

Department of Comparative Literature.

Assessment of undergraduate students: Files are maintained for each UG major with a check-sheet for degree and major requirements satisfied, special actions taken, professors' comments on academic progress and achievement. In particular, the grades and performance in the 3 required foreign literature classes are reviewed as a means to monitor linguistic and literary proficiency in a single foreign language. An assessment of critical thinking, reading and writing skills is the goal of the two required (and writing intensive) courses in literary criticism and theory (CL 310, 371 and/or 475). The capstone seminar (CL 690) is a required writing intensive course for all Comparative Literature majors. For our Honors in the Major students, a Senior Honors thesis is required, for all others a senior thesis is optional. In addition, we have created and instituted a Progress to Degree assessment sheet for our UG majors.

Assessment of graduate students: The Graduate Review Committee reviews the progress of our graduate students after the conclusion of each academic year. We assess literary and linguistic fluency in a second language through the "Examination in a Second Language" usually taken in April of the first year of graduate study. We assess knowledge of selected literature and of theory and criticism in the field of Comparative Literature in the "Second Year Examination," usually taken in April of the second year of graduate study. We assess focused comparative knowledge in three areas – two of which are delineated by the student in close consultation with her/his advisor and Ph.D. committee, one of which must be the field of comparative literary criticism and theory – through the three written essays that constitute the Ph.D. preliminary examination. Those written essays are then the basis of a subsequent oral examination at which all three of the Ph.D. committee members are present as well as two additional departmental members. Within six weeks of successful completion of the Ph.D. prelim exams and oral, the student meets again with her/his committee to present an initial draft of a dissertation proposal. For a Ph.D. student, the culmination of her/his graduate career is her/his dissertation and its defense. We have created and instituted a Progress to Degree assessment sheet for our graduate students.