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.

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.

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.

I want to emphasize how wonderful the professors I had were, not just as instructors but also as people.

– Marica Petrey, Class of 2012

HOW TO USE THIS MAP

Use this map to help plan and guide your experience at UC Berkeley, including academic, co-curricular, and discovery opportunities. Everyone’s Berkeley experience is different and activities in this map are suggestions. Always consult with your advisors whenever possible for new opportunities and updates.

CONNECT WITH US

Cal Day
Come to UC Berkeley’s annual Open House in April for information sessions, campus tours, special talks, and more.

Golden Bear Orientation
Join your peers in the campus-wide UC Berkeley orientation program for all new students.

Events
Attend department events with students, faculty, and staff. Visit complit.berkeley.edu for news and updates.

ADVISING

Students can drop-in to 4118 Dwinelle Hall to speak with a major advisor or email questions to complituga@berkeley.edu.

Advising Drop-in Hours:
Monday - Friday 9am-12pm, 1-4pm

Visit vcue.berkeley.edu/majormaps for the latest version of this major map.
### 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.

- **Connect and build community**
  - Get involved mentoring graduate students with Berkeley Connect and L&S Mentors Program.
  - Find study groups, tutoring, and academic support at the Student Learning Center.
  - Enroll in L&S college success DeCal seminar.

- **Discover your passions**
  - Discover new interests in a Freshman Seminar or student-run DeCal course.
  - Visit the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarships.
  - Find research and funding opportunities in the OURS database.

- **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 options with Berkeley Study Abroad.

- **Reflect and plan your future**
  - Visit the Career Center and Career Counseling Library.
  - Check out the Career Center Yearly Planner.
  - Set up a Handshake account and sign up for CareerMail.
  - Explore career fields in the Career Connections Networking Series.

### SECOND YEAR
- **Explore your major**
  - Meet with the major advisor to discuss lower division coursework and declaring the major.
  - Talk to Comparative Literature peer advisors about life in the major.
  - Review the major guidelines for study abroad.

- **Connect and build community**
  - Join a student publication such as the Comparative Literature Undergraduate Journal or Cal Literature & Arts Magazine.
  - Get to know professors and graduate student instructors during their office hours.
  - Subscribe to the Comparative Literature email list and attend attending department events.

- **Discover your passions**
  - Continue exploring with a Sophomore Seminar, Big Ideas Course or Discovery Course.
  - Assist faculty and graduate students in their research through URAP and SURF-SMART.
  - Build your research skills in HUM 196: Mentored Research and Discovery Groups.

- **Engage locally and globally**
  - Attend the Calapalooza student activities fair and get involved with a student organization.
  - Find research and funding opportunities in the OURS database.

- **Reflect and plan your future**
  - Meet with a Career Center counselor to discuss your career options and goals.
  - Shadow alumni during a winter externship.
  - Learn about graduate and professional school. See Step-by-Step for planning help.
  - Think about doing an internship and attend an internship fair.

### THIRD YEAR
- **Explore your major**
  - Begin working through your upper division primary and secondary literature courses.
  - Focus on upper division coursework including Introduction to Comparative Literature and Comparative Literature period courses.
  - Review your degree progress with your major and college advisor.

- **Connect and build community**
  - Give back by becoming a Comparative Literature peer advisor.
  - Consider becoming a Golden Bear Orientation Leader and welcome new students to UC Berkeley.
  - Work with peers and graduate students in HUM 196: Mentored Research and Discovery Groups.

- **Discover your passions**
  - Teach your own DeCal course.
  - Planning a senior thesis or project? Talk with the major advisor or apply to the Haas Scholars Program.
  - Curious about entrepreneurship? Enroll in HUM 196: Mentored Research and Discovery Groups.

- **Engage locally and globally**
  - Apply for a leadership position in your student organization.
  - Experience life at another UC or college on a study abroad through UCEAP or intern in Washington D.C. with UCDC or Cal in the Capital.

- **Reflect and plan your future**
  - Learn about career fields and conduct informational interviews with people in those fields.
  - Discuss graduate school options with advisors and professors.
  - Create or update your resume and LinkedIn profile.
  - Attend career and graduate school fairs.

### FOURTH YEAR
- **Explore your major**
  - Do a degree check to ensure you are on track to graduate.
  - Finish remaining major, college, and campus requirements.
  - Complete any “bucket list” courses.
  - Complement your major with a certificate, course thread, or summer minor.

- **Connect and build community**
  - Get support for your thesis project in the Townsend Honors Thesis Workshop.
  - Connect with alumni groups and build your network as you prepare to graduate.

- **Discover your passions**
  - Undertake an optional honors thesis or independent study.
  - Present at the annual Undergraduate Research Symposium.
  - Submit your work to the Comparative Literature Undergraduate Journal.

- **Engage locally and globally**
  - Hone your leadership skills with the Peter E. Haas Public Service Leaders program.
  - Explore service opportunities after graduation, such as Peace Corps. Teach for America, or U.S. Department of State.
  - Keep pursuing your interests through a fellowship or gap year after graduation.

- **Reflect and plan your future**
  - Ask professors and graduate student instructors for recommendation letters.
  - Meet employers at Employer Info Sessions and On-Campus Recruiting.
  - Apply to jobs, graduate school, and other opportunities.

### 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.