

The current state of linguistic diversity at LaGuardia Community College

Tomonori Nagano
tnagano@lagcc.cuny.edu

Thursday, July 27th, 2023

This short report was written with the data obtained from Institutional Research at LaGuardia Community College on Wednesday, July 5, 2023. The data included information on the languages spoken by LaGuardia students during every fall semester between 2016 and 2022.

Below is a brief summary of the current state of linguistic diversity at LaGuardia Community College. The actual data can be found right below the summary.

- Most students did not respond to the survey item on home/primary language. The “no response” rate was 43.9% in Fall 2016, which increased to 89.6% by Fall 2022. As of Fall 2022, it’s fair to say that we practically do not know the current state of linguistic diversity at LaGuardia.
- Between Fall 2016 and Fall 2022, 119 different languages have been documented. However, the majority of languages (over 90 languages) are spoken by less than 0.1% of the student body and, in some cases, are spoken only by a single student.
- While 119 languages are recorded, not all languages were represented in each academic year. Small languages, typically those spoken only by one student, were recorded only for a few years within the duration of the data collection time.
- Among those who responded to the survey item on languages, the majority of students (53.8% - 60.5%) speak English as their primary language. The proportion of English speakers is slowly increasing over the years (53.8% in Fall 2016 to 60.5% in Fall 2022).
- After English, Spanish is the second most commonly spoken language at LaGuardia. Like other non-English languages, the proportion of Spanish speakers is decreasing over the years (21.0% in Fall 2016 to 18.6% in Fall 2022).
- The number of languages found at LaGuardia each year has decreased from 97 (in Fall 2016) to 54 (in Fall 2022). This is somewhat surprising given that linguistic diversity has been on an increasing trend in New York City (and in the U.S.). The decline in the number of languages at LaGuardia is probably due to a smaller sample size over the years, resulting in missing a lot of languages that are spoken by a small number of students (sometimes only one student).

Table 1: Languages spoken at LaGuardia Community College (2016-2022): Response rates

	Fall 2016	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022
Responses total	10,917	8,187	8,885	5,586	3,505	2,304	1,362
No response	8,529	11,169	10351	12,947	13447	12,609	11702

Table 2: Languages spoken at LaGuardia Community College (2016-2022): Number of languages found on campus

	Fall 2016	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022
Number of languages	97	90	98	89	77	62	54

Table 3: Languages spoken at LaGuardia Community College (2016-2022)

