What can I do with a major in ... Comparative Literature & Cultural Studies

Profession Overview:
The UNM Foreign Language and Literature website (2013) describes the Comparative Literature & Cultural Studies (CSCL) program as an avenue to, “pursue questions and ways of knowing that cross traditional disciplinary boundaries. Here you will study culture as a set of complex connections and interrelations: between texts and everyday life, ideas and the material world, discourse and power.”

UNM Comparative Literature & Cultural Studies also highlights that there are two tracks to pursue in the UNM CSCL Department: Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies.

Employment Requirement:
A bachelor's degree is the minimum formal education required, and is excellent preparation for occupations that require excellent writing skills, analytical skills, and the ability to communicate persuasive messages. However, some industries, such as higher education, may require a graduate degree. Consult O*Net for more information on the specific KSAs (Knowledge, Skill, Ability) that are required for this career.

The University of New Mexico:
The UNM department of Foreign Language and Literature offers an Interdisciplinary Bachelor’s of Arts, Bachelor’s of Arts second major and/or minor, Masters of Art, and a graduate minor. All degree options have a concentration in Comparative Literature or Cultural Studies. You can find further information on the UNM Foreign Language and Literature website (2013).

Industries & Target Employers:
A variety of employers specifically recruit UNM students and alumni. Consult UNM’s Lobo Career Connection for a complete list of employers and current job postings. Speak with a Career Development Facilitator at the UNM Office of Career Services for help with identifying employers or additional resources for your occupation of choice.

Education/Student Affairs
- K-12 teaching/administration, college preparation, counseling/advising, adult/GED education, missionary
- University/college teaching/administration, research, advising/counseling, multicultural affairs, residence life, Greek affairs, student activities, admissions officer, affirmative action officer, librarian, archivist, curator

Government
- Public affairs, cultural affairs, city manager, Foreign Service officer, census work or surveying, public opinion pollster, policy analyst, regional/urban planner, community development, AmeriCorps or Peace Corps volunteer

Business/Industry
- Multicultural communication specialist, public relations, employment counselor, management, human resources, training and development, sales representative, advertising, consulting, marketing, entrepreneur, customer service, non-profit director, grants specialist, foundation representative, fundraising director, campaign planner

Communications
- Public opinion analyst, research/technical advisor, public relations, Editor, publishing, writing, journalism

Performing/Creative Arts
- Artist management, teacher, marketing, musician, performer, playwright, author, freelance writing

Law/Politics
- Law, lobbying, government relations, public policy, research, immigration services, Campaign management, elected/appointed civil servants
SUGGESTED STRATEGIES

• Consider specializing with a double major, minor, or concentration in another area.
• Gain related professional experience through involvement in internships, student employment, Co-ops, and/or volunteer opportunities.
• Conduct informational interviews with professionals to gain in depth knowledge about the profession as well as broaden your professional network.
• Shadow professionals in fields of interest to gain a better understanding of their occupation and to build relationships with professional mentors.
• Build your network and get involved on campus through student organizations and campus events. Find organizations and events at the Student Activities Center website.
• Attend career related campus events such as career fairs, company information sessions, and or career workshops.
• Students who are interested in graduate school should maintain a high undergraduate GPA and develop relationships with faculty and community leaders.
• Speak with mentors and faculty about career opportunities.
• Job leads can be found on your department’s website, list-serv, newsletters, and social media sites.

INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:
American Comparative Literature Association
American Library Association
Art Libraries Society of North America
Chinese Comparative Literature Association
Modern Language Association

http://www.acla.org/
http://www.ala.org/
http://www.arlisna.org/
http://depts.washington.edu/acclhome/
http://www.mla.org/

http://onetonline.org
http://www.bls.gov

REFERENCES