

University of Cincinnati

College of Arts and Sciences

**Department of
Classics**

**Undergraduate
Handbook**



INTRODUCTION

The Department of Classics is part of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Cincinnati. Students may major or minor in Classics or Classical Civilization. We offer certificates in Ancient Greek, Mediterranean Archaeology, and Pre-Modern History.

Faculty members in the Department of Classics specialize in Greek and Latin language and literature (philology), ancient history, and Bronze Age or classical archaeology. The departmental offices, faculty offices, classrooms, and library facilities are located in the Blegen Library building. Because of the convenience of the location and the small size of many classes, students have an excellent opportunity to enhance their learning experience by making full use of the departmental facilities and the availability of faculty.

A unique treasure of the Department is the John Miller Burnam Classical Library. The collection contains almost 300,000 books, monographs, and periodicals covering all areas of classical studies. Undergraduate students commonly use the general reading area for study and research purposes, and a limited number of study carrels are available for advanced undergraduate majors. The library offers an unparalleled research facility for faculty and students alike.

The intellectual atmosphere of the department is enlivened by the presence of a large number of graduate students. Undergraduate majors also find their experience of studying Classics enriched by a number of special events that take place throughout the year, such as lectures by visiting scholars, symposia, brown bag lunches with presentations by graduate students, and special programs for undergraduates.

Historically, the Department has held an international reputation as a leader in the field of Bronze Age archaeology. It is particularly known for its excavations at Troy and Pylos under the direction of Carl Blegen. This tradition of excellence in archaeology continues today with current field projects at Pylos, Knossos, Pompeii, and Sardinia. Recent discoveries at Pylos, such as the Griffin Warrior grave, have made international headlines.

The Department has received significant support from generous patrons. The Semple Classics Fund, a bequest of Louise Taft Semple, was established “for promoting the study of Classics, such term to be interpreted in the broadest sense as the endeavor to make vital and constructive in the civilization of our country the spiritual, intellectual, and esthetic inheritance we have received from Greek and Roman civilizations.” The ample resources of the fund make it possible to continue the diverse activities of the department. Among these are the Semple Scholarships and the Semple Traveling Scholarship, which support undergraduate education in the classics at the University of Cincinnati or for a period of study abroad.

ADMISSION

All students seeking admission for purposes of earning an undergraduate degree should file a formal application through the Office of Admissions. Additional information about the process may be obtained from the Office of Admissions, <https://admissions.uc.edu/>.

Students not enrolling for a degree but wishing to take courses offered by the College of Arts and Sciences (non-matriculated students) should complete and submit the Basic Data Form posted at https://www.uc.edu/registrar/registrar_forms/basic-data-form-for-non-matriculated-students.html. All certificate programs are available to non-matriculated students.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN CLASSICS

The study of Classics is an interdisciplinary one, combining the main fields of language and literature, history, and art and archaeology with other subjects such as religion, mythology, political theory, law, and philosophy. Transferable skills in analysis, synthesis, critical thinking, and communication are developed in all of our courses. The programs in Classics are designed to allow ample opportunity for each student to fulfill individual needs and interests.

A major in either Classics or Classical Civilization provides a distinctive liberal arts education for students who wish to continue in a variety of professional fields. A major in ancient studies establishes a deep knowledge of human behavior and thought, as well as its history. The intellectual rigor developed through the study of civilizations so distant from ours sets students apart from others with good records but less diverse and ambitious programs. The Department of Classics at the University of Cincinnati is regularly successful in sending its students to graduate and professional schools of the highest standing. Recent graduates of the department have established careers as lawyers, doctors, publishers, professors, librarians, teachers, entrepreneurs, a sculptor, and at least one stand-up comedian.

Students who are considering a graduate career in Classics or related fields should consult early on with the Undergraduate Advisor as well as other appropriate faculty about their course of study. For example, some training in French and German as well as Latin and Greek should be pursued. Students considering a career in secondary school education should consult the Undergraduate Advisor about requirements for state certification.

