What to do with a degree in LINGUISTICS

The University of Calgary Department of Linguistics is one of western Canada's leading centres for the scientific study of language. Our faculty conduct innovative research in the traditional theoretical sub-disciplines of phonology, phonetics, syntax, morphology and historical linguistics.

Key Skills & Knowledge

Critical thinking/analytical: Identify patterns; Integrate knowledge from a number of disciplines; listen, read for meaning and social use; analyze in all aspects of language (sounds, words, sentences, meanings).

Awareness of the role of language in transmitting culture: Cross-cultural awareness related to language, social content and historical language change; awareness of the contribution of different cultures/languages to Western culture/language, awareness of how language conditions not only what we think but how we think.

Communication: Influence and persuade an audience or reader; writing carefully reasoned reports; Present theories and ideas in a comprehensive manner.

Knowledge of the structure and function of language: Understanding of language and linguistic theory; understanding of language development, structure, meaning and process understanding of syntax, phonetic, morphology, and semantic recognition.

Problem solving skills: Identifying problems, developing solutions; decision making skills.

Sample Job Titles

Audiologist  Language Processing  Researcher/Research Assistant
Child development Facilitator Intelligence Officer Speech Language Pathologist
Close Caption Technician Journalist Speech Writer
Copy Editor Language Materials Developer Standardized Test Developer and
Dialect/Voice Coach Lexicographer (terminology, dictionary work) Evaluator
Editor (editing, proofreading, indexing) Librarian Technical Writer
Educational Researcher Linguistic Policy Researcher Translator/Interpreter
ESL/Language Teacher Market Researcher Writer
Forensic Linguist Proof-reader
Information Technology/Natural

Some of these roles may require further training, certification or education. Check out the Alberta Government’s occupational profiles for salary info and more detail: alis.alberta.ca/occinfo

Need help deciding what to do?

Formal Career Assessments like the Strong Interest Inventory and the Myers Briggs Type Indicator can be helpful tools for your career development. Request an assessment via CareerLink
Potential Industries

Advertising  
Child development  
Communications  
Editing  
Educational Institutions  
ESL and foreign language teaching  
Foreign Affairs & Diplomatic Service  
Government  
HealthCare/Hospitals/Health Centres  
Hi-tech Industries  
Interpreting and Translation services  
Laboratories  
Language Institutions  
Lexicography industry  
Market Research Institutions  
Marketing Firms  
Media Corporations  
Public Relations Companies  
Publishing Firms  
Software and Computational Companies  
Voice Recognitions Industry  
Writing

Associations & Professional Development

Associations provide an opportunity for continued professional development. Many also offer networking opportunities and other events for their members.

- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA): [www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org)
- Canadian Association of Applied Linguistics: [www.aclacaal.org](http://www.aclacaal.org)
- Canadian Association of Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists: [www.caslpa.ca/](http://www.caslpa.ca/)
- Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences: [www.ideas-idees.ca](http://www.ideas-idees.ca)
- Canadian Linguistics Association: [cla-acl.ca/](http://cla-acl.ca/)
- Canadian Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters Council: [www.cttic.org](http://www.cttic.org)
- Editors’ Association of Canada: [www.editors.ca](http://www.editors.ca)
- Linguistic Society of America: [www.linguisticsociety.org/](http://www.linguisticsociety.org/)
- The Canadian Hearing Society: [www.chs.ca](http://www.chs.ca)
- The Linguist List: [linguistlist.org](http://linguistlist.org)

Additional Resources

Opportunities in Speech Language Pathology by Hicks, Patricia Larkins  
Good works: A Guide to Social Change Careers  
Careers for Foreign Language Aficionados & Other Multilingual Types (2nd edition) by Seelye, H. Ned & Day, J. Laurence

Career Services

Your Future Starts Here

- Career Planning
- Job Search Support
- Resume Reviews
- Career Workshops
- Online Job Postings
- Career Fairs
- Networking Events
- Information Sessions & much more!

Connect with us:

MacEwan Student Centre, Room 188  
T: 403.220.8020  
E: csstdnt@ucalgary.ca  
CareerLink: [ucalgary.ca/careers](http://ucalgary.ca/careers)

Job Boards

Indeed: [https://ca.indeed.com/](https://ca.indeed.com/)


LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)

CareerLink: [careerlink.ucalgary.ca](http://careerlink.ucalgary.ca)

Student Clubs

Verbatim, Undergraduate Linguistics Club  
[ling.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/verbatim-undergraduate-linguistics-club](http://ling.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/verbatim-undergraduate-linguistics-club)

Aligned Majors:

Communication, English, Languages, Psychology

Faculty Contact

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W: [ucalgary.ca/admissions/programs](http://ucalgary.ca/admissions/programs)