

## What is Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature?

Courses in the Department of Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature (CSCL) pursue questions and ways of knowing that cross traditional disciplinary boundaries. Here you will study culture as a set of complex connections and interrelations: between texts and everyday life, ideas and the material world, discourse and power. Within the Department you may choose among three tracks, each of which explores these overarching concerns with a specific emphasis: The Comparative Literature major engages primarily verbal texts, “Literature” in its broadest sense (novels, plays, poetry, prose, and expository writing of various kinds, such as philosophy and scientific discourse) and in a historical and global context. The Cultural Studies major investigates practices in all available media, including the visual-spatial (painting, sculpture, architecture, the built environment, the soundscape) and combinations (film, TV, multimedia events, festivals, riots). The third track is a separate major, Studies in Cinema and Media Culture, which has its own page (SCMC).

## What are the major requirements?

Go to [www.catalogs.umn.edu/programs.html](http://www.catalogs.umn.edu/programs.html) and select “undergraduate majors.”

## How do I declare a Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature major?

You will be required to declare a major by the time you have completed 60 credits.

1. Talk with someone from the department: an adviser, a professor, or a teaching assistant, to learn more about the major and its requirements.
2. When you decide upon a Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature major, meet with the Director of Undergraduate Studies to complete a Major Program form and be sure to retain the student copy for your records.
3. Bring a copy of the form to your CLA student community.
4. If you decide to change your major, contact your CLA student community to learn about your new major’s declaration process.

## What can I do with a major in Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature?

### Skills

Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature Majors develop skills that are applicable to a wide variety of careers. These skills include:

- Verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to formulate clear, organized and persuasive messages
- Listening, clarifying, questioning and responding skills
- Creative problem solving; ability to think “outside the box”
- Ability to understand and work well with diverse groups

## For more information:

### About the Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature major:

Undergraduate Advising Office  
235 Nicholson  
(612) 624-8099  
<http://cscl.cla.umn.edu/>

### About CLA requirements, graduation, and other information about majors:

CLA Society and Culture  
Student Community  
122 Johnston Hall  
(612) 624-2549  
<http://sandc.class.umn.edu/>

### or

CLA Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Program  
19 Johnston Hall  
(612) 625-2300  
<http://www.class.umn.edu/mlk/mlk@class.cla.umn.edu>

### About careers, internships, and community learning opportunities in this major and others:

Career and Community  
Learning Center  
135 Johnston Hall  
(612) 624-7577  
[www.cclc.umn.edu/](http://www.cclc.umn.edu/)  
[cclc@class.cla.umn.edu](mailto:cclc@class.cla.umn.edu)

### About graduation with honors:

CLA Honors Division  
20 Nicholson  
(612) 624-5522  
[www.honors.class.umn.edu/](http://www.honors.class.umn.edu/)  
[honors@class.cla.umn.edu](mailto:honors@class.cla.umn.edu)

## **Employment**

Common areas of employment for this major include but are not limited to:

- Education—teaching, researching, student affairs
- Arts and Entertainment—announcing, writing, managing, development
- Nonprofit—fundraising, programming, management
- Business—marketing, human resources, sales, consulting, recruiting
- Government—lobbyist, public information, campaigns, research
- Media—writing, editing, public relations, management

Today's workplace requires individuals with interpersonal skills, the ability to communicate effectively, an ability to solve problems, and adaptability. CLA graduates find that they are well-prepared in all these areas and that their education—especially when combined with experience gained through internships, volunteer positions, past jobs, and other collegiate involvement—makes them competitive.

The **Career & Community Learning Center** provides students with the tools to identify and pursue potential careers. An extensive resource room, career courses and workshops, and a helpful staff are just some of the ways we can help.

## **Remember!**

You have not declared a major until you have:

- completed a Major Program form with your major adviser,
- filed a copy with the major department,
- and filed a copy with your CLA student community.

**Don't forget: keep a copy for yourself!**