

Major Possibilities: Classics, Greek and Latin



Summary

- Classics majors should have an interest in learning both the Latin and Greek languages. Four courses in each language are required for the major.
- Majoring in Classics is good preparation for many graduate programs since students learn to synthesize seemingly disparate information.
- If possible, students should study abroad to gain firsthand knowledge of the Greek and Roman cultures.

Classics major synopsis

The Classics major is an interdisciplinary major that combines foundational courses in Latin and Greek with the disciplines of literature and language, anthropology, archaeology, art history, religion, philosophy and history. A strong knowledge of the Greek and Latin languages is essential to the major, since students will read texts in their original languages. Incoming students will take placement exams to determine which level of Greek and Latin courses they will take. Ultimately, Classics majors will take 4 courses of college-level Greek and 4 courses of college-level Latin, with an additional 6 hours of Greek or Latin courses above the introductory level. They will also need 6 Classics in Translation courses. The Capstone experience consists of a semester-long research project which encompasses a wide range of topics within the area of Classical studies. The project culminates with an oral presentation to an interdepartmental committee chosen by the student and faculty project adviser. Majors are strongly advised to take advantage of opportunities to study or excavate abroad.

Greek and Latin major synopses

Students can also choose to major in Greek or Latin. These students will take a total of 30 semester hours in their language of choice. The Latin major enables students to study the literature and culture of the Roman world, from the formative years of the Republic to the expansion and power of the Empire. Greek majors will study the Homeric epics, followed by equally fascinating literature of the archaic, classical, and Hellenistic periods. In addition to courses in their respective majors, Greek and Latin majors are strongly urged to take interdisciplinary courses on ancient civilization, philosophy, literature, mythology, art and archaeology.

Students of these majors are also encouraged to study for a semester or year at the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies or at College Year at Athens. The Capstone consists of a semester-long research project, which encompasses a wide range within the area of Greek or Latin studies. The project culminates with an oral presentation to an interdepartmental committee, chosen by the student and the faculty project advisor.

Sample job titles

Arts, Media, Entertainment

Advertising	Editing	Marketing Research
Appraisal	Education	Publicist
Archival Work	Fundraising	Research
Copywriting	Information Specialist	Sales
Design	Journalism	Technical Writing
Development	Management	Translation

Industry and Commerce

Advertising	Importing and Exporting	Public Relations
Art Salesperson	Information Specialist	Sales
Customer Service	Law	Training
Editing	Management	Travel Consultant
Finance	Marketing Research	Theatrical Producer
Human Resources	Medicine	Tour Guide

Government, Service and Education

Administration	Library Specialist	Program Management
Archeology	Lobbying	Researcher
Curator of Manuscripts	Museum Work	Teaching
Historian	Paralegal	Technical Writing
Latin Teacher	Policy Analysis	University Faculty

Sample internship employers of SU students

The American University – Washington, DC
Pace University – New York City
Magazine Publishers of America
The Museum of Modern Art
US Department of State – Washington DC

Sample study abroad programs

American Academy – Rome, Italy
The American School of Classical Studies – Athens, Greece
Center for Hellenistic Studies – Washington D.C.
College Year in Athens - www.cyathens.org
Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies – Rome and Sicily <http://studyabroad.duke.edu/home/Programs/Semester>

Sample full-time employers of SU grads

Bookkeeper (Galerie Simonne Stern)
Latin Teacher (Plano West High School)
Latin Teacher (St. Michael's Catholic Academy)
Legal Assistant (Fulbright and Jaworski, LLP)
OASIS Data Coordinator (Visiting Nurses Association and Hospice of South Texas)

Professional associations

American Classical League: www.aclassics.org
American Philological Association: www.apaclassics.org
American Philosophical Association: www.apaonline.org
Archaeological Institute of America: www.archaeological.org
The American School of Classical Studies in Athens: www.ascsa.edu.gr
Association of Ancient Historians: associationofancienthistorians.org
The Classical Association: www.classicalassociation.org
Center for Hellenistic Studies: www.chs.harvard.edu/chs/chs_home
National Committee for Latin and Greek: www.promotelatin.org

Additional Web resources

Jobs Search

American Philological Association – Job postings: www.apaclassics.org/Administration/Placement/jobscurrent.html
Chronicle Careers – Jobs in Higher Education: chronicle.com
Humanities and Social Sciences Online: www.h-net.org/jobs

Other Information

Perseus Digital Library: www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper

Career Services' print resources

Anthropology Career Resources Handbook
Career Opportunities in the Nonprofit Sector
Careers for History Buffs
Daedalus: America's Museums
How to Get Any Job with Any Major
How to Live Your Dream of Volunteering Overseas