

# HOW TO APPLY FOR THE GRADUATE ACADEMIC CERTIFICATE (GAC):

Use this checklist to guide you through the Graduate Academic Certificate (GAC) in Linguistics application process. Currently, we offer GAC in two areas: TESOL and Computational Linguistics. **Please note: applicants who are not currently enrolled in a program must also submit supplementary documentation directly to the Department of Linguistics**

## SUBMIT AN APPLICATION WITH TOULOUSE GRADUATE SCHOOL

- Applicants who are not currently enrolled at UNT must submit an application with the [Toulouse Graduate School](#) \*
- Choose your GAC concentration: TESOL or Computational Linguistics under 'major/area of study'
- Under 'Initial Degree You Wish to Seek', choose 'Certification'\*
- Current students must submit the [Application for Concurrent Graduate Academic Certificate](#).
- Required documents are:
  - A 300-500 word statement of purpose for pursuing the certificate
  - A current resume/CV
  - Two letters of recommendation (academic or professional)

## GAC IN TEACHING ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES - PROGRAM LENGTH: 4 COURSES

Education, foreign language, anthropology, and speech and hearing majors find the certificate particularly helpful as it equips them with a skill set that expands their educational and employment options and further distinguishes them from the competition. Professional and technical communication majors should also consider earning a TESOL certificate (the coursework counts toward the degree's required cognate) as it deepens their understanding of writing and editing and enhances their ability to work with global audiences.

## GAC IN COMPUTATIONAL LINGUISTICS - PROGRAM LENGTH: 4 COURSES

Computational Linguistics (CL) and Natural Language Processing (NLP) – often viewed as one and the same thing – are rapidly growing fields in the high-tech sector, critical for development of such technologies such as voice-enabled smart phones (e.g. Siri, Cortana) and home assistants (e.g. Alexa). This certificate is specifically intended to address a growing need for language processing skills, particularly those associated with the rapid growth of artificial intelligence/cognitive technologies. Systems like Siri or Alexa are built on a pipeline of language processing technologies, ranging from voice and speech recognition to language understanding and automatic question answering. Developing such technologies is a complex process that requires knowledge from both Linguistics and Computer Science. Applicants for this program should contact our GAC advisor, [Dr. Alexis Palmer](#), for more information.

## GAC REQUIREMENTS

Admission to a Graduate Academic Certificate does not imply admission to an academic program. Applicants who do not have a background in linguistics will be required to take a pre-requisite course: **Principles of Linguistics** to enroll. A *maximum of 12 semester hours* earned prior to admission to a degree program may be counted toward degree requirements and may vary by program. Successful completion of graduate courses by non-degree or certification-only students does not obligate the university to grant admission to a degree program at a later date. Please note: as a non-degree seeking student, you may not be eligible for financial aid.

\*GAC applicants are still required to list previous universities attended

\*\*International and Domestic applicants use the same form. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact an advisor at [ci-advising@unt.edu](mailto:ci-advising@unt.edu).