

Classics

The School of Humanities

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Degree Offered: B.A.

The Classics major offers instruction in the Greek and Latin languages, in Greek and Roman literature (studied in the original and in translation), in the classical civilizations surveyed as a whole, and in particular themes, genres, and periods of classical culture and its influence through subsequent ages.

We recognize that students come to the study of ancient Greece and Rome with a whole spectrum of different kinds of interest. Some will want to concentrate on learning the ancient languages and reading the classical texts in the original Greek or Latin. Others will desire a broader introduction to the cultures of Greece and Rome and their legacy. Still others will be looking for some combination of these two approaches. With this in mind, the Classics major provides maximum flexibility without sacrifice of focus. We cater to students who wish to prepare for graduate school in Classics and also to students who are interested in Greek and Roman culture for other reasons and who wish to take a less specialized approach. Students will be able to explore ancient Greece and Rome from a variety of different angles and with whatever emphasis best suits their individual needs and goals.

To satisfy the requirements for the Classics major, students must complete 30 semester hours of courses listed under “Greek,” “Latin,” and “Classics.” Courses listed under “Greek” and “Latin” concentrate on the acquisition of language skills and on the reading and interpretation of texts in the original languages. Courses listed under “Classics” explore, in translation, the literature, history, philosophy, art, and other aspects of Greek and Roman civilization and also the effect that Greece and Rome have had on literature and other traditions in the West. These courses in translation regularly include freshman seminars.

Classics majors will also, if they wish, have the opportunity to engage in research. In the final semester of study, a student majoring in Classics may enroll in CLAS 493, in which the student writes a senior thesis on a topic of the student’s choice in close consultation with a particular faculty member.

Further information on the Classics major is available from faculty members. Faculty also help students arrange travel to Greece or Italy, whether to work on a dig or to study at the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome.

Degree Requirements for B.A. in Classics

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements (pages 18–20).

Students majoring in Classics must complete at least 30 semester hours (10 courses) listed under “Greek,” “Latin,” or “Classics.” The precise combination of Greek, Latin, and Classics courses is to be determined by the student in consultation with the undergraduate coordinator, in such a way as to ensure an individual course of study that is tailored to the student’s own interests and goals.

Courses taught in other departments, such as History, Philosophy, and Art History, may be cross-listed in Classics and count towards the Classics major.

Note: the requirements for the Classics major have changed. The new requirements (above) will be effective for students declaring a Classics major in 2002–03 or later. (Others should consult the *General Announcements* for 2001–02, or talk to the undergraduate coordinator.)

See CLAS, GREE, and LATI in the Courses of Instruction section.