

## Department of Classics

The University of Chicago

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## Degree Requirements

*These are the current degree requirements for the Ph.D. in Classical Languages and Literatures, as of the 2012–2013 academic year. The older degree requirements can be found [here](#) ([/graduate/cll-degree-requirements-pre2012](http://graduate/cll-degree-requirements-pre2012)).*

These are the current reading lists:

- [Greek and Latin translation exam reading list](#)  
(<http://classics.uchicago.edu/sites/classics.uchicago.edu/files/TranslationExamReadingList.pdf>). (MA and PhD)
- [Comprehensive exam reading list](#)  
(<https://classics.uchicago.edu/sites/classics.uchicago.edu/files/ComprehensiveExamsReadingList%20.pdf>). (PhD)

### A.M. Degree in Classical Languages and Literatures

Candidates who do not already possess an A.M. in Classical Languages and Literatures must:

- Take diagnostic examinations in Greek and Latin in the week prior to the commencement of the Autumn Quarter. On the basis of these results, the Graduate Adviser will discuss individual candidates' specific linguistic needs and suggest a program of study designed to enable the student to pass the first language competency examination at the end of the first year.
- Pass, in the first year, with an average grade no lower than B, one two-quarter sequence devoted to rapid reading of Greek or Latin texts and to a survey of Greek or Latin literature with emphasis on grammar and translation skills. A translation examination in the language of the survey will be set at the end of the spring quarter. The passages for translation will be drawn from the [reading list](#) ([/files/01TranslationExamReadingList.pdf](http://files/01TranslationExamReadingList.pdf)). The examination will consist of two passages of poetry and two passages of prose and will last two hours. Prose passages will be approximately 150 words, poetry passages approximately 20 lines. Dictionaries (LSJ or OLD only) will be allowed during the examination. Candidates who fail this examination will be given one further chance to pass it in the week prior to the commencement of the Autumn Quarter.
- Complete, with a grade no lower than B, at least two quarters of departmental seminar work (400-level courses in Greek, Latin, or Classics), with emphasis on scholarly research and writing, resulting in two research papers; two seminar research papers, selected by the student, are to be placed in his or her file. (One two-quarter seminar resulting in a single paper fulfills this requirement.)
- Pass the prose composition course in Greek or Latin in the first year.
- Demonstrate competence in the reading of either French or German.
- Satisfy any other divisional requirements, including taking the full roster of 9 courses per year.

Once these requirements have been fulfilled, candidates will be awarded the A.M. Degree in Classical Languages and Literatures.

Students coming to the Department with an A.M. in Classics from another university must:

- Take diagnostic examinations in Greek and Latin in the week prior to the commencement of the Autumn Quarter. Should the student not demonstrate sufficient fluency on the diagnostics, he or she will be required to take both quarters of both survey sequences; the student will in any case be required to take both quarters of one survey sequence. Translation examinations in the language of the survey will be set at the end of the spring quarter and must

be taken by candidates, even if they have been exempted from one survey sequence.

- Either satisfy the seminar requirement for the A.M. (see item 2 under A.M. Degree in Classics, above) or be exempted from the requirement. To be exempted a student must submit two seminar research papers to the graduate advisor(s), who will decide whether or not they satisfy the requirement.
- Pass the prose composition course in Greek or Latin.
- Demonstrate competence in the reading of either French or German.
- Satisfy any other divisional requirements, including taking the full roster of 9 courses per year.

## The Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

### Advancement to the Ph.D. in Classical Languages and Literatures

To be advanced to the Ph.D. program, candidates must:

- Complete course work as specified for the A.M. in Classical Languages and Literatures, above. These requirements should be fulfilled preferably before the end of the first year of residence. In any case, all requirements from the first year, including incompletes must be completed no later than the first Monday of Autumn Quarter. Students who do not meet this deadline will be placed on academic probation until the requirement is met (see below).
- Pass the first translation examination in Greek or Latin set at the end of the spring quarter of their first year. Candidates who fail the translation examination will be given one further chance to pass it in the week prior to the commencement of the Autumn Quarter. Failure to pass a second time will result in the termination of the student's enrollment at the end of the second year.

