Comparative Literature and Folklore Studies, Ph.D.

Admissions to the Comparative Literature and Folklore Studies Ph.D. have been suspended as of summer 2018. If you have any questions, please contact the department (complit@lss.wisc.edu).

Graduate study in the Department of Comparative Literature and Folklore Studies (CLFS) emphasizes the active research into and theorizing of the comparative, the literary, the folkloric, and the cultural in a global context. CLFS faculty and students investigate cultures within, across, and beyond linguistic, regional, and national boundaries. The comparative and pluri-lingual nature of CLFS at UW–Madison enables the careful and informed study of new and evolving theories and cultural methodologies as well as of prior, present, and emerging cultural and literary practices and phenomena.

CLFS students study problems and create public projects exploring culture, genre, literary and cultural movements, mode, performance, periodization, theory and criticism, tradition, translation, and transmission. They engage problems and questions concerning the interaction and shifting boundaries of ‘elite’ and ‘folk’ literatures and other forms of creative expression and their transformation in their interaction; folklore and literature with other arts or other disciplines; and the relationships between creative expression and economic, sociopolitical, traditional, and other historical structures and issues, including ideological and value formations.

In addition to professional research and communication in the academic fields of comparative literature and folklore studies, CLFS is committed to public humanities projects that place professional expertise in the service of communities and publics.

Graduate study leads to the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in CLFS and must be in either a comparative literature named option or a folklore studies named option.

The department also offers doctoral minors in comparative literature and in folklore to interested Ph.D. candidates in other degree programs. At the beginning of study in the minor program, all students seeking a comparative literature or folklore doctoral minor should contact the CLFS director of graduate studies concerning coursework for the minor. Completion of the minor will be certified by either the director of graduate studies or the department chair.

Admissions

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Students apply to one of the named options:

- Comparative Literature M.A. (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/comparative-literature-folklore-studies/comparative-literature-folklore-studies-ma/comparative-literature-folklore-studies-folklore-studies-ma/#text)

- Folklore Studies M.A. (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/comparative-literature-folklore-studies/comparative-literature-folklore-studies-ma/comparative-literature-folklore-studies-folklore-studies-ma/#text)

All entering students are admitted into one of the two named options in the M.A. program. Students are accepted into the Ph.D. program upon successful completion of the Second-Year Examination.

Funding

Graduate School Resources

Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (https://grad.wisc.edu/funding) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and processes related to funding.

Minimum Graduate School Requirements

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirementstext), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

Major Requirements

Note: The major is currently non-admitting. Students are admitted through one of the named options (sub-majors) below (p. 2).

Mode of Instruction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode of Instruction Definitions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evening/Weekend: These programs are offered in an evening and/or weekend format to accommodate working schedules. Enjoy the advantages of on-campus courses and personal connections, while keeping your day job. For more information about the meeting schedule of a specific program, contact the program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online: These programs are offered primarily online. Many available online programs can be completed almost entirely online with all online programs offering at least 50 percent or more of the program work online. Some online programs have an on-campus component that is often designed to accommodate working schedules. Take advantage of the convenience of online learning while participating in a rich, interactive learning environment. For more information about the online nature of a specific program, contact the program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hybrid: These programs have innovative curricula that combine on-campus and online formats. Most hybrid programs are completed on-campus with a partial or completely online semester. For more information about the hybrid schedule of a specific program, contact the program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accelerated: These on-campus programs are offered in an accelerated format that allows you to complete your program in a condensed time-frame. Enjoy the advantages of on-campus courses with minimal disruption to your career. For more information about the accelerated nature of a specific program, contact the program.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Mode of Instruction</th>
<th>Face to Face</th>
<th>Evening/Weekend</th>
<th>Online</th>
<th>Hybrid</th>
<th>Accelerated</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
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</tbody>
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CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Requirements Detail

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Detail</th>
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<tr>
<td>Minimum Credit Requirement</td>
<td>51 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimum Residence Credit Requirement</td>
<td>32 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement</td>
<td>Successful completion of the Ph.D. requires 51 credit hours of coursework. This requirement includes that at least 50 percent of these credit hours must be received in graduate-level coursework; courses with the Graduate Level Coursework attribute are identified and searchable in the university’s Course Guide.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overall Graduate GPA Requirement</td>
<td>3.5 GPA required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Grade Requirements</td>
<td>None.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessments and Examinations</td>
<td>Comprehensive Examinations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The comprehensive examinations, or “prelims,” consist of three written examinations based on reading lists that have been approved by the advisor and the reading committees followed by an oral defense.</td>
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<td>Dissertation</td>
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<td>The dissertation is a written, substantial, and original contribution to knowledge guided by a dissertation committee consisting of the student’s advisor and two members of the faculty of the department. The student will submit to the dissertation committee for approval a written proposal that will include a bibliography of primary and secondary source materials.</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Upon completion of the dissertation, the student will be examined in an oral defense of the dissertation and related areas by members of the dissertation committee in concert with two additional members, at least one of which must be from a related discipline outside of the department.</td>
</tr>
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Language Requirements

Second language: An examination in a second language (other than English) must be taken by the end of the second semester of graduate study and before the Second Year Examination.

In the event that the linguistic tradition under examination cannot be covered by a member of the comparative literature and folklore studies faculty, the advisor will invite an appropriate member of the UW–Madison faculty to assist in the administration of the examination.

Third Language: A third language (other than English and the second language) proficiency must be demonstrated by the completion of an appropriate intermediate or advanced literature course with a grade of AB or better. This requirement must be satisfied before the Comprehensive (or “prelim”) Examinations.

