Requirements for PhD in Classics

Students must take at least 18 courses in the first two years (9 per year) for a quality grade of B and above.

Year 1:

- Required courses:
  - Research seminar, co-taught by two faculty members (two-quarter course)
  - Survey of Greek or Latin Literature (two-quarter course)
- Other courses:
  - Greek or Latin Prose Composition, or another form of language proficiency
  - At least four additional seminars and skills courses in Classics or other departments

Year 2:

- Required courses:
  - Research seminar, co-taught by two faculty members (two-quarter course)
  - Survey of Greek or Latin Literature (two-quarter course)
  - Pedagogy course in winter quarter (this does count toward the number 9 classes per academic year)
- Other courses:
  - Greek or Latin Prose Composition, or another form of language proficiency
  - At least four additional seminars and skills courses in Classics or other departments

Other Requirements of Years 1 and 2:

- Latin and Greek translation exams, offered at end of each summer, based on reading list
- Submit one research paper per year, usually completed in the two-quarter research seminar
- Modern language exams (German and French, Italian or Spanish)
- Submit teaching plan in second year at the end of spring quarter

Year 3:

- Comprehensive exam at end of winter quarter, based on reading list
- Special field exam at end of spring quarter

This is an individual exam in a research area of the student’s choosing, by the end of the spring quarter of year 3. This special field exam will include the composition of a bibliography of approximately thirty items and a written exam of two long essays (from two out of three topics) composed open-book, over the course of four days. The completion of the written part of the exam will be followed by a discussion on the exam, and its relation to future dissertation work, with a committee.

The advisor for the exam will be chosen by the end of the autumn quarter of year 3, while the rest of the committee can be brought together for the reading and discussion of the exam. Students will be graded as having either passed, failed, or high passed this exam.
The topic of the special field exam will be directly related to the student’s expected dissertation topic and will lead into the reference and background research material for their dissertation prospectus.

• Completion of any other unfulfilled requirements from years 1 and 2

Year 4:

• Prospectus/ first chapter workshop (autumn and winter terms) with following goals:
  • Constitute a dissertation committee by end of autumn quarter
  • Submit draft of prospectus to committee by end of winter quarter
  • Submit final prospectus to department by May 1
  • Completed rough draft of first chapter by end of summer

Years 5 and 6:

• Write and edit dissertation
• Annual meeting with dissertation committee at start of spring quarter
• Dissertation defense
• Prepare job applications

Other Requirements of Years 3-6:

• Teaching in accordance with Departmental Pedagogical Training Plan and each student’s individual teaching plan.

Requirements for the PhD Defense:

All dissertations must be defended before the gathered members of the department and interested faculty and students from other departments. A clean final draft of the dissertation must be submitted to the members of the dissertation committee at least six weeks prior to the scheduled date of the oral defense; the committee is expected to deliver any requested revisions to the candidate in reasonable time. The final text must be approved by each member of the dissertation committee before the dissertation is forwarded to departmental faculty. At least two weeks must intervene between the distribution of the dissertation to faculty and the date of the oral defense. Dissertations should not exceed 100,000 words (including references but excluding bibliography and appendices) and candidates should append the word-count to the abstract. Any faculty member who finds five typographical errors on five consecutive pages may request a postponement of the defense.

Unless approved by the department chair, defenses must be scheduled within the eleven weeks of the Autumn, Winter, or Spring Quarters. Defenses are to be scheduled in one of the department’s canonical hours. Any defense held at a non-canonical hour must be
scheduled in reading period. If necessary, committee members may participate in the defense by videoconference, or they may submit in advance written questions to the committee chair, but the committee chair should be in attendance at the defense unless prior approval has been given by the department chair.

The candidate will be expected to deliver a short oral presentation and answer questions and may have the aid of a note card. The candidate will first be questioned by the members of the dissertation committee, and finally by other faculty in attendance.