REQUIREMENTS FOR MAJOR IN CLASSICS (for students entering after August 2026)

Core (15 hours): No fewer than 5 courses, totaling a minimum of 15 hours:

- 1 course in **ancient languages OR literature in translation** from Group A.
- 1 course in **archaeology** from Group B.
- 1 course in **history** from Group C.
- 1 course in **Greek culture** from Group D.
- 1 course in **Roman Culture** from Group E.

Placement credit in Latin earned via the AP Latin exam or the departmental Latin placement test may be used to fulfil up to 2 of these requirements (usually Group A and Group E). Substitutions are allowed at the discretion of the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

Concentration (21 hours + Capstone): Choose one of the following concentrations:

- **Classical Cultures:** 21 additional hours of CLAS, LATN, or GRK courses, of which at least 12 hours must be at the 3000 level or higher, and a Capstone (1-3 hours), CLAS 5001.
- **Classical Languages:** 21 additional hours of CLAS, LATN or GRK, of which at least 6 hours must be in GRK or LATN at the 4000 level or higher, and a Capstone (1-3 hours), LATN 5001 or GRK 5001.

Courses in Groups A-E below may count toward Concentration hours if they are not being counted toward the Core. Students who wish to complete both Concentrations need only complete the Core hours once.

Core Groups

Group A courses: Choose 1 of the following:

- CLAS 1001 Great Books from Ancient Greece (3 hours)
- CLAS 1002 Great Books from Ancient Rome (3 hours)
- GRK 1001 Intensive Greek 1 (5 hours)
- GRK 1002 Intensive Greek 2 (5 hours)
- LATN 1001 Intensive Latin 1 (5 hours)
- LATN 1002 Intensive Latin 2 (5 hours)
- LATN 1011 Elementary Latin 1 (3 hours)
- LATN 1012 Elementary Latin 2 (3 hours)
- LATN 2011 Intermediate Latin 1 (3 hours)
- LATN 2012 Intermediate Latin 2 (3 hours)

Group B courses: Choose 1 of the following:

- CLAS 2022 Art and Archaeology of Ancient Greece (3 hours)
- CLAS 2023 Art and Archaeology of Ancient Rome (3 hours)

Group C courses: Choose 1 of the following:

- CLAS 1011 Greek History (3 hours)
- CLAS 1012 Roman History (3 hours)

Group D courses: Choose **1** of the following:

- CLAS 1001 Great Books from Ancient Greece (3 hours)
- CLAS 1011 Greek History (3 hours)
- CLAS 1021 Greek and Roman Mythology (3 hours)
- CLAS 2022 Art and Archaeology of Ancient Greece (3 hours)
- GRK 1001 Intensive Greek 1 (5 hours)
- GRK 1002 Intensive Greek 2 (5 hours)

Group E courses: Choose **1** of the following:

- CLAS 1002 Great Books from Ancient Rome (3 hours)
- CLAS 1012 Roman History (3 hours)
- CLAS 2023 Art and Archaeology of Ancient Rome (3 hours)
- LATN 1001 Intensive Latin 1 (5 hours)
- LATN 1002 Intensive Latin 2 (5 hours)
- LATN 1011 Elementary Latin 1 (3 hours)
- LATN 1012 Elementary Latin 2 (3 hours)
- LATN 2011 Intermediate Latin 1 (3 hours)
- LATN 2012 Intermediate Latin 2 (3 hours)

REQUIREMENTS FOR MAJORS (for students entering before August 2026)

Classics Major. The major in Classics consists of at least **38 credit hours** of courses in Latin and Greek:

22 credit hours of core major requirements (normally 10 hours in Elementary Greek and 4 courses / 12 hours in Intermediate Latin and Greek);

12 to 15 credit hours of elective courses in Advanced Latin and Greek;
and a **1 to 4 credit-hour** Capstone.

Latin courses below the 3000 level do not count toward the major. Greek courses count at every level.

Majors are required to complete their Capstone project in the course of their senior year (see below). These courses are part of the General Education requirements.