	Fall 2016	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022
English	5,868 (53.8%)	4,392 (53.6%)	4,823 (54.3%)	3,002 (53.7%)	1,987 (56.7%)	1,341 (58.2%)	824 (60.5%)
Spanish	2,298 (21.0%)	1,626 (19.9%)	1,775 (20.0%)	1,169 (20.9%)	697 (19.9%)	450 (19.5%)	254 (18.6%)
Chinese	411 (3.8%)	364 (4.4%)	325 (3.7%)	211 (3.8%)	128 (3.7%)	66 (2.9%)	47 (3.5%)
Bengali	373 (3.4%)	295 (3.6%)	285 (3.2%)	191 (3.4%)	123 (3.5%)	88 (3.8%)	49 (3.6%)
Nepali	218 (2.0%)	258 (3.2%)	255 (2.9%)	146 (2.6%)	58 (1.7%)	32 (1.4%)	19 (1.4%)
Arabic	181 (1.7%)	149 (1.8%)	163 (1.8%)	91 (1.6%)	61 (1.7%)	33 (1.4%)	14 (1.0%)
Korean	130 (1.2%)	91 (1.1%)	98 (1.1%)	49 (0.9%)	30 (0.9%)	21 (0.9%)	13 (1.0%)
Polish	119 (1.1%)	82 (1.0%)	73 (0.8%)	42 (0.8%)	23 (0.7%)	12 (0.5%)	8 (0.6%)
Tagalog	114 (1.0%)	76 (0.9%)	114 (1.3%)	75 (1.3%)	33 (0.9%)	24 (1.0%)	15 (1.1%)
Creole	97 (0.9%)	78 (1.0%)	91 (1.0%)	60 (1.1%)	38 (1.1%)	32 (1.4%)	17 (1.2%)
Tibetan	96 (0.9%)	61 (0.7%)	88 (1.0%)	58 (1.0%)	39 (1.1%)	28 (1.2%)	17 (1.2%)
French	89 (0.8%)	61 (0.7%)	65 (0.7%)	32 (0.6%)	23 (0.7%)	14 (0.6%)	5 (0.4%)
Urdu	73 (0.7%)	53 (0.6%)	48 (0.5%)	32 (0.6%)	20 (0.6%)	7 (0.3%)	5 (0.4%)
Russian	69 (0.6%)	59 (0.7%)	62 (0.7%)	39 (0.7%)	28 (0.8%)	18 (0.8%)	2 (0.1%)
Albanian	47 (0.4%)	33 (0.4%)	41 (0.5%)	25 (0.4%)	11 (0.3%)	7 (0.3%)	6 (0.4%)
Japanese	45 (0.4%)	28 (0.3%)	24 (0.3%)	13 (0.2%)	10 (0.3%)	5 (0.2%)	2 (0.1%)
Hindi	44 (0.4%)	20 (0.2%)	24 (0.3%)	15 (0.3%)	8 (0.2%)	4 (0.2%)	3 (0.2%)
Portuguese	39 (0.4%)	29 (0.4%)	37 (0.4%)	31 (0.6%)	17 (0.5%)	11 (0.5%)	4 (0.3%)
Punjabi	39 (0.4%)	29 (0.4%)	40 (0.5%)	23 (0.4%)	15 (0.4%)	12 (0.5%)	5 (0.4%)
Greek	38 (0.3%)	21 (0.3%)	30 (0.3%)	23 (0.4%)	8 (0.2%)	5 (0.2%)	1 (0.1%)
Romanian	37 (0.3%)	27 (0.3%)	23 (0.3%)	10 (0.2%)	4 (0.1%)	2 (0.1%)	1 (0.1%)
Burmese	34 (0.3%)	36 (0.4%)	39 (0.4%)	26 (0.5%)	14 (0.4%)	8 (0.3%)	3 (0.2%)
Cantonese	31 (0.3%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Ukrainian	28 (0.3%)	16 (0.2%)	18 (0.2%)	12 (0.2%)	5 (0.1%)	4 (0.2%)	1 (0.1%)
Serbo-Croatian	25 (0.2%)	16 (0.2%)	18 (0.2%)	10 (0.2%)	8 (0.2%)	6 (0.3%)	2 (0.1%)
Pilipino	24 (0.2%)	24 (0.3%)	28 (0.3%)	14 (0.3%)	7 (0.2%)	5 (0.2%)	3 (0.2%)
Turkish	21 (0.2%)	14 (0.2%)	10 (0.1%)	11 (0.2%)	3 (0.1%)	2 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)
Uzbek	20 (0.2%)	17 (0.2%)	20 (0.2%)	7 (0.1%)	5 (0.1%)	3 (0.1%)	3 (0.2%)
Gujarati	18 (0.2%)	7 (0.1%)	12 (0.1%)	8 (0.1%)	2 (0.1%)	3 (0.1%)	1 (0.1%)
Thai	18 (0.2%)	10 (0.1%)	12 (0.1%)	8 (0.1%)	5 (0.1%)	5 (0.2%)	3 (0.2%)
Yoruba	15 (0.1%)	10 (0.1%)	13 (0.1%)	5 (0.1%)	3 (0.1%)	3 (0.1%)	2 (0.1%)
Fula	13 (0.1%)	10 (0.1%)	11 (0.1%)	6 (0.1%)	6 (0.2%)	3 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)
Twi-Fante	13 (0.1%)	10 (0.1%)	7 (0.1%)	6 (0.1%)	4 (0.1%)	3 (0.1%)	1 (0.1%)
Indonesian	12 (0.1%)	16 (0.2%)	12 (0.1%)	5 (0.1%)	3 (0.1%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Mandarin	11 (0.1%)	4 (0.0%)	8 (0.1%)	3 (0.1%)	2 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (0.1%)
Farsi	10 (0.1%)	10 (0.1%)	9 (0.1%)	4 (0.1%)	3 (0.1%)	2 (0.1%)	1 (0.1%)
Wolof	10 (0.1%)	7 (0.1%)	10 (0.1%)	6 (0.1%)	3 (0.1%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
German	9 (0.1%)	5 (0.1%)	4 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	2 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Igbo	9 (0.1%)	6 (0.1%)	6 (0.1%)	5 (0.1%)	5 (0.1%)	4 (0.2%)	4 (0.3%)
Italian	9 (0.1%)	5 (0.1%)	5 (0.1%)	5 (0.1%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.1%)
Dzongkha	8 (0.1%)	6 (0.1%)	7 (0.1%)	6 (0.1%)	2 (0.1%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.1%)
Malinke- Bambara-Dyula	8 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)	4 (0.0%)	2 (0.0%)	2 (0.1%)	3 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)
Vietnamese	8 (0.1%)	9 (0.1%)	10 (0.1%)	6 (0.1%)	2 (0.1%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Hungarian	7 (0.1%)	3 (0.0%)	6 (0.1%)	5 (0.1%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.1%)
Persian	7 (0.1%)	9 (0.1%)	6 (0.1%)	4 (0.1%)	2 (0.1%)	2 (0.1%)	2 (0.1%)
Slovak	7 (0.1%)	2 (0.0%)	2 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Afrikaans	5 (0.0%)	6 (0.1%)	4 (0.0%)	5 (0.1%)	2 (0.1%)	2 (0.1%)	1 (0.1%)
Akan	5 (0.0%)	7 (0.1%)	5 (0.1%)	2 (0.0%)	3 (0.1%)	2 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)
Cebuano	5 (0.0%)	6 (0.1%)	7 (0.1%)	4 (0.1%)	2 (0.1%)	2 (0.1%)	1 (0.1%)
Dutch-Flemish	5 (0.0%)	3 (0.0%)	4 (0.0%)	2 (0.0%)	3 (0.1%)	2 (0.1%)	1 (0.1%)
Georgian	5 (0.0%)	6 (0.1%)	6 (0.1%)	5 (0.1%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)

