



Classical Studies

FROM STUDY TO SKILLS

All academic programs offered at the UM help students develop valuable transferable skills. So why study ancient cultures and languages? Because the works and thoughts of the Greeks and Romans provide historical perspective to questions that are still sharply debated. The questions pondered by 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, etc. In addition, the ancient

languages influenced every modern European language, especially Modern Greek, Italian, French, Spanish, and Portuguese.

We encourage students to use the Department’s many resources and provide many opportunities to pursue research, fieldwork, and study abroad.

Related fields include History, Philosophy, History of Art, Comparative Literature, Linguistics, Archaeology, Near Eastern Studies, Ancient Civilizations, and Biblical Studies.

SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Language Skills

- 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 and Analytical Skills

- Understanding the importance of detail
- Compiling and organizing information
- Evaluating ideas/theories/evidence
- Observing people and things
- Reasoning logical solutions to problems

Communication Skills

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

Social and Intercultural Skills

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

BUILDING YOUR SKILLS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Employers seek out individuals who can demonstrate excellent verbal and written communication skills, teamwork and interpersonal skills, initiative, and a strong work ethic. Classical Studies offers students numerous opportunities to engage in departmental life to help build these skills. The small size of many language classes and upper level courses fosters a true sense of community, enhanced by faculty and staff mentorship and lively

activity of several student groups. Student organizations and campus employment offer other valuable opportunities to add to the skills you are developing in your classes. Other options include study abroad, off-campus employment or volunteering in the community. Finally, a summer internship may be the best way of all to test out a career field and develop marketable skills.

FROM SKILLS TO CAREER

Classics concentrators develop both general and technical skills applicable to a wide range of careers. For example, the ability to organize and compile large amounts of data may be equally useful whether working as a museum curator, a freelance writer, or an attorney.

Language Skills

Teacher, Greek and Latin
Interpreter
Translator
Tour planner/tour guide
International trade representative

Research and Analytical Skills

Archivist 
College professor 
Archaeologist 
Research associate
Museum curator 
Medical researcher 
Financial analyst
Policy analyst
Foundation director
Librarian 

Many of our concentrators go on to graduate or professional school. The list below is a sample of careers undertaken by Classics graduates.

Communication Skills

High school teacher
Study abroad advisor
Lawyer 
Editor (textbook, journal, newspaper, web)
Advertising copywriter
Promotional advertiser
Public relations specialist
Freelance writer
Arts reviewer

Social and Intercultural Skills

Minister 
Foreign service officer 
Press secretary
Legislative assistant
Labor relations manager
Human resource officer

 = Further Study Required

For more career information, see O*Net at

online.onetcenter.org

CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS

The Department offers the following concentration and minor programs:

- Archaeology
- Ancient Greek and Latin
- * Classical Language and Literature
- * Greek
- * Latin
- * Latin Teaching Certification
- Classical Civilization
- Modern Greek

Descriptions of the various concentration requirements are set forth in the LSA Bulletin and can be found on the departmental website. The Classical Studies concentration advisors welcome the opportunity to discuss the department's program with any prospective

concentrators. In addition, an Honors concentration is available in each concentration. 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.

Department of Classics

2160 Angell Hall
435 S. State Street
734-764-0360
lsa.umich.edu/classics

Newnan Advising Center

1255 Angell Hall
734-764-0332
lsa.umich.edu/advising

NEXT STEPS/RESOURCES

To begin exploring opportunities for overseas study and work, go to: lsa.umich.edu/cgjs or global.umich.edu

To begin connecting to professionals in fields that interest you, create your own LinkedIn account: careercenter.umich.edu/article/getting-started-linkedin

To identify internships or job opportunities, visit Career Center Connector: careercenter.umich.edu/article/c3

The Career Guide series was developed by the University of Michigan Career Center, Division of Student Affairs, in cooperation with the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. ©2011 Regents of the University of Michigan

On-campus jobs (work-study and non work-study jobs) are listed at:

studentemployment.umich.edu/JobX_Home.aspx

Maize Pages list hundreds of organizations for students to get involved in: maizepages.umich.edu

Connect to Community lists volunteer opportunities in local organizations: connect2community.umich.edu

The Career Center

3200 Student Activities Building
734-764-7460
careercenter.umich.edu
facebook.com/careercenter.umich
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linkedin.com/company/the-career-center-at-the-university-of-michigan