

Tamara Sorenson Duncan (tamara.sorensonduncan@carleton.ca)

TESL Programs Coordinator:

Brian Strong (brian.strong@carleton.ca)