Master of Arts in languages, linguistics and comparative literature

Program information

College	Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters		
Department or school	Languages, Linguistics, and Comparative Literature		
Degree abbreviation	M.A.	**CIP code**	16.0101
Program website	https://www.fau.edu/artsandletters/llcl/linguistics/grad/		

Our commitment to you

This Academic Learning Compact describes the program's mission, what students who complete the program will know and be able to do and how faculty assess that learning. Florida Atlantic University publishes a compact for every degree program and standalone certificate so students, families, employers and the community can see what each program commits to providing its graduates.

Program mission

The Department of Languages, Linguistics, and Comparative Literature champions the power of language as a transformative force that shapes thought, builds communities, and opens pathways to personal and professional success. Through a rigorous and expansive vision of human communication, cultural understanding, and intellectual discovery, we empower students to master the analytical, interpretive, and expressive skills essential for leadership in a rapidly evolving world.

Florida Atlantic University's mission

Florida Atlantic University is recognized as an opportunity university and R1 research institution dedicated to transforming lives through education, discovery, and innovation. We empower students to achieve economic mobility, advance knowledge that creates meaningful impact, and forge partnerships that drive prosperity and connection in the communities we serve.

How the program supports the university mission

The program supports the University's mission by providing students with Essential Success Skills - in communication, critical-thinking, cultural understanding, and languages - that promote opportunity and economic mobility, while preparing them for careers in a global and technology-driven world. It also advances education and discovery through interdisciplinary study, research, experiential learning, and partnerships that connect language, culture, technology, and community engagement.

About the program

Students in the M.A. program in Florida Atlantic University’s Department of Languages, Linguistics and Comparative Literature (LLCL) study languages, cultures, literature, and the science of how language works, with concentrations in Comparative Literature, French, Italian, Linguistics, and.

What makes the program distinctive is its combination of theoretical and applied linguistics, giving students a strong foundation in how language works while also exploring real-world applications in language teaching,

multilingualism, and language research. Additionally distinctive is its interdisciplinary approach, which encourages students to study languages, literatures, and cultures across different historical periods, regions, and intellectual traditions while engaging with broader questions in cultural studies, translation, and comparative inquiry.

The program is an excellent fit for students interested in language science, language education, research or careers in schools, colleges, language institutes, and related fields, as well as those considering future doctoral study.

Student learning outcomes

By graduation, students will be able to demonstrate outcomes in three core areas: content/discipline knowledge and skills (Outcome 1), communication skills (Outcome 2) and critical thinking skills (Outcome 3). Faculty assess all three core outcomes every year.

A. Content/Discipline Knowledge and Skills

What graduates will know and be able to do in their field

Areas this program addresses (check at least two)

- ☒ **Declarative knowledge:** key vocabulary, history, theories and concepts of the field
- ☐ **Research skills:** finding, gathering, analyzing and reporting information the way the field does
- ☐ **Technical skills:** hands-on tools and methods of the field, such as software, instruments, lesson plans or business reports

Declarative Knowledge: Graduates will be able to synthesize cumulative knowledge, engage in keen theoretical and/or textual analysis in an impromptu situation such as a final exam, and demonstrate clear and logical reasoning throughout the process.

How students show it
Exam

Where it is assessed
Assessment will happen in one of the following courses
FOL 6731C Foundations of Languages, Linguistics and Comparative Literature
FOL 6885 Advanced Research Methods in Languages, Linguistics and Comparative Literature
LIT 6066 Introduction to the Comparative Study of Literature
LIN 6135 Principles of Linguistic Analysis

Research Skills: Graduates will be able to demonstrate knowledge and mastery of key vocabulary, theories, and concepts specific to language study.

How students show it
Exam

Where it is assessed
Assessment will happen in one of the following courses
FOL 6731C Foundations of Languages, Linguistics and Comparative Literature

FOL 6885 Advanced Research Methods in Languages, Linguistics and Comparative Literature
LIT 6066 Introduction to the Comparative Study of Literature
LIN 6135 Principles of Linguistic Analysis

B. Communication Skills

How graduates will share ideas and work with others

Areas this program addresses (check at least two)

- ☒ **Written communication:** clear, well-organized writing suited to the audience and purpose
- ☒ **Oral communication:** well-organized presentations that connect with an audience
- ☐ **Other forms of communication:** visual, media, performance or exhibit work
- ☐ **Team/collaborative communication:** contributing to group projects and shared goals

Written Communication: Graduates will be able to effectively convey, in writing, the results of substantive research performed in discipline. Student research papers are expected to exhibit mature critical thinking, clear analysis of evidence and/or data, persuasive argumentation, and cogent writing that is grammatically correct, well organized, and properly formatted according to disciplinary standards.

How students show it

Written assessment

Where it is assessed

Assessment will happen in one of the following courses
FOL 6731C Foundations of Languages, Linguistics and Comparative Literature
FOL 6885 Advanced Research Methods in Languages, Linguistics and Comparative Literature
LIT 6066 Introduction to the Comparative Study of Literature
LIN 6135 Principles of Linguistic Analysis

C. Critical Thinking Skills

How graduates will analyze, create and solve problems

Areas this program addresses (check at least one)

- ☒ **Analytical skills:** weighing evidence, comparing ideas and judging arguments
- ☐ **Creative skills:** combining knowledge to create something new, such as a design, performance or proposal
- ☐ **Practical skills:** applying knowledge to real situations, such as a business proposal, lesson plan or grant

Graduates will be able to demonstrate the ability to effectively weigh evidence, compare ideas, and form arguments following disciplinary norms for the purpose of literary analysis.

How students show it

Comprehensive examinations at end of program

Where it is assessed

Comprehensive examinations at end of program

D. Other Skills (optional)

Additional outcomes the program commits to, such as ethics, leadership or professional practice

> Optional. List any other outcomes, starting each with "Graduates will be able to". If the program does not use this section, delete it in Word or leave it blank in the PDF.
>
> **How students show it**
>
> Name at least one type of student work faculty review directly
>
> **Where it is assessed**
>
> List the courses where faculty assess these outcomes, as prefix, number and title (e.g., ANT 4116 Archaeological Research Methods), from the curriculum map. Separate with semicolons.

Assessment approaches

Every year, faculty review samples of student work to see how well students are meeting all three outcomes, and they use what they learn to improve the program.

Students will encounter written course-based exams, written comprehensive exams outside of courses, and course-based preparation of oral presentations and written essays, both of scholarly quality. Faculty will use the outcomes of these assessments to determine appropriate changes to individual courses and overall curriculum.

Assessment methods may change over time.