Undergraduate Study

Bachelor of Science in Comparative Media Studies (CMS)
The program leading to the Bachelor of Science in Comparative Media Studies (http://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 (http://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 (http://catalog.mit.edu/schools/humanities-arts-social-sciences/humanities/#undergraduatetext) under the Department of Humanities section.

Minor in Comparative Media Studies
The minor requires six subjects that reflect the comparative study of media. It is organized into three tiers, and each student designs his or her own plan of study in consultation with an advisor in the field.

Introductory
CMS.100 Introduction to Media Studies 12

Intermediate
Select one of the following: 12

CMS.335[J] Short Attention Span Documentary
CMS.362 Civic Media Collaborative Design Studio
CMS.400 Media Systems and Texts
CMS.405 Visual Design
CMS.590[J] Design and Development of Games for Learning
CMS.609[J] The Word Made Digital
CMS.614[J] Network Cultures
CMS.627 Imagination, Computation, and Expression Studio
CMS.628 Advanced Identity Representation
CMS.633 Digital Humanities: Topics, Techniques, and Technologies
CMS.634 Designing Interactions
### Minor in Writing

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

#### Tier I

Select one of the following:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21W.011</td>
<td>Writing and Rhetoric: Rhetoric and Contemporary Issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>21W.012</td>
<td>Writing and Rhetoric: Food for Thought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21W.013</td>
<td>Writing and Rhetoric: Introduction to Contemporary Rhetoric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21W.014</td>
<td>Writing and Rhetoric: Exploring Visual Media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21W.015</td>
<td>Writing and Rhetoric: Writing about Sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21W.021</td>
<td>Writing and Experience: MIT Inside, Live</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21W.022</td>
<td>Writing and Experience: Reading and Writing Autobiography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21W.031</td>
<td>Science Writing and New Media: Explorations in Communicating about Science and Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>21W.034</td>
<td>Science Writing and New Media: Perspectives on Medicine and Public Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21W.035</td>
<td>Science Writing and New Media: Elements of Science Writing for the Public</td>
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<tr>
<td>21W.036</td>
<td>Science Writing and New Media: Writing and the Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21W.041[J]</td>
<td>Writing About Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21W.042[J]</td>
<td>Writing with Shakespeare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21W.755</td>
<td>Writing and Reading Short Stories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21W.756</td>
<td>Writing and Reading Poems</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Tier II

Select five subjects within Writing \(^1\)  

| Total Units | 72 |

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\(^2\) See the department's website for information about available subjects (http://cmsw.mit.edu/education/subject-lists/writing).