



Classical Studies

The Department of Classical Studies is concerned with every aspect of the worlds of the ancient Greeks and Romans – their languages and literatures, art and material cultures, philosophy, history, political theory, law, and religion. We look at all of these aspects in the context of other ancient civilizations as well as the later civilizations that developed from them.

But why study ancient cultures and languages that are no longer spoken? Because many intellectual problems and concepts of the ancients are timeless – the nature of fate, identity and gender, the individual and society, responsibility of the individual, the best form of government, definitions of justice and law, the meaning of heroism, the function of sport and spectacle in society, the origins of imperialism, and so forth. Many works and thoughts

of the Greeks and Romans provide focus and historical perspective to questions that are heatedly debated in our time. Students develop critical understanding of the past and how it has helped to shape our present world, whether in politics, literature or art.

A Bachelor’s degree in Classical Studies can serve as a foundation for successful careers in many fields. Many Classics majors continue their education in professional school or a graduate program. Classics students from Michigan have pursued distinguished careers in education, medicine, law, business, and other professions. Listed below are some characteristic skills developed by Classics majors, as well as representative occupations of graduates with a Classical Studies degree.

SKILLS & ABILITIES

Students concentrating in Classical Studies develop a range of skills including critical thinking, analysis, the careful development and presentation of arguments, and writing. These abilities may be applied to job responsibilities in a variety of occupational groups. For example, a

museum curator, a freelance writer, and a sales representative might use the skills of compiling and organizing data for different purposes, but each needs them on a daily basis. A sampling of representative skills and abilities follows.

Language

- Understanding ideas
- Reading for tone and attitude
- Perceiving word patterns and structures
- Interpreting historical ideas in a modern context
- Evaluating styles of writing
- Using and recognizing precise language
- Evaluating translations and original texts

Research/Education

- Teaching
- Compiling and organizing information
- Evaluating ideas/theory/evidence
- Observing people and things
- Reasoning logical solutions to problems

Communication

- Writing clearly
- Listening critically
- Presenting and debating arguments
- Persuading people/groups
- Editing/proofreading materials
- Reading for hidden meaning

Human Relations

- Understanding and interpreting other cultures/beliefs
- Developing sensitivity to cultural viewpoints
- Clarifying others’ thoughts and ideas
- Appreciating continuity and change within a historical perspective

OCCUPATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

A concentration in Classical Studies provides students with skills and abilities that may serve as the building blocks for a wide range of occupations and career paths, by providing a broad liberal arts education. The selected list that follows was compiled from follow-up surveys of

Michigan graduates and from national data. For some of the occupations listed below, further skills or related training are desirable. Additional graduate study is generally required for those occupations marked with a • on the following list.

Research/Education

- High school teacher
- Archivist
- College or university professor
- Minister
- Archaeologist
- Research associate
- Higher education administrator
- Museum curator
- Research/Medical Profession

Government/Public Administration

- Foreign service officer
- Policy analyst
- Press secretary
- Legislative assistant
- Foundation director
- Librarian

Business

- Lawyer
- Public relations specialist
- Labor relations manager
- Advertising copywriter
- Tour planner/guide
- Financial analyst
- Promotional advertising
- International trade

Communication

- Freelance writer
- Journal editor
- Arts reviewer
- Translator
- Editor (e.g., textbook, newspaper)

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

The Department offers the following concentration and minor programs:

The Six Concentrations

- Classical Greek Language and Literature
- Latin Language and Literature
- Classical Languages and Literatures (both Latin and classical Greek)
- Classical Archaeology
- Classical Civilization (works studied in translation)
- Modern Greek

Academic Minors

- Language, Literature and Culture of Ancient Rome
- Language, Literature and Culture of Ancient Greece
- Classical Archaeology

- Classical Civilization
- Modern Greek

Descriptions of the various concentration requirements are set forth in the LS&A Bulletin. The Classical Studies concentration advisor welcomes the opportunity to discuss the department's program with any prospective concentrators. In addition, an honors concentration is available in each of the department's programs. Classics concentrators are eligible to spend a semester abroad at the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome, where students gain firsthand exposure to the major sites and monuments of ancient Greece, Sicily, and Roman Italy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For information about choosing a major and choosing a career, about graduate/professional school, internships, or job descriptions; and for library resources:

The Career Center
3200 Student Activities Building
764-7460
www.careercenter.umich.edu

For information about choosing a major and about concentration and degree requirements:

LS&A Academic Advising Center
1255 Angell Hall
764-0332

Department of Classical Studies
2160 Angell Hall
435 S. State Street
764-0360
www.umich.edu/~classics/
www.umich.edu/~classics/undergrad/