

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

Admission Requirements

Applicants apply for admission to the program via the Graduate School application for admission (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-admissions/how-to-apply/>). Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions Policies (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>).

Students with appropriate course backgrounds and at least a 3.00 junior/senior average (on a 4.00 scale) will be considered for admission. The admission process is highly competitive and the best qualified students will be admitted subject to space availability.

The language of instruction at Penn State is English. English proficiency test scores (TOEFL/IELTS) may be required for international applicants. See GCAC-305 Admission Requirements for International Students (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/gcac-305-admission-requirements-international-students/>) for more information.

Most students who do graduate work in comparative literature hold a B.A. or M.A. degree in comparative literature or in a particular language and literature. Students completing degrees in such fields are welcome to apply –as are students in other humanistic fields, such as philosophy or history, if they have studied literature.

For admission to the M.A. program, students should be prepared to study at least one foreign literature in its own language. For admission to the Ph.D. program, students should be prepared to study at least two foreign literatures in their own language. Doctorate-seeking students usually complete the M.A. before being formally admitted to the Ph.D. program, but exceptional students may be admitted from the B.A. level directly to the Ph.D. Students are encouraged to plan a unified M.A./Ph.D. program if they take both degrees here; however, Ph.D. applications are welcomed from students holding or completing an M.A. elsewhere.