Classical Civilization Major. The major in Classical Civilization consists of at least **38 credit hours** of courses in Classical Civilization, Greek, or Latin:

- **6 credit hours** of Introductory Survey, either:
 - Great Books of Ancient Greece and Rome (CLAS 1001-1002), *or*
 - Greek and Roman History (CLAS 1011-1012), *or*
 - Art and Archaeology of Greece and Rome (CLAS 2022-2023);
- **12 credit hours** in CLAS, LATN, or GRK courses at or above the 3000 level;
- **16 to 19 credit hours** of elective courses in CLAS, LATN, or GRK at any level;
- and a **1 to 4 credit-hour** Capstone.

Majors are required to complete their Capstone project in the course of their senior year (see below). These courses are part of the General Education requirements.

REQUIREMENTS FOR MINORS

Classics Minor. The minor in Classics consists of at least **21 credit hours** in Latin and/or Greek. Latin courses below the 3000 level do not count. Greek courses count at every level.

Classical Civilization Minor. The minor in Classical Civilization consists of at least **21 credit hours** in Classical Civilization, Greek, or Latin, including:

- **6 credit hours** of Introductory Survey, either:
 - Great Books of Ancient Greece and Rome (CLAS 1001-1002), *or*
 - Greek and Roman History (CLAS 1011-1012), *or*
 - Art and Archaeology of Greece and Rome (CLAS 2022-2023); and
- **6 credit hours** in CLAS, LATN, or GRK at or above the 3000 level.

The Capstone project provides students with an opportunity to integrate their academic training and professional interests. All Classics or Classical Civilization majors must complete their Capstone project in their senior year. Before they register, they must consult with the undergraduate advisor and obtain the consent of a project supervisor. In order to meet the requirement students may take an upper-level course (3 credit hours) and write a research paper for it, registering for 1 additional credit hour in 5001.

In order to graduate, the student must earn at least 120 credits, complete the distribution requirements and the general education requirements of the College of Arts and Sciences, and be in good academic standing.

Courses that count for major or minor credit may also be used for distribution requirements. For example, Greek 1001-1002 may satisfy the A&S language requirement and also be used toward the major in Classics. Ancient History 1011-1012 may satisfy the BOK (Breadth of Knowledge) code HP (Historical Perspectives) or DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) and also be used toward the major in Classical Civilization.

REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATES

Ancient Greek Certificate

The Ancient Greek Certificate consists of five courses (**15 to 19 credit hours**) in Ancient Greek. To complete the certificate, a student will ordinarily pass intensive beginning Greek (15GRK1001-1002, 10 hours), and take 9 credits (3 courses) at or above the 3000 level. 5 courses (15 credit hours) at or above the 3000 level will also fulfill requirements for the certificate.

Certificate in Mediterranean Archaeology

The Certificate in Mediterranean Archaeology consists of 6 courses (**18 credit hours**):
 Introduction to Archaeology (ANTH 1005);
 Greek Art and Archeology (CLAS 2022);
 Roman Art and Archaeology (CLAS 2023);
 and **9 hours** of elective courses in Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Etruscan, and New World Archaeology.

Complete details are available in the Mediterranean Archaeology brochure [link].

Certificate in Pre-Modern History

The Certificate in Pre-Modern History consists of 5 courses (**15 credit hours**) drawn from a list of eligible courses in the departments of Classics, History, Anthropology, Judaic Studies, and Africana Studies:

6 hours at the 1000 level;

9 hours at or above the 2000 level, of which at least 3 hours must be at or above the 3000 level.

Complete details are available in the Pre-Modern History brochure [link].

SEMPLER AND CENTENNIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Through the generosity of Louise Taft Semple, the Department of Classics is able to offer a number of Semple and Centennial Scholarships to excellent students in Classics. The scholarships cover in-state tuition at the University of Cincinnati.

Semple Scholarships are awarded to students who are qualified to take courses in Latin or Greek at or above the 3000 level. UC students who have taken at least one 3000-level course in Latin or Greek and have at least a 3.0 grade point average may apply for a Semple Scholarship for the following academic year. Applicants must supply a letter of application and three letters of recommendation from professors, one of whom must be the student's current language instructor, by January 25. Semple Scholarships are also awarded to incoming freshmen who have studied Latin for 2 or more years on the basis of an exam assessing preparation for Latin 3001.

The scholarships may be held by freshmen or sophomores who are not majors in the department, but in the junior and senior years only departmental majors are eligible to hold Semple Scholarships.

