Statement of Learning Goals for Professional Development and Ethics

The learning goals for professional development and ethics are to prepare students as professional scholars who will make significant contributions to research and teaching in the field of Linguistics. Students are expected to gain experience in a number of areas essential to the profession:

1. Participation in and organization of academic conferences
2. Job market skills
3. Research skills in a variety of subfields of linguistics
4. Teaching skills

To this end, the Program offers

a) a professional development series,
b) a credit-bearing teaching workshop,
c) various student-organized speaker series

A description of these is given below.

A. Professional Development Series (organized by Prof. Janet Fodor)

The PD series consists of up to 7 invited talks per semester and covers a wide range of issues and topics critical to career development, such as preparing for job interviews, job opportunities outside academia, specialized software training, grantsmanship skills, and introductions to various research tools. In 2015-2016, the PD series had as its theme empirical methods across subfields of Linguistics. Below is a list of the sessions offered:

- An Introduction to the Event-Related Potential Technique and its Application in Linguistics Research (presented by Ian Phillips, lab manager of the Second Language Acquisition Laboratory)
- A Gentle Introduction to R for Statistics and Data Visualization in Linguistics (presented by Christen Madsen, project manager, Second Language Acquisition Laboratory)
- Natural Language Processing in an Enterprise Context: Problems, Solutions, Surprises (Leslie Barrett, Senior Software Engineer, Machine Learning at Bloomberg LP)
- Experimental Methods for Studying Speech Production (Kevin Roon, post-doc fellow in the Speech Production Lab)
• Surviving and Thriving in the Field: a Practical Guide to Linguistic Fieldwork (Jason Kandybowicz and Dan Kaufman, GC Linguistics faculty, endangered and understudied languages)
• Speech Based Services – Testing Linguistic Values (Nava Shaked, Visiting Professor, GC Linguistics, applications of computational linguistics)

Previous years have seen PD sessions led by alumnae of the Program who hold full-time and tenured academic positions in the field:
• Post Doc and Grant Writing (Stephanie Solt, Linguistics alumna)
• Workshops on getting a job in academia (Irina Sekerina, Eva Fernandez, Nancy Stern, Lucia Pozzan, Rebecca Curinga)

Each year, potential PD themes are solicited from students and faculty to maximize interest and attendance.

B. Ling 73900, Professional Development: Teaching Linguistics Across the CUNY Campuses

Since 2013, the Linguistics PD series has included a 1-credit course that meets 7 times in the Fall and is led by an advanced Ph.D. student who has extensive experience teaching linguistics at the CUNY campuses. The course is obligatory for incoming GCFs but open to all, and has seen enrolment by students from other Programs. Topics covered include:
• Syllabus design and development
• Lesson planning
• Finding and developing teaching materials and other resources
• Assessments
• Scaffolding
• Classroom management
• Technology options

Participants fill out a course evaluation at the end and this popular course has consistently scored 4 (very good) and 5 (outstanding) on the following 12 questions:

• Coverage of a variety of teaching topics and methods
• Organization of topics
• Extent of growth in your abilities due to this workshop
• Facilitator’s groundedness in current research and best practices
• Usefulness of activities in your understanding of the ideas and methods
• Extend of interaction and exchange of ideas
• Facilitation of discussion
• Responsiveness to questions
• Clarity in presentation of concepts and information
• Usefulness of workshop
• Overall rating

C. Student-organized Speaker Series

CIRCL
All students are encouraged and supported in their endeavor to present their research at Linguistics conferences locally, nationally and internationally. CIRCL (Connecting Innovative Research at CUNY Linguistics) is held every other Tuesday during the Fall and Spring semesters and features student presentations of ongoing research or upcoming conference papers to help prepare and present research to peers and faculty.

Psycholinguistics Supper
Organized by Prof. Dianne Bradley with the help of students working in psycholinguistics, this series focuses on experimental approaches to language processing and acquisition. Invited speakers are usually advanced graduate students and junior faculty from outside the CUNY system.

Linguistics Colloquium
This speaker-series features established scholars from outside the CUNY system. A Colloquium Committee of several students and one faculty advisor selects 8 speakers yearly from a list of suggested scholars canvassed from the Program at large. Students are expected to interact with the invited speaker and come to office hours prior to, and a reception following the talk.

Sociolinguistic Lunch
Natural Language Processing Group
Held on alternate Fridays, these two speaker series are also student-run and focus on two popular subfields in the Linguistics Program: sociolinguistics and computational linguistics.

Endangered Languages Group
This series holds monthly meetings and features research in endangered and understudied languages, usually conducted in the field with native speakers. Students and faculty present and discuss their work with fellow linguists from inside and outside CUNY.

Although Linguistics has a very busy PD and speaker series schedule with an event every Tuesday and Thursday and most Fridays during the semester, a recent survey held by the student members of the Executive Committee strongly indicated that both students and faculty felt they benefited from these sessions. In general, respondents felt it necessary to continue PD at the present pace and through numerous different events, in order to cover the wide range of specializations offered by the Program.

Ethics-in-Research training is offered in the Second Language Acquisition Lab, the Psycholinguistics Lab, the Endangered Languages Initiative and the Qualifying Paper 1 Workshop. Students are introduced to several topics related to conducting empirical research
and data collection with human subjects, such as plagiarism, intellectual property, responsible conduct of research, human subjects' protection.

Due to time constraints, no assessment of the Ethics training has been conducted.