### Scholastic Residence Requirements

Once advanced to the Ph.D. program, candidates must satisfy the following requirements:

- Pass, with an average grade no lower than B, the second two-quarter sequence (rapid reading and survey) in Greek or Latin literature. A second translation examination in the language of the survey will be set at the end of the spring quarter. Candidates who fail the translation examination will be given one further chance to take it in the week prior to the commencement of the Autumn Quarter.
- Complete, with a grade no lower than B, two more quarters of departmental seminar work. Prior to the end of the third year the student must present a workshop paper based on one of the four completed seminar papers. A "seminar paper" is understood to mean an ideally publishable paper that makes an original claim which is well argued and well supported from both primary and secondary sources and that ordinarily extends to at least 20 pages. (But papyrological and epigraphical papers, in which constitution of a fragmentary text may be as important as discussion, may well be shorter, and the paper for a two-quarter seminar is longer). Upon petition to the DGS, two of the four papers required to satisfy the seminar paper requirement may be written in non-Departmental seminars, or be papers of seminar quality produced in non-seminar courses. The DGS is responsible for ensuring that all four papers have met the Classics seminar requirement.
- Pass the second prose composition course.
- Take the full roster of 9 courses in the second year.

### Advancement to Scholastic Residence years 3 & 4

To be advanced to Scholastic Residence Year 3, candidates must:

- Complete all course work as specified for the Scholastic Residence Requirements, above. These requirements should be fulfilled preferably before the end of the second year of residence and in any case no later than the first Monday of Autumn Quarter. Students who do not meet this deadline will be placed on academic probation until the requirement is met (see below).
- Pass the second translation examination in Greek or Latin set at the end of the spring quarter of their second year. Candidates who fail the translation examination will be given one further chance to take it in the week prior to the commencement of the Autumn Quarter. Failure to pass a second time will result in the termination of the student's enrolment at the end of the following Spring Quarter of Scholastic Residence year 3.

To be advanced to Scholastic Residence Year 4, candidates must pass a two-hour oral comprehensive examination in the history, literature, and culture of Greco-Roman antiquity before the end of the third year.

- The examination is based on the Comprehensive Exam reading list. The examination may be scheduled in any regular quarter of Scholastic Residence Year 3 and will be administered by the Graduate Exam Committee. To schedule the exam, students should notify the chair of the Exam Committee via the Department's Administrator.
- Candidates will be asked to demonstrate familiarity with the social, economic, and political history of the ancient Mediterranean world, the major authors, genres, and periods of ancient literature, and the major authors and schools of ancient philosophy, based upon the reading lists provided. Some ability to contextualize and relate these different fields is expected.
- Individual students will schedule the examination in consultation with the graduate advisor. In the case of failure, there will be the provision for a single retake at the beginning of the fourth year.
- In the third year, students must complete the dissertation proposal workshop, with the expectation that they submit a dissertation proposal by the end of the third year.

## Academic Probation

Students placed on academic probation are ineligible for teaching and assistantship positions and for any forms of additional fellowship money, such as an increase in their annual stipend or a Boyer or Ryerson Fellowship. Any student who remains on academic probation by the beginning of the fourth week of Spring Quarter will be discontinued from the program at the end of the academic year.

## Candidacy for the Ph.D. in Classical Languages and Literatures

To be admitted to candidacy students must:

- Demonstrate competence in the second modern language, either French or German (if not done already).
- Assemble a dissertation committee (normally three faculty members, of whom at least two must hold full-time appointments in the Classics Department) and submit a dissertation proposal, consisting of a prospectus of approximately 20–25 pages, including bibliography. The committee chair should be a member of the Classics department. While the prospectus is necessarily provisional and dissertations will evolve in different directions with further research and writing, the dissertation prospectus should present: (i) a succinct statement of the problem or topic to be addressed; (ii) a brief overview of the most important previous scholarship on the question; (iii) a clear articulation of the scholarly contribution that the dissertation will make; (iv) a brief account of the methodology or methodologies to be applied, with relevant examples; (v) a provisional outline of the dissertation's contents and chapter organization; and (vi) a preliminary, working bibliography. The proposal should be submitted in the term following the completion of the dissertation proposal workshop, and will not be accepted if the candidate has not already passed the second modern language competency examination. For graduate students entering from Autumn Quarter 2012 onwards, the dissertation proposal should be submitted at the end of the prospectus workshop, and in no case later than the end of the fourth year of residency. The faculty will vote electronically whether to approve the proposal within two weeks of submission. Once approved, the candidate will be considered as advanced to Ph.D. candidacy and the full committee will meet with the student to discuss the proposal in light of the comments from the faculty as a whole.

After completing these requirements, the candidate is formally admitted to Ph.D. candidacy.

## The Ph.D. in Classical Languages and Literatures

To graduate with a Ph.D. in Classical Languages and Literatures, a candidate must:

- Be admitted to Ph.D. candidacy.
- Complete the dissertation and defend it before the gathered members of the Department and interested faculty from other Departments.
- Satisfy any other Divisional or University Requirements.

