



Classical Civilizations

The Classical Civilizations program is designed for the student who possesses a passionate interest in exploring the history, languages, and cultures of the ancient Greek and Roman world. The program, with its emphasis on a comprehensive introduction to these civilizations, gives undergraduates an opportunity to study the societies of ancient Greece and Rome in depth. These cultures, through their theatre, philosophy, science, and government, helped shape the modern world for good and ill; studying them brings new insight into our own era and lives.

THE PROGRAM

The Department of Classical Civilizations—one of the oldest at Gonzaga—provides undergraduates with access to over 2,500 years of human experience drawn from the multicultural world of the ancient Mediterranean and Near East. In addition to the language and culture courses related to a student's area of interest, students take classes in several different academic disciplines, including philosophy, religious studies, and history.

Students complete a balanced, inclusive curriculum divided between the study of ancient languages (Latin, Greek) and their classical societies—literature, history, archaeology, mythology, and art. Through this combined focus, students gain a broader comprehension of and appreciation for the rich cultural and humanistic heritage stemming from the classical world.

Moreover, through addressing relevant issues of gender, identity, sex, ethnicity, and interaction between cultures, the curriculum extends well beyond the borders of Greece and Rome to embrace other civilizations, including our own. By immersing students in an examination of the languages and ethnically diverse societies of antiquity, the program prepares them for careers within a world that is increasingly diverse, interdependent, and global in outlook, in such fields as politics, ethics, business, law, sciences, and education.

THE MAJOR

The program's courses are by nature interdisciplinary, with application to the sciences, art, theatre, literature, philosophy, religion, politics, and government. In keeping with the interdisciplinary nature of Classics, courses from numerous other departments are also accepted as electives towards a major or minor.

Examples of CLAS courses include the following:

- The Archaeology of Greece
- Ancient Rome in Popular Culture
- Constructing Race in Antiquity
- Greece, Rome, and US Politics
- Greek Gods & Heroes
- The Iliad & The Odyssey
- Introduction to Classical Literature
- Women in Antiquity



STUDY ABROAD

Gonzaga students majoring in Classical Civilizations have the unique opportunity of studying abroad in Italy outside of Gonzaga's own Florence campus, namely in the Eternal City itself: Rome. Studying at the John Felice Rome Center, run by fellow Jesuit institution Loyola University Chicago, students can fulfill requirements both towards their major and Gonzaga's University Core. Students have also studied Classics as part of semesters spent at schools such as Trinity College in Dublin, King's College in London, and the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. Faculty in Gonzaga's Classical Civilizations Department have taken students abroad for courses such as *Peoples and Empires of Turkey* and *Archaeology of Ancient Greece*.

OUTCOMES

Students graduating with a degree in Classical Civilizations will develop the following skills:

- Close reading and analysis through the study of ancient texts and material culture
- Linguistic and cultural fluency with the classical roots of the Western Tradition
- Professional-level writing and communication
- Historical perspective and insight into their own lives and the world today

Graduates with degrees in Classical Civilizations have gone on to success in a wide variety of careers, including law, medicine, politics, business, software, broadcasting, and much more.

The study of the Classics prepares students for careers in teaching, historical research, and museum work, but it can also be used to prepare for studying numerous other disciplines and other professional programs.

Recent graduates of Gonzaga's Classical Civilizations Department have entered master's or doctoral programs at the following institutions:

- Gregorian University, Rome
- University of Glasgow
- Mundelein Seminary
- University of Michigan
- New York University
- University of Notre Dame
- Oxford University
- University of St. Andrews
- Trinity College, Dublin



CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

Eta Sigma Phi is an honorary collegiate society for students of Latin and/or Greek. The society consists of students who share a love of all things Greek and Roman, whether it be the languages, culture, literature, or the arts. Key events that the society helps organize are the department's annual Homerathon—an all-day public reading on an ancient epic from start to finish—and Poetry by the Pond, a poetry reading held outside each year to celebrate the last day of classes.

The **Gonzaga Classics Club** seeks to promote awareness of Latin, Greek and the Classical world on campus. The club hosts events and meetings that seek to foster interest in the Latin and Greek languages and provide learning opportunities for students interested in the ancient world. The club is well known for its annual book sale fundraiser.



FACULTY CONTACT

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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