

Ancient History and Classics

Ancient History and Classics is an interdisciplinary major offered jointly by the Department of Greek and Latin and the Department of History. The major combines two areas of study which are closely related:

- **Classics** is the study of the cultures of ancient Greece and Rome and the people they directly affected.
- **Ancient history** is the study of political, military, and cultural events and developments the cultures and people of ancient Greece and Rome experienced over time, from the Bronze Age to the beginning of the Middle Ages.

The two fields intersect at many points. Both classics and ancient history involve the study of Greek and Roman political and social institutions such as religious practices and beliefs; laws and legal procedures; the organization of states; the conduct of warfare; expressions of gender, sexuality, age, and class; and Greek and Roman art, architecture, science, and technology. Both fields rely on the written and material remains of Greek and Roman culture that are preserved through manuscripts on papyrus, parchment, and paper; inscriptions on stone and metal; and abundant archaeological material.

Pursuing Ancient History and Classics at Ohio State

All Ohio State freshmen applicants are considered within a competitive admission process for the Columbus campus. The primary criteria for admission are the completion of the applicant's high school college preparatory program, performance in that program as indicated by class rank and/or grade-point average, and performance on either the ACT or SAT.

Students wishing to major in ancient history and classics would benefit from taking Latin in high school. Upon admission to the university, students can declare a major in ancient history and classics within the Arts and Humanities. Students interested in the major should contact the director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Greek and Latin or the Undergraduate History Office in the Department of History to be assigned a major advisor.

Ancient History and Classics Requirements

Students construct a major program of 50 hours or more with emphasis upon Greek and/or Latin language and selected courses in Greek and/or Roman history. Details of the program should be discussed with a student's major advisor.

The program will consist of the following:

- 20 hours in Latin and/or Greek at the 200 level and above
- 20 hours in ancient history at the 200 level and above
- 10 hours in classics at the 200 level or above, or appropriate courses in Greek, Latin, history, history of art, or philosophy (chosen in consultation with the major advisor)

Co-Curricular Opportunities

Ohio State offers many opportunities for students to learn and grow outside of the classroom. These range from cooperative education (co-op) and internships to study abroad programs to student organizations. Co-ops and internships place students in professional environments while they are Ohio State students. Ohio State offers more than 100 study abroad programs in 40 countries around the world. In addition, there are hundreds of student organizations on campus to meet the interests of a diverse student population.

Study Abroad

Students majoring in ancient history and classics are encouraged to participate in study abroad programs such as the College Year in Athens, summer programs of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, and programs sponsored by the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome.

The Department of Greek and Latin also offers a topography course that includes a trip to Italy. For details, visit greekandlatin.osu.edu/undergradstudies/studyAbroad.cfm.

Honorary Societies

National honorary societies for history (Phi Alpha Theta) and classics (Eta Sigma Phi) have local clubs at Ohio State which are open to students of ancient history and classics. More information can be found by contacting the Department of Greek and Latin or the Department of History.

All these experiences enable students to gain valuable work experience, learn about cultures, and take on leadership roles before they enter the workforce. They also enhance learning and may provide an advantage in the job market.

Honors & Scholars Programs

Ohio State offers the Honors and Scholars programs to create an environment of intellectual support and stimulation within a close-knit community of high-ability undergraduate students.

For more information, check these web sites:

Classics: greekandlatin.osu.edu

History: history.osu.edu

Arts and Humanities: artsandhumanities.osu.edu

Ohio State: osu.edu

Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu

First Year Experience Program: fye.osu.edu

Curriculum Sample

This is a sample list of classes a student may take to pursue a degree in Ancient History and Classics. Since university students need more than specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete the General Education Curriculum (GEC). The GEC will allow students to develop the fundamental skills essential to collegiate success across major programs. Course work options satisfying the GEC often come from a variety of academic areas of study allowing students to tailor their GEC toward their interests. Note: This sample represents one of several possible paths to a degree in Ancient History and Classics.

Freshman Year:

Classical Mythology	5
Intro. to Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations	5
Humanities Survey	1
Freshman Seminar	1
GEC courses and electives	40
Total hours	52

Sophomore Year:

Cicero	5
History of Archaic Greece	5
Medicine in the Ancient World	5
GEC courses and electives	35
Total hours	50

Junior Year:

Vergil	5
Ovid	5
History of the Roman Republic	5
GEC courses and electives	30
Total hours	45

Senior Year:

Senior Tutorial and Essay	5
Readings in Roman Lyric and Erotic Poetry	5
The Ancient Mediterranean City	5
GEC courses and electives	30
Total hours	45

Through these programs, students have access to smaller classes, undergraduate research opportunities, close working relationships with faculty, priority scheduling, and unique housing options.

Honors and Scholars programs represent great opportunities for students to be part of a smaller community within a large university. Good candidates for these programs will receive additional information after admission to the university. Learn more about the Honors and Scholars program at honors-scholars.osu.edu.

Career Prospects in Ancient History and Classics

Graduates with a degree in Classics find their marketable skills considerably enhanced by their arts and humanities education. A degree in Ancient History and Classics properly coordinated with a minor in some other subject and relevant specialized course work, provides excellent preparation for a career in medicine, business, law, politics, government, and many other nonacademic areas of employment.

Graduates with a master's degree in Latin stand an excellent chance of making successful careers as secondary school teachers. A PhD may lead to an academic career as a professor of Greek and Latin literature, ancient philosophy, ancient history, or archaeology.

Career Counseling and Job Placement

Students can explore career options by utilizing Career Connection as well as the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office. Providing complimentary services, Career Connection focuses on helping students establish a career direction while the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office assists students with finding internships—experiences that are essential to testing the suitability of career fields under consideration. Located in 48 Townshend Hall, the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office also assists seniors and recent graduates with finding entry-level career employment.

More information about both offices is found at ascareerservices.osu.edu and careerconnection.osu.edu.

Revised October 2009. For the most up-to-date information on the Ancient History and Classics program, please visit greekandlatin.osu.edu and history.osu.edu.

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