

# COMPARATIVE LITERATURE (PHD)

Graduate School

Program Website (<https://complit.cornell.edu/>)

CIP: 16.0104 | HEGIS: 1503.00 | NYSED: 05702

## Graduate Field

Comparative Literature (<https://catalog.cornell.edu/graduate-school/comparative-literature/>)

## Program Description

The Field of Comparative Literature at Cornell offers a Ph.D. degree in all major areas of literary study and on literary and cultural theory. Because the field is small (about twenty students), it is possible to plan diverse and interdisciplinary programs of study.

Entering students design a program in consultation with the Field Committee, which is chaired by the Director of Graduate Studies. Areas of concentration and principal advisors (the Special Committee) should be selected by the end of the third semester of residence. Because course work is completed within three years, the student should have proficiency in two foreign languages. Those intending to specialize in a foreign literature are strongly encouraged to acquire fluency in the relevant language. Students normally take twelve courses. All candidates are required to do at least one year of classroom teaching as part of the doctoral program.

The Second-Year Review takes place in the third term. Its aim is to enable students to begin focusing on the topics and the fields of research that will form the basis of their A exams. The Admission to Candidacy (A) examination is usually taken in the third year of study and is both written and oral.

The department does not offer a terminal M.A. program (and consequently does not admit students seeking only that degree), but an M.A. degree is granted after satisfactory completion of the A examination. The student then begins work on a dissertation, which upon completion is defended at the oral final (B) examination, administered by the Special Committee.

## Concentrations

- Comparative literature

## Program Information

- Instruction Mode: In Person
- Location: Ithaca, NY
- Minimum Credits for Degree: 108

## Program Requirements

- Six semesters of GRAD research course enrollment
- 36 credits of coursework
- Minimum Semesters for Degree: 6

## Graduate School Milestones

- Responsible Conduct of Research Training: Required
- Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID): Required
- Student Progress Reviews (SPR) begin: Second Year
- Examination for admission to candidacy (A Exam): Before seventh semester begins
- Defense of Dissertation (B Exam): Spring of sixth year

## Field Specific Milestones

- Field progress reviews conducted first and second years
- Six semesters of teaching assistantship required

## Course Requirements

Additional course requirements may be set by the student's Special Committee. Program specific requirements that apply to all students are included below.

### Year 1 (Fall)

- COML 6290 Comparative Literature Proseminar

### Year 2 (Fall)

- COML 6290 Comparative Literature Proseminar

## Other Course Requirements

- 12 graduate seminars of the student's choosing with advisor oversight

## University Graduation Requirements Requirements for All Students

In order to receive a Cornell degree, a student must satisfy academic and non-academic requirements.

### Academic Requirements

A student's college determines degree requirements such as residency, number of credits, distribution of credits, and grade averages. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the specific major, degree, distribution, college, and graduation requirements for completing their chosen program of study. See the individual requirements listed by each college or school or contact the college registrar's office (<https://registrar.cornell.edu/service-resources/college-registrar-directory/>) for more information.

### Non-academic Requirements

**Conduct Matters.** Students must satisfy any outstanding sanctions, penalties or remedies imposed or agreed to under the Student Code of Conduct (Code) or Policy 6.4. Where a formal complaint under the Code or Policy 6.4 is pending, the University will withhold awarding a degree otherwise earned until the adjudication process set forth in those procedures is complete, including the satisfaction of any sanctions, penalties or remedies imposed.

**Financial Obligations.** Outstanding financial obligations will not impact the awarding of a degree otherwise earned or a student's ability to access their official transcript. However, the University may withhold issuing a diploma until any outstanding financial obligations owing to the University are satisfied.

## Learning Outcomes

- Broad knowledge of methods of literary and cultural analysis
- In-depth knowledge of a particular methodology or area of criticism
- In-depth knowledge of literary/cultural traditions in at least one national linguistic tradition/genre/cultural practice
- Knowledge of literary/cultural traditions at least one second national linguistic tradition/genre/cultural practice
- Ability to undertake advanced research in chosen fields of study (this may include archival work with original materials such as rare books and manuscripts; popular cultural artifacts; bibliographic skills)
- Ability to develop original conclusions in writing
- Ability to articulate the importance/originality of work
- Ability to recognize and evaluate key problems in the field
- Ability to be an effective teacher of literary/cultural texts to undergraduates and/or ability to teach a foreign language
- Ability to complete a lengthy and original dissertation that includes in-depth research and makes original conclusions