CLASSICS MAJOR

Students must also complete the Undergraduate Registration Requirement (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/requirements-policies/undergraduate-registration-requirement/) and the degree requirements of their home school.

The major in classics offers students three paths of study. Although no previous knowledge of Latin or Greek is required, all students are required to achieve competence in one of these ancient languages in order to work with primary sources in the original. Some may choose to complete advanced work in both languages.

With concentrations in Latin, Greek, or both languages, the major requirements allow some flexibility. Classics majors develop familiarity with the broad sweep of ancient history and literature and key analytical skills necessary to examine the record of Greek and Roman culture. They complete a demanding and distinctive course of study that stresses the development of important intellectual sensibilities—close reading, analytical clarity, thorough research, evaluation of evidence, logical analysis, effective writing, appreciation of nuance and subtleties, historical variability, and cultural differences. All majors complete a research project under the direction of a faculty member in a small 1-quarter seminar. Seniors pursuing honors will undertake an additional 2 quarters of research.

Each of the three tracks—Greek and Latin, Latin, or Greek—requires a minimum of 12 courses beyond the language prerequisites.

All majors are required to undertake a research project in connection with CLASSICS 395-0 Research Seminar. Topics vary from year to year. Instruction will be included in the use of traditional as well as digital research tools. Students may petition the director of undergraduate studies to substitute research conducted for a study abroad program.

Greek and Latin Concentration

Course | Title | Prerequisites
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Major Requirements: Greek and Latin Concentration (12 units)

9 Additional Courses:

CLASSICS 211-0 | Greek History and Culture: From Homer to Alexander the Great
CLASSICS 212-0 | Rome: Culture and Empire
CLASSICS 395-0 | Research Seminar

6 additional Latin, Greek, or classics courses, at least 3 of which must be at the 300 level or above (may include Greek language courses at any level and up to 2 classical traditions courses with consent of the director of undergraduate studies)

Honors in Classics

Majors with strong academic records and an interest in pursuing honors should speak with the Director of Undergraduate Studies and submit an application form in junior year no later than the College reading period in Spring Quarter. Students should list a preliminary bibliography for the project approved by a faculty member who has agreed to serve as the thesis adviser. A one-page research proposal approved by the adviser is due at the end of the first week of the Fall Quarter of the senior year. The Honors Committee, consisting of the Director of Undergraduate Studies,
the Honors Coordinator and a third Classics faculty member, will evaluate
the proposal and vote on approval. During the fall and winter quarters
of their senior year, students enroll in CLASSICS 399-0, Independent
Study and complete a senior thesis. Students must be in residence during
these terms. All honors theses are evaluated as passing or not-passing
by the Honors Committee. Students whose theses and grades meet
departmental criteria are recommended to the College for graduation
with honors. For more information consult the department website or the
director of undergraduate studies.