	Fall 2016	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022
Pashtu	5 (0.0%)	5 (0.1%)	5 (0.1%)	2 (0.0%)	4 (0.1%)	3 (0.1%)	2 (0.1%)
Sinhalese	5 (0.0%)	5 (0.1%)	2 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Armenian	4 (0.0%)	4 (0.0%)	7 (0.1%)	4 (0.1%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Berber	4 (0.0%)	2 (0.0%)	4 (0.0%)	2 (0.0%)	2 (0.1%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Hausa	4 (0.0%)	2 (0.0%)	2 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Latin	4 (0.0%)	4 (0.0%)	5 (0.1%)	4 (0.1%)	3 (0.1%)	3 (0.1%)	1 (0.1%)
Bulgarian	3 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	5 (0.1%)	4 (0.1%)	3 (0.1%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Czech	3 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Futa Jalon	3 (0.0%)	2 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	2 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Hebrew	3 (0.0%)	3 (0.0%)	6 (0.1%)	4 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Javanese	3 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	2 (0.0%)	2 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Macedonian	3 (0.0%)	3 (0.0%)	2 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Mongolian	3 (0.0%)	2 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.1%)
Tajiki	3 (0.0%)	4 (0.0%)	5 (0.1%)	2 (0.0%)	4 (0.1%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.1%)
Amharic	2 (0.0%)	2 (0.0%)	2 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.1%)
Byelorussian	2 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Ewe	2 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Fon	2 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	2 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Kazakh	2 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	2 (0.1%)	2 (0.1%)
Malayalam	2 (0.0%)	2 (0.0%)	3 (0.0%)	2 (0.0%)	3 (0.1%)	2 (0.1%)	2 (0.1%)
More	2 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	2 (0.0%)	2 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Swahili	2 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.1%)
Tamil	2 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Turkmen	2 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	2 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Esperanto	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Galician	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Kannada	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Karen	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Kashmiri	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Khmer	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Kirghiz	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Lao	1 (0.0%)	2 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Lithuanian	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	2 (0.0%)	2 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Malay	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Moldavian	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Nyanja	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Pampangan	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Pangasinan	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Shona	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Somali	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Soninke	1 (0.0%)	4 (0.0%)	4 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Swedish	1 (0.0%)	2 (0.0%)	2 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Telugu	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.1%)
Tigrinya	1 (0.0%)	2 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Tiv	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Uighur	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Cambodian	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Catalan	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Chiga	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	2 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Edo	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	3 (0.0%)	4 (0.1%)	2 (0.1%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Efik	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Estonian	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Fang-Bulu	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.1%)
Finnish	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Fulakunda	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.1%)

	Fall 2016	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022
Gaelic	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	2 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Guarani	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.1%)
Ibibio	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Ilocano	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.1%)
Kabyle	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Kikuyu	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Kurdish	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Latvian	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Marathi	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Panay-Hiligaynon	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Pushto	0 (0.0%)	2 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	2 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Quechua	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Slovene	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Sotho	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Sundanese	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Sylhetti	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Wu	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Zulu	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.1%)