

# Linguistics



**WHAT IS LINGUISTICS AND WHY MIGHT I WANT TO STUDY IT AT UAF**  
Linguistics is the study of human language. It provides tools for understanding how we acquire and produce distinctive sounds, words, phrases and sentences. It also helps us understand how people in different cultures use language to interact and express meaning. At UAF you can learn about the variety of human languages in the world and you can focus on a particular language, either from the Foreign Languages offerings or from the Alaska Native language Program. Linguistics majors study two languages and take required courses in Nature of Language (Introduction to Linguistics), Introduction to Phonetics and Phonology (the sounds of language), Syntax and Morphology (structure of sentences and words), Historical Linguistics, and a senior seminar which involves in-depth work on an independent project. A minor in Linguistics is also available.

Foreign Languages regularly taught at UAF are Spanish, French, German, Japanese, and Russian. Latin and Ancient Greek are taught through independent learning. Other languages, such as Chinese, are offered occasionally. Alaska Native languages regularly taught are Inupiaq Eskimo, Yupik Eskimo, and Gwich'in Athabaskan

## GRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES IN LINGUISTICS

Although the linguistics Program at UAF does not offer graduate degrees, there are three options for pursuing graduate work in language areas; the concentration in linguistic anthropology within the Anthropology M.A. program, the Language and Literacy specialization within the M.Ed in Education, and the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program. For example, a student recently completed an M.A. degree in Linguistic Anthropology with a thesis describing codeswitching among Russian and English bilingual students. Similarly, a student in the Language and Literacy track of the M.Ed. prepared a case

study on language planning in the Tanana Chiefs region.

## FACULTY

- Charlotte Basham, Program Head, Associate Professor of Linguistics and Anthropology. PhD University of Michigan 1986. Specialization: second language acquisition, second language teaching. E-mail: [ffcsb@uaf.edu](mailto:ffcsb@uaf.edu)
- Gary Holton, Assistant Professor, Alaska Native Language Center. M.A. University of California, Santa Barbara 1997. Specialization: Athabaskan languages. E-mail: [gary.holton@uaf.edu](mailto:gary.holton@uaf.edu)
- Lawrence Kaplan, Associate Professor of Linguistics. Ph.D. University of California, San Diego 1979. Specialization: Inupiaq language, Comparative Eskimo, language policy and planning. E-mail: [fldk@af.edu](mailto:fldk@af.edu)
- Patricia Kwachka, Associate Professor of Linguistics and Anthropology. Ph.D. University of Florida, Gainesville 1982. Specialization: language acquisition, language maintenance and language shift, bilingualism, language and gender. E-mail: [ffpbk@uaf.edu](mailto:ffpbk@uaf.edu)
- Patrick Marlow, Assistant Professor, Alaska Native Language Center. Ph.D. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 1997. Specialization: Historical linguistics, indigenous language teacher training. E-mail: [ffpem@uaf.edu](mailto:ffpem@uaf.edu)

## RESEARCH FACILITIES

Faculty and students in the Linguistics Program are able to conduct their research using a variety of research facilities.  
- The Alaska Native Language Center offers the most extensive collection of materials on Alaska Native Languages available anywhere in the world. Research scholars from countries such as Russia and Denmark

regularly make use of these archives. Faculty associated with the ANLC teaches specialized language courses, work on documentation projects, and serve on graduate student committees.

- The Elmer E. Rasmussen Library contains a wealth of material on many aspects of Linguistics. The Oral History archives contain audiotapes of interviews and class sessions with visiting Native Elders and other sources, which are useful for student projects.

## WHAT OUR GRADUATES ARE DOING

- Attending graduate school in a Speech Pathology program.
- Teaching English in Japan in the Japanese Exchange and Teaching program.
- Teaching Siberian Yupik.
- Coordinating a language revitalization program for Athabaskan languages.
- Working for a State Legislator.
- Teaching Spanish.
- Teaching English in the Peace Corps.
- Attending graduate school in Linguistics.



University of Alaska Fairbanks

Admissions • P.O. Box 757480 • Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-7480 • [fyapply@uaf.edu](mailto:fyapply@uaf.edu) • <http://www.uaf.edu/>

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