



Comparative Literature

Comparatists examine literature across national, historical, and linguistic boundaries. Students investigate literature from a variety of critical and theoretical perspectives, and consider its relationship with other academic areas such as film, music, psychology, and history. The comparative nature of the discipline, established through the study of two or more different languages and literatures simultaneously, adds new perspectives to language study and enhances the appreciation of national literatures and cultures. Concentrators are also introduced to some of the essential aspects of literary and cultural theory, which provide them with a basis for work in a variety of disciplines.

Comparative Literature concentrators are equipped to follow many different career paths. The broad, interdisciplinary nature of the program helps prepare students for opportunities in fields as diverse as education, law, journalism and business. In addition, many students continue their education in graduate or professional programs. Listed below are some characteristic skills and abilities developed by Comparative Literature majors, as well as representative occupations of graduates with a Comparative Literature degree.

SKILLS & ABILITIES

The Comparative Literature program encourages students to think in new and imaginative ways, and to evaluate ideas and problems from a broad critical perspective. The person who is able to develop those talents will find uses for them in a wide range of occupational

settings. For example, an advocate for the homeless, an international lawyer, and a market research analyst all must be able to examine problems from a variety of viewpoints. A sampling of skills and abilities fostered by the Comparative Literature concentration follows.

Analysis

- Synthesizing themes from diverse sources
- Comparing / contrasting ideas
- Using theoretical approaches
- Understanding components of complex problems
- Offering diverse perspectives

Communication

- Writing clearly
- Reading complex texts
- Editing / proofreading material
- Advocating / defending a position
- Presenting information logically

Language

- Evaluating translations and original texts
- Perceiving word patterns and structures
- Reading for tone and attitude
- Comparing / contrasting different languages
- Using and recognizing precise language
- Mastering more than one language

Cross-cultural Understanding

- Understanding and interpreting other cultures / beliefs
- Examining problems from a variety of perspectives
- Appreciating similarities / differences among cultures
- Honing sensitivity to others' viewpoints

OCCUPATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

This selected list of occupations pursued by Comparative Literature majors offers a glimpse of the wide-ranging career paths available. This list was compiled from the experiences of Michigan students, as well as from national

data. For some of the occupations listed below, additional skills or related training are desirable. Graduate study is generally expected for those occupations marked with a • on the following list.

Communication	Government/ Public Service	Business	Education/Research
Film maker	Homeless advocate	Market research analyst	• Professor
Public opinion analyst	VISTA volunteer coordinator	Advertising copywriter	Teacher (K-12)
Reporter / columnist	Foreign service officer	• International lawyer	• Librarian
Editor	Labor mediator	Employee relations specialist	• Archivist
Public relations representative	United Nations interpreter	Manager	Reading specialist
Free-lance writer	Paralegal	Sales representative	• Student development professional
	• Urban planner	Cross-cultural relations specialist	• Preservation specialist
	Legislative aide	Web designer	

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisites: Foreign language proficiency necessary for the study of foreign literature courses at the 300 level or above.

Concentration: 33 credit hour minimum is required according to the following plan:

- 24 credits: A complementary group of courses in literature or related fields at the 300 level or above, in a minimum of two languages, one of which may be English. At least 12 credit hours are required in each literature.
- If a student elects English as one of the chosen languages, then a maximum of 18 credits of undergraduate coursework in Comparative Literature

may be applied to the concentration, with no greater than six credits at the 200 level. Please note that 100-level courses do not count toward the concentration.

- 3 credits: The senior seminar, Comparative Literature 495.
- 6 credits: Comparative Literature electives 200 level and above. Comparative Literature 496 (3 credit hours), for those writing an honors thesis during the last term may be used.

Courses will be chosen in consultation with the undergraduate concentration and/or faculty advisor in Comparative Literature based on a robust theoretical or organizational principle.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For information about choosing a career, about graduate/professional school, internships, or job descriptions; and for library resources:

The Career Center
3200 Student Activities Building
764-7460
www.careercenter.umich.edu

For information about the concentration and degree requirements:

Program in Comparative Literature
2015 Tisch Hall
763-2351
www.lsa.umich.edu/complit/
complit.info@umich.edu

LS&A Academic Advising Center
1255 Angell Hall
764-0332