Ph.D. GENERALS PAPERS

1. Every Ph.D. student is required to write two generals papers. Students planning to write a generals paper must register for LIN 2201H for the first paper, then LIN 2202H for the second.

Areas

2. The two Generals Papers (GPs) must be written in two distinct areas of Linguistics, with distinctness verified by the supervisor of the second GP, with the approval of the Graduate Coordinator. As a basic requirement, the two GPs should be supervised by different faculty members, with no more than one committee member shared between the two committees.

3. At the beginning of each GP research, students must submit to the Graduate Coordinator a GP Enrolment Form which establishes the topic of the GP, its area, the supervisor and the second reader of the GP committee. GP Enrolment Forms must be submitted before the research gets underway.

The Generals Committee

4. For each paper, a committee of three faculty members is set up. It consists of:
   a. A supervisor
   b. A second active member
   c. A third reader

5. The Graduate Coordinator chooses the supervisor in consultation with the student. The supervisor is primarily responsible for selecting the other two members.

6. The student is expected to meet regularly with the supervisor and the second reader while writing the generals paper.

Time of Writing

7. For Regular PhD: Students should choose the topic of each paper by September of Years 1 and 2. Normally, the first paper (LIN 2201H) is completed by the summer of the first year, and the second one (LIN 2202H) by the summer of the second year.

   For Direct entry PhD: Students should choose the topic of each paper by May of Years 1 and 2. Normally, the first paper (LIN 2201H) is completed by the winter of the second year and the second one by the winter of the third year.

Generals Paper Presentations

8. Besides consulting with members of the committee, students will make presentations to the relevant research groups. This presentation will allow students to receive feedback on their work prior to completion.

Completion and Defense of the Generals Paper

9. The evaluation of the generals paper is based on two components:
   a. The paper itself
   b. An oral defense of the paper

10. After the student has turned in the final draft of the paper to the supervisor and the second reader, the supervisor selects a third faculty member to be the third reader. The three committee members have two weeks to read the paper.

11. After two weeks the student meets with the three committee members in a closed examination. The members of the committee discuss the paper with the student, and may ask questions concerning it. These questions are not necessarily limited to the immediate topic of the paper, but may deal with relevant background or related issues.

12. At the end of this meeting, the committee members discuss the paper and the defense, and arrive at one of the following decisions, which is communicated to the student at the end of the meeting:

    a. The generals paper passes as it stands
    b. The generals paper passes with minor revisions
    c. The generals paper fails

The committee also decides on a grade for the paper, with B- being the minimum passing grade.

Pass

13. If the paper passes as it stands, a copy is filed in the department library.

Pass with minor revisions

14. If the paper is judged to pass with minor revisions, the student is given one week to make the required changes. These must be submitted to the supervisor, whose responsibility it is to see that they have been done satisfactorily. If the supervisor determines that they have been, the paper passes, and a copy is filed in the department library. If not, the paper fails.

Fail

15. If a paper is deemed unacceptable, the student consults with the supervisor and the Graduate Coordinator in order to decide whether to continue with the same topic or to consider an alternative topic. In any event, two acceptable papers should be completed to fulfill the program requirement.

16. In case of failure, the supervisor prepares a written report indicating the areas of weakness. The student receives a copy of the report.

Appeals

17. Students who feel that proper procedures have not been followed may appeal to the Chair of the Department. The Chair or a designate will meet with the student and all members of the committee to determine whether proper procedures have been followed. If there is sufficient reason to do so, the Chair may set a new defense, possibly with a different committee.

Criteria for passing the generals paper

18. The paper must be a work of original research of publishable quality, such as may be published as a journal article. Factors to be taken into account in evaluating both the paper and the student's oral defense include the following:

    a. Knowledge of literature and major issues
    b. Originality and creativity
    c. Judgement and critical ability
    d. Form and presentation

In evaluating criterion (d), the committee should take into account the extent to which the paper is suitable as a journal article.

Publication in a journal

19. Students who have had a recent article published in a refereed journal may submit this for use as a generals paper. Such papers are treated as all other generals papers, in that a generals committee must be set up. The supervisor and the second reader decide if the article is a suitable basis for a generals paper, and what further work, if any, is required. The paper must be defended in accordance with the above rules. Publication in a journal does not by itself suffice to make a paper an acceptable generals paper, nor does rejection by a journal make a paper unacceptable.

Completion of the paper and submission of the grade

20. When the supervisor has approved the final version of the paper, the supervisor will send a [Generals Paper Completion Form](#) to the Graduate Coordinator and Graduate Administrator as a notification of completion. The final version of the paper must be submitted to the Graduate Coordinator and Graduate Administrator for filing in the Department library.