LINGUISTICS

DEGREE OPTIONS
Linguistics, B.A.

Linguistics is the study of one of the most important characteristics of human beings — language. Linguists are interested in understanding the properties common to all human languages along with language history, function and acquisition. What are the characteristics that all languages share and what makes each language distinctive? How does language vary according to region, social class, ethnicity and gender? Linguists also explore many specific aspects of individual languages, language groups and language uses. Linguistics cuts across the boundaries between the sciences and the humanities and is closely allied with many other fields, including anthropology, psychology, sociology, speech therapy and computer science. The UNH linguistics program is unique among regional institutions for its commitment to undergraduate education and its well-rounded curriculum.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
Linguistics majors study two or more languages
Senior capstone project develops fieldwork and language documentation skills, working with a native speaker of an unfamiliar language in a creative and fun group setting.
Internship opportunities in teaching English as a second language
Double major options in international affairs, justice studies, psychology, anthropology, philosophy, English and other areas

TOPICS YOU MAY STUDY
Linguistic analysis
Phonetics and phonology
Syntax and semantics
Sociolinguistics
Psychology of language
Linguistic field methods
History of the English language
Languages of the world
Methods of foreign language teaching
The linguistics program at UNH has challenged my preconceived notions about what language is and why we use it. Studying linguistics pushes us to reconsider language as a framework that we inhabit, renegotiate and rebuild when necessary; it is a living and breathing artifact that reflects how humans’ relationship with their environment has changed over time, and will continue to change.

— RACHEL CAMPBELL ’21