Centennial Scholarships are awarded to students who have declared a major in the Department of Classics, completed at least 3 hours of coursework in the department at the time of application and will have completed at least 9 hours by the end of the semester of application, and hold at least a 3.0 grade point average. Applicants must supply a letter of application and three letters of recommendation from professors by January 25. Centennial Scholarships may also be awarded to students who qualify for the Semple, including incoming freshmen.

To remain in good standing, Semple and Centennial Scholars must be full-time students at the University, take at least one departmental course in each semester (for Semple Scholars, this must be a course in Latin or Greek), earn a "B" or better in each departmental course, and maintain an overall 3.0 grade point average. A student who falls short of these requirements in any given semester will be placed on probation for the following semester. Failure to meet the requirements in the probationary semester will result in termination of the scholarship. Scholarships of students who fail to register for an appropriate course or to attend such a course or who drop below fulltime status will be immediately terminated. Scholarships may not be held for more than four years.

One or more **Semple Traveling Scholarships** may be awarded each year. This scholarship will help cover tuition in a foreign study program for a period not to exceed one academic year. Interested students should make application to the Director of Undergraduate Studies by the end of fall semester of the preceding academic year. The scholarship will be awarded on a competitive basis, although the department may choose not to make the award in any given year.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT CREDIT

High school students who receive a 4 or a 5 on the AP Latin (Vergil) examination will receive 13 credit hours (10 credits of LATN 1001 and 1002 and 3 credits of LATN 1014) and may begin taking Latin at the 3000 level. Students scoring a 3 will receive 6 credit hours (LATN 1011 and 1012) and may begin taking Latin at the intermediate (LATN 2011) level.

UNDERGRADUATE PRIZES

Each spring semester the Department of Classics offers the following undergraduate prizes:

Junior Latin Prize. A translation prize for those who have not taken more than two 3000 level courses in Latin.

Senior Latin Prize. A translation prize for those who have taken more than two 3000 level courses in Latin.

Junior Greek Prize. A translation prize for those who have not taken more than two 3000 level courses in Greek.

Senior Greek Prize. A translation prize for those who have taken more than two 3000 level courses in Greek.

Classical Civilization Prize. A prize for the best paper of 6 pages or more written in a departmental course. Instructors may nominate no more than five papers from each class.

Capstone Prize. A prize for the best Capstone project. This prize will be awarded for an exceptional project, not necessarily every year.

The prizes will be awarded on an annual basis, and the award will be \$100 or a book on classical antiquity. The awards will be given out at a reception for undergraduate majors and faculty.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Classics Club. The purpose of Classics Club, which operates under the auspices of the University's Student Activities and Leadership Development board (SALD), is to promote community among undergraduate students in Classical Studies and promote the importance of Classics throughout the university and community. Membership is open to all undergraduates who have an interest in classical civilization, regardless of major or college. Meetings are held about once a week, and various programs and activities and trips are conducted throughout the year. Officers are elected annually in the spring.

Eta Sigma Phi. The Mu chapter of this national honor society for students of Classics was established at the University of Cincinnati in 1926. Undergraduate students who are enrolled in Latin or Greek courses at or above the 3000 level and have maintained a grade of not less than "B" in their Latin and Greek courses are eligible for election to the society. Officers are elected annually according to the chapter by-laws.

4+1 BA/MA PROGRAM IN CLASSICS

The BA + MA program allows Classics majors who wish to take elective hours in their senior year to begin taking graduate classes at that time. After earning the BA degree, students may be formally admitted to the Graduate School and continue their graduate coursework. Students who complete a minimum of 6 credit hours in their senior year will be able to complete the remaining 24 hours of the MA degree in one additional year. The Master's degree requires a total of 30 credit hours of graduate courses, including

seminars and other upper-level courses in Classical Philology, History and Archaeology, and the passing of a comprehensive examination.

Graduate courses taken during senior year do not count toward the BA degree. Students must complete all A&S requirements (120 total credits, 38 credits in the major) in order to receive the BA degree. Graduate credits taken during the senior year will count toward the MA degree. Students interested in the program should consult the Undergraduate Advisor.