
Classics Minor

PLEASE NOTE: In 2015-16 the Department thoroughly revised the curriculum of the program in Classics. Students with a catalog year of 2016-17 and after should follow the revised curriculum as detailed below.

Classics is the study of ancient Greece and Rome, which stand among the world's most exciting, important, and influential civilizations.

GVSU's program in Classics spans the many different aspects of the Greek and Roman world—its languages and literatures, its art and archaeology, its history, its religious and philosophical traditions, its social and legal forms—from the Bronze Age to the period of the late Roman Empire and early Christianity.

For students who pursue a major or minor in the field, Classics provides a broad and solid liberal arts education that will be useful in many careers and vital to the development of their full human capacity.

For students in other disciplines, Classics offers a valuable opportunity to investigate at first hand the works and traditions that have provided much of the intellectual background of their own chosen fields. Many find that working with the classical languages improves their grasp of English and their skills as readers and writers.

Classics courses share an emphasis on encountering the classical world through primary sources, both textual and material. Complementing this emphasis is the study of the living tradition that has shaped—and continues to shape—the ways in which we understand our world today.

Ancient Greek and Latin

Training in the classical languages represents the kind of serious mental rigor and discipline that is an excellent training for a variety of careers.

Greek is the language of Homer and Sappho, of Aeschylus and Aristophanes, of Herodotus and Thucydides, of Plato and Aristotle, and (in its koine or "common" form) of the Christian New Testament.

Latin was the language of ancient Rome. Even after the Roman Empire collapsed, Latin continued as the language of literature, science, philosophy, medicine, law, and religion for over a thousand years: John Milton, Isaac Newton, Baruch Spinoza, and Thomas Aquinas all wrote in the same language as Cicero, Virgil, Caesar, and Plautus.

Career Options

Classics students:

- Profit from a practical education that offers valuable pre-professional training and marketable job skills.
- Acquire and refine analytical and communications skills that make them better able to approach any problem creatively and successfully.
- Distinguish themselves as scholars, work on archaeological excavations, participate in cultural events, demonstrate leadership and committed citizenship, and travel and study abroad.
- Develop the study habits and work ethic needed for success in demanding graduate and professional programs and in real-world careers.

GVSU Classics graduates have gone on to careers as varied as:

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| ▪ Public service and nonprofit administration | ▪ Information technology |
| ▪ Teaching | ▪ Business |
| ▪ Law | ▪ Library and museum work |
| ▪ The ministry | ▪ Writing and publishing |

Requirements for a Minor in Classics

The classics minor is designed to be flexible and to serve students with an interest in the classical world whose plans do not allow them to complete the major. At the same time, work done toward the minor is completely and seamlessly transferable toward the major, should an opportunity arise to do so.

Students minoring in classics are required to complete at least 21 credits.

All Classics minors take:

- CLA 195 - Introduction to Ancient Greece and Rome Credits: 1
- CLA 395 - Research Methods in Classics Credits: 2
- At least 6 credits of instruction in either ancient Greek or Latin at 200 level or above.
- At least 9 credits of instruction at the 300 level or above in at least two of the following areas.
 - Archaeology:
 - CLA 350 - Issues in Classical Archaeology Credits: 3. Prerequisite: CLA 250 or HNR 221/222.
 - Cultural Studies:
 - CLA 301 - Re-imagining the Classics Credits: 3. Prerequisite: Junior Standing.
 - CLA 302 - The Stages of Greek and Roman Drama Credits: 3. Prerequisite: Junior Standing.
 - CLA/PHI 311 - Ancient Great Philosophers Credits: 3. Prerequisite: Prior work in philosophy, classics, or permission of instructor.
 - CLA 315 - Ancient Religion Credits: 3. Prerequisite: WRT 150.
 - CLA/WGS 325 - Body, Gender, Sexuality in Antiquity Credits: 3. Prerequisite: Junior standing.
 - CLA 365 - Stoicism, Identity, and the Happy Life Credits: 3. Prerequisite: Junior standing.
 - CLA 367 - Thinking Like a (Roman) Lawyer Credits: 3. Prerequisite: Junior standing.
 - Ancient Greek (GRK) or Latin (LAT) at the 300 level or above.
- At least 3 credits of instruction in any course in Classics (CLA), in HNR 222 - Classical World II Credits: 3, or in an approved substitute.

Contact the Department of Classics in order to receive individualized advising.

Contacting the Department of Classics

The Department of Classics is a unit of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and participates in the interdepartmental Minor in Archaeology. Classics faculty hold joint appointments in the Meijer Honors College and contribute to other programs.

The Department offers a complete preparation for students seeking a wide range of post-graduate and career opportunities. Yet it remains small enough to allow our faculty to get to know all of our students individually and to work with them closely.

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