Students must demonstrate:

- the ability to apply critical thinking skills through the analysis of linguistic data in the linguistic subfields of phonetics, phonology, and syntax; as well as in at least one other linguistic subfield, which may be, but is not limited to: morphology, semantics, mathematical linguistics, and linguistic change.

- understanding of advanced theoretical concepts and/or analytical techniques in at least one of the subfields listed above.

- ability to write up technical material in linguistics, including language description and theory-based analysis. Such ability is to be developed through: (a) weekly problem sets assigned in course work and (b) research papers based on data gathered from native speakers.

- ability to access the vast scholarly literature in the field of linguistics describing the structure of language and use it in their own research.