department of LINGUISTICS
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

FORM FOLLOWS FUNCTION

NEW LINGUISTICS MAJOR AND MINOR IN LANGUAGE AND SPEECH TECHNOLOGIES

What are these new programs from Linguistics?

Beginning 2016-17, the Department of Linguistics will offer two new programs: a **Linguistics Major, B.A. – Language and Speech Technologies Emphasis**; and a **Minor in Language and Speech Technologies**.

What is Speech and Language Technology?

Speech and Language Technology comprises numerous aspects of human-computer interaction, such as speech and voice recognition, predictive text, voice-command interfaces, spell and grammar checkers, document summarization, search algorithms, and text-to-speech synthesis. Each relies on automated parsing and/or analysis of human language. Advances over the past decade have made computers, appliances, and communication devices more efficient, accessible, functional, and user-friendly. As the technology industry seeks to improve these tools, it will benefit from the contributions of graduates who have acquired not only the technical skills of programming and software development, but also the insights and skills of linguistic analysis.

What courses do students take in these programs?

Students in these programs complete a range of courses that cover the structural analysis of language, quantitative and statistical methods for detecting sequential and hierarchical patterns, and computational approaches for parsing and synthesizing speech and language. The emphasis and minor are both ideal for students interested in employing skills of linguistic analysis for computational and statistical applications. See the Major and Minor degree sheets for requirements:
https://my.sa.ucsb.edu/catalog/Current/Documents/2016_Majors/LS/Ling/Linguistics-Language-Speech-Tech-BA_2016.pdf
https://my.sa.ucsb.edu/catalog/Current/Documents/2016_Majors/LS/Ling/Minor_Language-Speech-Tech_2016.pdf

What do people do with these kinds of degrees?

Graduates of the Language and Speech Technology programs can pursue careers in many aspects of tech-oriented industries, such as software development, search algorithms and analytics, voice recognition, language-based user interfaces, and speech synthesis. Other career applications include the development and implementation of language-tech applications in education and translation contexts, and other professions in which parsing, sorting, and analyzing large sets of speech or written texts is a growing need.