

Contact: Rachel Boon

**REQUEST TO TERMINATE THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN COMPARATIVE LITERATURE
AT UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**

Action Requested: Approve the request by University of Iowa to terminate the Bachelor of Arts in Comparative Literature in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The Council of Provosts and Board office staff reviewed the proposal and recommend approval.

Background:

Description of program. The undergraduate major in Comparative Literature requires 33 semester hours for the major, with students choosing a focus on world languages and literature or a focus on literature and the arts. Students work closely with a faculty advisor to develop a coherent, individualized program of study that reflect the student's interests and skills.

Reason for proposed termination. The major has had low enrollment for a number of years; currently, seven students have declared the major. The major is highly interdisciplinary; rather than complete this program, some students prefer to double major or to earn a major and minor in two different areas, giving students more in-depth study of the related topic.

Five-year trend in enrollments and graduations.

	Total Enrollment	Graduations
Fall 2013	5	0
Fall 2014	7	0
Fall 2015	8	0
Fall 2016	3	0
Fall 2017	7	1

Effect on current students. Students currently in the major will be able to complete it since related courses are routinely offered by other departments, including Communication Studies, English, Anthropology, and various language programs.

Impact on resources. The College does not expect a cost savings from this closure since many of the related courses are taught for this interdisciplinary program through other units.

Impact on workforce. The Iowa workforce will not be affected; careers requiring the knowledge of a language are supported by students majoring in that particular language such as Japanese, with students becoming teachers, translators and administrative staff in related government or other service positions.

Alternative programs. Students will have similar opportunities at other Iowa institutions. Most liberal arts colleges, as well as UNI and ISU, offer language study as well as courses in linguistics, art and literature, with learning outcomes very similar to those provided by Comparative Literature. Students with an interest in comparative study at SUI will still be able to complete a major in a world language with comparative aspects, Many students choose to double major in languages.

Effective date of termination. August 2019.