

Data-based Decisions (2016)

The course requirements for the degree are still 30 credits, three new courses were added recently (LING 6500, LING 6600, and LING 6700). Two existing courses (i.e., LING 6520 and LING 6900) were thoroughly overhauled in terms of content and focus. With changes in the courses we offer, the balance of required versus elective courses was shifted such that students now need to take more LING courses and fewer Teacher Education and Leadership (TEAL) courses than was customary in the past.

These changes were made for several reasons. LING 6700 was designed to meet Utah's growing demand for trained teachers for Dual Language Immersion programs, in which both our undergraduate and graduate students can find excellent employment opportunities. LING 6600 was developed to enable MSLT students to understand what learning is and how it happens. LING 6500 was created to provide students with a more theoretical understanding of second language acquisition processes. LING 6520, a course in which students learn technology tools to support teaching and learning, became a course that now focuses on the theoretical underpinnings for why technology can and should be used in language teaching and what the research literature has shown in regards to the implementation of 21st-century technology tools for language teaching and learning. LING 6900, which used to focus on cross-cultural difference in education, is now centered on the role of cultural competence, particularly of pragmatic competence, in the foreign language classroom. The shift toward fewer credits in TEAL and more in LING was implemented in response to students' feedback about the relevance of TEAL courses to their intended careers. The degree requirements as they now stand reflect a heavier emphasis on LING courses than in the past.