

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

Degree Requirements

Master of Arts (M.A.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Policies. (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>)

A minimum of 30 credits at the 400, 500, or 800 level is required, with at least 18 credits at the 500 level. There are 9 credits required in the following core courses: CMLIT 501, CMLIT 502, and CMLIT 503. In addition, 18 credits in comparative literature courses and other literature courses are required, with at least 6 credits in non-Anglophone literature. The culminating experience for the degree is a satisfactory master's paper completed while the student is enrolled in CMLIT 596. Students must demonstrate advanced proficiency in at least two languages (one may be English).

Students pursuing a graduate degree in comparative literature have individualized programs of study within the requirements specified above. For example, one student may emphasize film and new media; another, the novel. One student may concentrate on earlier literatures; another, on international modernism. One student may be interested primarily in the European tradition; another, in literatures. In such a program, the relationship between student and adviser is important. Each graduate student works with faculty advisers familiar with comparative studies as a whole and with the student's particular area of interest.

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

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Requirements for the Ph.D. in comparative literature include:

- 9 credits total in 3 required courses: CMLIT 501, CMLIT 502, and CMLIT 503—with substitute courses if these have been used in the M.A. program;
- at least an additional 24 credits in literature courses, including course work in the three languages that the student selects, with emphasis on the student's primary literature—students should organize their course work, as much as possible, around a unifying principle, such as genre, period, or theme;
- passing a qualifying examination;
- proficiency in two foreign languages;¹
- passing a comprehensive examination; and
- a written dissertation and passing a final oral examination (the dissertation defense). The dissertation must be accepted by the Ph.D. committee, the head of the graduate program, and the Graduate School.

¹ The foreign languages are to be prepared at a level that permits thorough literary analysis of texts and related material in those languages.

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