Fourth Language Reading Requirement: For students pursuing the Comparative Literature Ph.D. option, each candidate must demonstrate reading knowledge of at least one of the following languages: Sanskrit, Hebrew, Classical Greek, Latin, a Medieval language, or a major Asian or African language. This requirement is satisfied by the completion of an appropriate course with a grade of AB or better.

Doctoral Minor/Breadth Requirements

All doctoral students are required to complete a 12-credit minor. Students may pursue a concentrated minor including the Option A or a distributed minor (Option B). Students in either of the named options in the CLFS Ph.D. program may pursue minors in their department as long as they do not have the same name as their named option.

REQUIRED COURSES

Select a Named Option (p. 2) for courses required.

NAMED OPTIONS (SUB-MAJORS)

A named option is a formally documented sub-major within an academic major program. Named options appear on the transcript with degree conferral. Students pursuing the Ph.D. in Comparative Literature and Folklore Studies must select one of the following named options:

View as list
View as grid


POLICIES

GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES
The Graduate School's Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy) provide essential information regarding general university policies. Program authority to set degree policies beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School lies with the degree program faculty. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

MAJOR-SPECIFIC POLICIES

GRADUATE PROGRAM HANDBOOK
The Graduate Program Handbook (https://clfs.wisc.edu/sites/clfs.wisc.edu/files/Documents/CLFS%20Grad%20Handbook%20December%202016.pdf) is the repository for all of the program's policies and requirements.

PRIOR COURSEWORK

Graduate Work from Other Institutions
With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 9 credits of graduate coursework from other institutions, provided this coursework relates directly to the student's CLFS graduate studies. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a master's degree may not be used to satisfy the CLFS degree requirements.

To apply credit for prior graduate coursework toward requirements the student should furnish the student's advisor and the director of graduate study with a transcript of the coursework and copies of work done in courses and syllabi, if available. This task should be completed in anticipation of the Second Year exam. Coursework earned ten or more years prior to admission to the doctoral degree may not be used to satisfy the CLFS degree requirements.

UW–Madison Undergraduate
No credits from a UW–Madison undergraduate degree are allowed to count toward the degree.

UW–Madison University Special
With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 9 credits of coursework numbered 300 or above taken as a UW–Madison Special student. Coursework earned ten years or more prior to admission to a doctoral degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

PROBATION
The Graduate School regularly reviews the record of any student who earned grades of BC, C, D, F, or Incomplete in a graduate course (300 or above), or grade of U in research credits. This review could result in academic probation with a hold on future enrollment or in being suspended from the Graduate School.

1. Good standing (progressing according to standards; any funding guarantee remains in place).
2. Probation (not progressing according to standards but permitted to enroll; loss of funding guarantee; specific plan with dates and deadlines in place in regard to removal of probationary status).
3. Unsatisfactory progress (not progressing according to standards; not permitted to enroll, dismissal, leave of absence or change of advisor or program).

ADVISOR / COMMITTEE
Every graduate student is required to have an advisor. An advisor is a faculty member from the major department responsible for providing advice regarding graduate studies. The advisor also serves as the dissertation advisor. An advisor is assigned to incoming student but can be changed. Students can be suspended from the Graduate School if they do not have an advisor.

CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED
15 credits

TIME CONSTRAINTS
Comprehensive examinations must be taken only on completion of the requisite minimum degree credits.

Within six weeks of successful completion of the comprehensive examination, candidates must submit a working draft of a dissertation proposal their dissertation committee members.

The dissertation must be deposited within two weeks of completion of all degree requirements.

A candidate for a doctoral degree who fails to take the final oral examination and deposit the dissertation within five years after passing the preliminary examination may by require to take another preliminary examination and to be admitted to candidacy a second time.

Doctoral degree students who have been absent for ten or more consecutive years lose all credits that they have earned before their absence. Individual programs may count the coursework students completed prior to their absence for meeting program requirements; that coursework may not count toward Graduate School credit requirements.

OTHER
Because we are committed to supporting and working closely with our graduate students, we are able to accept only a limited number (2–3 students per year) of the many excellent applications we receive each year. The CLFS' admission form also serves as an application for fellowships and teaching assistantships.
The deadline for all completed applications (and for fellowship consideration) for the fall semester is December 15.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Take advantage of the Graduate School's professional development resources (https://grad.wisc.edu/pd) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Articulates research problems, potentials, and limits with respect to theory, knowledge, and practice in comparative humanities.
2. Formulates ideas, concepts, designs, and/or techniques beyond the current boundaries of knowledge in comparative humanities.
3. Creates research, scholarship, or performance that makes a substantive contribution.
4. Demonstrates breadth within their learning experiences.
5. Advances contributions in comparative humanities to society.
6. Communicates complex ideas in a clear and understandable manner.
7. Fosters ethical and professional conduct.

PEOPLE

Faculty: Professors Dharwadker, Gilmore (also Landscape Architecture), Layoun, Livorni (chair, also French and Italian), Rosenblum (also Jewish Studies); Associate Professors Livanos, Statkiewicz; Assistant Professors Fielder, Grunewald, Neyrat, Wells. Affliate Faculty: Adler (German, Nordic, and Slavic), Casid (Art History), Garlough (also Gender and Women's Studies), Goodkin (French and Italian), Guyer (English), Kern (Asian Languages and Cultures), Longinovic (German, Nordic, and Slavic), Valentine (Linguistics); Associate Professors Kapust (Political Science); International Affiliate Faculty: Ramalho de Sousa Santos (University of Coimbra, Portugal). See also Faculty (http://clfs.wisc.edu/people/faculty) on the department website.