



Comparative Literature

FROM STUDY TO SKILLS

All academic programs offered at the UM help students develop valuable transferable skills. Comparative Literature is a flexible interdisciplinary program that examines world literatures across national, historical, and linguistic boundaries. Comparative Literature students gain an understanding of comparative methodologies and cross-cultural analysis, and are encouraged to study abroad.

As a concentrator in Comparative Literature, you will study at least one foreign language and develop skills in critical thinking, reading, and writing about literature

and other media. Given today's developments in multiculturalism, trans-nationalism, and globalization, the Comparative Literature concentrator will be particularly well prepared for the challenges of the twenty-first century.

Related fields include International Studies, Communication Studies, Linguistics, History, Screen Arts and Cultures, History of Art, American Culture, Women's Studies, Political Science, Philosophy, Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology, and other programs in Languages and Literatures.

SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Language Skills

- Mastering more than one language
- Comparing/contrasting different languages
- Perceiving word patterns and structures
- Using and recognizing precise language
- Producing and evaluating translations

Analytical Skills

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

Cross-Cultural/ Interpersonal Skills

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

Communication Skills

- Writing clearly and concisely
- Presenting complex information logically
- Editing/proofreading materials
- Advocating/defending a position
- Communicating through print and online media
- Assessing the needs of an audience

BUILDING YOUR SKILLS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Employers seek out individuals who can demonstrate excellent verbal and written communication skills, teamwork and interpersonal skills, initiative, and a strong work ethic. Student organizations and campus employment offer valuable opportunities to add to the skills you are developing in your classes. The Comparative Literature Undergraduate Group is one such opportunity

and recently launched an online translation magazine, *Canon Translation Review*. Other options include study abroad, off-campus employment or volunteering in the community. Finally, a summer internship may be the best way of all to test out a career field and develop marketable skills.

FROM SKILLS TO CAREER

Comparative Literature concentrators develop a broad range of skills applicable to a wide range of careers. The interdisciplinary nature of our undergraduate program helps prepare students for opportunities in fields as diverse as law, medicine, journalism, translation,

publishing, international relations, marketing, education, public policy, film, and new media. Many concentrators continue their education in graduate or professional programs. The list below is a sample of careers undertaken by Comparative Literature concentrators.

Language Skills

United Nations interpreter
Special collections librarian 
Archivist 
Reading specialist
English as a second language teacher
Adult literacy teacher
Translator

Analytical Skills

Public opinion analyst
Paralegal
Urban planner 
Legislative aide
Market research analyst
International lawyer 
Manager
College professor 
Historic preservation specialist 

 = Further Study Required

For more career information, see O*Net at online.onetcenter.org

Cross-Cultural/ Interpersonal Skills

Advocate for the homeless
Volunteer coordinator, nonprofit
Foreign service officer 
Mediator
Labor relations specialist
Cross-cultural relations specialist
Counselor/social worker 

Communication Skills

Filmmaker
Reporter/columnist
Editor
Grant writer
Public relations representative
Freelance writer
Advertising copywriter
Sales representative
K-12 teacher

CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisite: Foreign language proficiency necessary for the study of foreign literature courses at the 300 level or higher. A minimum of 33 credits is required, as follows:

- 24 credits: A complementary group of courses in literature (or related fields) at the 300 level or above in at least two languages (one of which may be English), at least 12 credits per language.
- 6 credits of CL courses at the 200 level or above. CL496-Honors Thesis may be used.
- The 3 credit capstone senior seminar, CL 495.

For further information, please see the LSA bulletin, or the program website. A Concentrator's Handbook is available online under "Undergraduate Resources."

Department of Comparative Literature

2015 Tisch Hall
734-763-2351
lsa.umich.edu/complit

Newnan Advising Center

1255 Angell Hall
734-764-0332
lsa.umich.edu/advising

NEXT STEPS/RESOURCES

To begin connecting to professionals in fields that interest you, create your own LinkedIn account: careercenter.umich.edu/article/getting-started-linkedin

To identify internships or job opportunities, visit Career Center Connector: careercenter.umich.edu/article/c3

On campus jobs (work-study and non work-study jobs) are listed at: studentemployment.umich.edu/JobX_Home.aspx

The Career Guide series was developed by the University of Michigan Career Center, Division of Student Affairs, in cooperation with the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. ©2011 Regents of the University of Michigan

The Maize Pages list hundreds of organizations for students to get involved in: maizepages.umich.edu

Connect to Community lists volunteer opportunities in local organizations: connect2community.umich.edu

The Career Center

3200 Student Activities Building
734-764-7460
careercenter.umich.edu
facebook.com/careercenter.umich
twitter.com/careercenter
linkedin.com/company/the-career-center-at-the-university-of-michigan