INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR

The Comparative Literature major provides students with tools for analyzing texts, writing, editing, translating, and thinking across disciplinary and national boundaries. You will have the opportunity to pursue rigorous research in a variety of literatures according to your interests, engage in team-based projects, participate in discussions about political, aesthetic, and social issues, and develop a nuanced cross-cultural understanding of historical and social processes.

Our students go on to work in a variety of professions, including journalism, media, publishing, translation, theater, and politics, as well as in many roles in the legal, corporate, social, medical, and arts sectors. Additionally, we prepare our students to enter top graduate programs in the United States and abroad.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Our students have close contact with cutting edge scholars in their fields in a small classroom setting, with extensive individualized work. Our undergrad majors publish and edit their own journal of comparative literature (CLUJ) and run an annual research conference. Most majors also choose to spend time in study abroad to deepen their cultural and linguistic knowledge.

AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR

• Present your research at the annual Undergraduate Research Symposium.
• Join a student publication such as the Comparative Literature Undergraduate Journal or Cal Literature & Arts Magazine.
• Deepen your cultural and linguistic knowledge through study abroad.
• Develop connections with students and faculty through Berkeley Connect.
• Strengthen your skills and graduate school prospects with honors research.
COMPARATIVE LITERATURE
Bachelor of Arts

FIRST YEAR
- Explore your major
  - Meet with your major and college advisor to discuss your academic plans.
  - Familiarize yourself with major and college requirements.
  - Enroll in L&S 1, HUM 10 (Compass Courses), a R&C course in Comparative Literature, and a beginning language course.

SECOND YEAR
- Connect and build community
  - Get a mentoring with Berkeley Connect.
  - Find study groups, tutoring, and academic support at the Student Learning Center.
- Discover your passions
  - Discover new interests.
  - Continue exploring with a Sophomore Seminar, Big Ideas Course or Discovery Course.
  - Assist faculty in their research through UBAP.
- Engage locally and globally
  - Attend the Calapalooza student activities fair and get involved with a student organization.
  - Find service opportunities through the Public Service Center.
  - Explore study, internship, and research abroad.

THIRD YEAR
- Explore career fields in the Career Mail.
- Visit the Career Engagement Center.
- Develop a plan for getting career ready.
- Set up a Handshake account and sign up for CareerMail.
- Explore career fields in the Career Connections Networking Series.

FOURTH YEAR
- Undertake an optional honors thesis or independent study.
- Apply for a leadership position in your student organization.
- Apply for an internship at a major firm.
- Take a course in the Comparative Literature Undergraduate Journal.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?
- Jobs and Employers
  - Eng. Teacher in France, TAPIF Fellow, AmeriCorps
  - Freelance Journalist/Musician
  - Grant Writer, Fr. Joe’s Villages
  - Psychologist, Private Practice
  - Tax Consulting, Deloitte
  - Teacher, Pacific Boychoir Acad.
  - Teacher, Teach for America

- Graduate Programs
  - Art History, PhD
  - Chinese Literature, Masters
  - Comparative Lit., Masters
  - E. Asian Lang. & Cultures, PhD
  - English Literature, PhD
  - French Literature, PhD
  - German, MA, PhD
  - Journalism, MA
  - Korean Literature, MA
  - Law, JD
  - Medicine, MD
  - Modern Japanese Lit., PhD
  - Psychology, PhD
  - Religions and Politics, PhD
  - Spanish, MA, PhD

Examples gathered from the First Destination Survey of recent Berkeley graduates and from Comparative Literature Alumni Stories.