

COMPARATIVE MEDIA STUDIES/WRITING

Undergraduate Study

Bachelor of Science in Comparative Media Studies (CMS)

The program leading to the Bachelor of Science in Comparative Media Studies (<https://catalog.mit.edu/degree-charts/comparative-media-studies-cms>) degree is designed to integrate the study of contemporary media (film, television, digital systems) with a broad historical understanding of older forms of human expression. The program embraces theoretical and interpretive principles drawn from the central humanistic disciplines of literary study, history, anthropology, art history, and film studies, but aims as well for a comparative synthesis that is responsive to the distinctive emerging media culture of the 21st century. Students explore the complexity of the media environment by learning to think across media, to see beyond the boundaries imposed by older medium-specific approaches to the study of audio-visual and literary forms. The undergraduate program serves as preparation for advanced study in a range of scholarly and professional disciplines and also for careers in media or industry.

The comparative and cross-disciplinary nature of both the undergraduate and graduate programs is reflected by the extensive participation of faculty drawn from Art and Architecture; Anthropology; Global Languages; History; Literature; Music and Theater Arts; Philosophy; Science, Technology, and Society; Media Arts and Sciences; Political Science; and Urban Studies and Planning.

The SB in Comparative Media Studies requires 10 subjects. Majors are required to take CMS.100 Introduction to Media Studies, a Media Practice and Production subject, CMS.701 Current Debates in Media (CI-M), a second CI-M subject, and six electives. A pre-thesis tutorial (CMS.THT) and thesis (CMS.THU) may be substituted for one elective.

Bachelor of Science in Writing (Course 21W)

The writing major offers students the opportunity to study the craft, forms, and traditions of contemporary writing, journalism, and digital media. Some students explore writing as a means of artistic expression. Some learn how to write for a variety of media or to communicate the results of their science and technical work to broad audiences and members of their professions. Others work collaboratively within the evolving framework of digital media to become skillful in interactive and nonlinear forms of communication. All subjects in the major emphasize the development of the foundational skills, creative initiative, and critical sensibility necessary to become a good writer.

Subjects in the program's three areas of emphasis—creative writing, science writing, and nonfiction writing—are taught at both introductory and advanced levels. All subjects require extensive

writing and revision. Student work is typically discussed in workshops and receives the written commentary of the instructor.

Joint Degree Programs in Comparative Media Studies

The joint undergraduate degree program in CMS (21E or 21S) requires eight CMS subjects, plus six subjects in an engineering or science major. Students are required to take CMS.100 Introduction to Media Studies, a Media Practice and Production subject, CMS.701 Current Debates in Media, and five CMS electives. A pre-thesis tutorial (CMS.THT) and thesis (CMS.THU) may be substituted for one CMS elective. Students must obtain approval for their CMS subject selection from their CMS faculty advisor, and approval for their engineering or science subjects from a faculty advisor in the relevant field. See joint degree programs (<https://catalog.mit.edu/schools/humanities-arts-social-sciences/humanities/#undergraduatetext>) under the Department of Humanities section.

Joint Degree Programs in Writing

The joint undergraduate degree program in 21W (21E or 21S) requires seven subjects in writing, a writing pre-thesis (21W.THT) and thesis (21W.THU), plus six subjects in an engineering or science major. Students must obtain approval for their writing subject selection from their writing faculty advisor, and approval for their engineering or science subjects from a faculty advisor in the relevant field. See joint degree programs (<https://catalog.mit.edu/schools/humanities-arts-social-sciences/humanities/#undergraduatetext>) under the Department of Humanities section.

Minor in Comparative Media Studies

The Comparative Media Studies minor requires six subjects: one introductory, one intermediate, one capstone, and three electives.

Introductory

CMS.100	Introduction to Media Studies	12
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Intermediate

Select one of the following:		12
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CMS.335[]	Short Attention Span Documentary	
CMS.362	Civic Media Collaborative Design Studio	
CMS.400	Media Systems and Texts	
CMS.405	Visual Design	
CMS.407	Sound Studies	
CMS.590[]	Design and Development of Games for Learning	
CMS.609[]	The Word Made Digital	
CMS.614[]	Critical Internet Studies	
CMS.627	Imagination, Computation, and Expression Studio	
CMS.628	Advanced Identity Representation	
CMS.633	Digital Humanities: Topics, Techniques, and Technologies	

CMS.634	Designing Interactions	
21W.752	Making Documentary: Audio, Video, and More	
Capstone		
CMS.701	Current Debates in Media	12
Electives		
Select three elective subjects ¹		36
Total Units		72

¹ Consult the list of CMS subjects (<https://catalog.mit.edu/subjects/cms>) offered by Comparative Media Studies/Writing.

Minor in Writing

The minor consists of six subjects arranged in two tiers of study as follows.

Tier I		
Select one of the following:		12
21W.011	Writing and Rhetoric: Rhetoric and Contemporary Issues	
21W.012	Writing and Rhetoric: Food for Thought	
21W.013	Writing and Rhetoric: Introduction to Contemporary Rhetoric	
21W.014	Writing and Rhetoric: Exploring Visual Media	
21W.015	Writing and Rhetoric: Writing about Sports	
21W.016	Writing and Rhetoric: Making Change	
21W.021	Writing and Experience: MIT Inside, Live	
21W.022	Writing and Experience: Reading and Writing Autobiography	
21W.031	Science Writing and New Media: Explorations in Communicating about Science and Technology	
21W.034	Science Writing and New Media: Perspectives on Medicine and Public Health	
21W.035	Science Writing and New Media: Elements of Science Writing for the Public	
21W.036	Science Writing and New Media: Writing and the Environment	
21W.041[J]	Writing About Literature	
21W.042[J]	Writing with Shakespeare	
21W.755	Writing and Reading Short Stories	
21W.756	Writing and Reading Poems	
Tier II		

Select five subjects within Writing ¹	60
Total Units	72

¹ See the subject listing (<https://catalog.mit.edu/subjects/21w>) for information about available subjects.