Undergraduate Program Assessment

Department of Classics

Student Learning Objectives

The Classics Department is in agreement with the goals and aims designed for departments by our national professional organization, the American Philological Association (http://www.apaclassics.org/education/Undergradprograms.html).

- A basic knowledge of Greek and Roman civilizations and their Mediterranean context, founded in knowledge both of the language and of the cultures.
- A familiarity with the field of Classical Studies, its aims, methods, and goals, and its many subdisciplines and areas of study.
- The ability to think critically.
- The ability to read both original texts and secondary literature critically and evaluate arguments arising from such reading.
- The ability to formulate cogent and well-organized arguments and to express these arguments effectively, both orally and in writing.
- The essential liberal arts foundation for a wide range of careers including, but not confined to, business, teaching, law, medicine, and any career where critical thinking and effective communication are valued.
- The foundational basis for further study in fields such as literature, divinity, linguistics, and philosophy.
- A familiarity with the field of Classical Studies, its aims, methods, and goals, and its many subdisciplines and areas of study.

Greek and Latin Language Track

- An ability to read and understand the texts of Latin and ancient Greek authors in the original languages.
- A familiarity with the techniques for the analysis and the interpretation of ancient Latin and Greek texts in the original languages.
- A familiarity with the major genres of Latin and ancient Greek literature, e.g., epic poetry, lyric poetry, drama, rhetoric, historiography, philosophical discourse, etc.
- A familiarity with the basic features of the style and/or metrical structure of Latin and ancient Greek texts.
- A familiarity with the basic tools and resources, both print and electronic, for research in Latin and ancient Greek as well as many of the field’s sub-disciplines (e.g. archaeology, history, art history).
- The foundational basis for further study at the MA, MAT, or PhD level.

Classic Civilizations

- A fundamental understanding of the scope of Greco-Roman antiquity as expressed in its literature, history, social structures, and physical remains.
- A fundamental understanding and appreciation of the various types of products (artifacts, monuments, texts) as seen against their contexts and the investigative techniques of the many disciplines of Classical Studies.
- A basic reading competency in either Latin or Greek.
- An appreciation of the social complexity of ancient European and Mediterranean cultures and their influences on Western Civilization and, more importantly, on contemporary America.
- The ability to formulate cogent and well-organized arguments and to express these arguments effectively, both orally and in writing.
Assessment tools

Direct methods of assessment of course work; and
Indirect methods: Tracking graduates’ success in pursuing further education and employment, student success in competitions, student responses to exit surveys

Indirect methods of assessment are regularly discussed by the department in meetings of the faculty.

Highlighted recent activities

Development and implementation (Fall 2011) of new Classical Archaeology concentration within the Classics major