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Vice Provost for Academic Programs
Council on Academic Affairs
Office of Academic Affairs

Dear Dr. Smith,

The Department of Classics would like to submit revisions to its PhD program in Greek and Latin (GRKLATN-PH), effective Autumn 2026. The Program has been operating with its current requirements 2017. We wish to add two core courses that will better prepare our students i) for early stages of graduate work (Classics 6001) and ii) for the professional aspects of an academic career (Classics 6002).

We also seek formal recognition of a reduction in the credit hour weighting for four core courses, a change which has already been approved by ASC, the Graduate School, OAA and the Registrar.

Finally, we wish to make a minor change to the distribution of 7000-level seminar courses that our students must fulfill to include courses with the 'Classics' designation (previously, they had to complete 3 Greek and 3 Latin courses; now we would like them to complete 2 Latin, 2 Greek, and 2 Classics). This change will give students greater breadth in their training, and enable the department to utilize a wider range of faculty research expertise.

Implementation

- The new courses Classics 6001 and 6002 will be offered in alternating Autumn semesters. Students will take CLAS 6001 in their first or second year; and CLAS 6002 in their second or third year.
- Students enrolled in the PhD program before Autumn 2026 will be allowed to enroll in either of the new course, though these new courses will not be mandatory for them. Students enrolled before Autumn 2026 may also choose to complete 3 Greek and 3 Latin 7000-level seminars *or* 2 Greek, 2 Latin and 2 Classics.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

- The credit hour change to our Greek and Latin core survey courses was implemented after it received ASC, Graduate School, OAA and Registrar approval, beginning SP25.

Attached please find a more detailed explanation and justification of the proposed changes, and updated advising sheet.

If you need any additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Alan J. Ross, DPhil (Oxon), FRHistS, FHEA
Associate Professor,
Director of Graduate Studies

Revision to the PhD program in Greek and Latin (Classics)

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Classics Department wishes to make changes to its PhD program in Greek and Latin (Classics) with effect from AU26.

I. Current Requirements

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Credit hours: A minimum of 80 graduate credit hours beyond the B.A. degree is required to earn a Ph.D. degree. If an M.A. has already been earned by the student, then a minimum of 50 graduate credit hours beyond the M.A. is required. Moreover, the following specific requirements are discrete, that is, one cannot use, say, a seminar to satisfy a survey requirement (unless as specified below), or a seminar to fulfill an ancillary or history requirement. The required courses listed below do not total 80 credits, and students achieve the required minimum number of credits in a variety of ways (additional seminars, courses outside the classics department, independent studies, vel sim.)

Core courses

Survey sequences in Latin and in Greek (6891 and 6892 for either language, for a total of 20 credits): the student may opt out of one sequence if he or she has passed the language exam of that sequence at the Ph.D. level. In that case, the student will be required to take one graduate seminar in that same language (Greek or Latin) for each semester of the survey sequence.

Seminars (18 credits total): three 7000-level graduate courses in Greek and three 7000-level graduate courses in Latin. A 7000-level course under the Classics heading may count for either a Greek or a Latin seminar based on the nature of the course and the focus of a student's work. It is expected that from these or other similar courses each student will be able to submit three research papers to the Candidacy Examination Committee that may be discussed during the oral portion of the candidacy examination (see "Research Papers" below).

History (3 credits): One course offered by the Department of History, whether in Greek, Roman, or relevant medieval, Byzantine, or Near Eastern history.

Ancillary field (3 credits): One course in an ancillary discipline, which may be on but not limited to Greek or Latin paleography, linguistics, epigraphy, topography, literary theory, art and archaeology, ancient philosophy, ancient religion, and Near Eastern languages and cultures. The DGS will determine which courses fulfill the Ancillary Requirement.

Latin 6894 Pedagogy (1 credit) A course that supports the teaching of Latin, usually taken in the same semester as the student teaches in the elementary language sequence for the first time.

Core courses summary:

- Greek 6891 Survey Poetry (5 credits)
- Greek 6892 Survey Prose (5 credits)
- Latin 6891 Survey Poetry (5 credits)
- Latin 6892 Survey Prose (5 credits)
- Latin 6894 Pedagogy (1 credit)
- Greek 7XXX Greek seminar (3 credits)
- Greek 7XXX Greek seminar (3 credits)
- Greek 7XXX Greek seminar (3 credits)
- Latin 7XXX Latin seminar (3 credits)
- Latin 7XXX Latin seminar (3 credits)
- Latin 7XXX Latin seminar (3 credits)
- History course (3 credits)
- Ancillary course (3 credits)

LANGUAGE EXAMINATIONS

Greek and Latin language examinations:

Students must pass a 3-hour translation exam in both Greek and Latin in order to sit the Candidacy Exam. Exams are set twice a year at the beginning of the Autumn semester and end of the Spring.

Modern language competence: Students must acquire reading proficiency in French and German before taking their candidacy examination. The advisor can require or advise a student to acquire reading proficiency in an additional language if deemed necessary for the field in which dissertation research is to be conducted. Unless students are native speakers of these languages, they will be required to pass one-hour translation examinations (with dictionary) set by the department. Students may prepare for these exams on their own or by taking OSU's language courses (German 6101 and 6102, French 6571 and 6572). Students for whom English is not their native language may also use a modern dictionary in their native language, e.g., Russian-English.

THE CANDIDACY EXAM + DISSERTATION PROSPECTUS

Candidacy Exam Students must sit a Candidacy Exam that is comprised of two elements: i) four written exams of 3hrs duration each, set by a committee of four faculty members, and ii) an oral exam with the same faculty committee. The candidate is responsible for selecting the committee and the examination topics in consultation with the DGS.

Research papers: Three papers that qualify as research papers shall be submitted to the Candidacy Committee, whether they were written in seminars, other courses, or independent research.

The dissertation prospectus: Each student admitted to Candidacy must submit a written dissertation prospectus to his or her Dissertation Committee within six weeks of completing the candidacy examination. The entire Dissertation Committee needs to provide feedback and approve the prospectus in order for the dissertation to proceed. The student will also arrange

with the department's Lecture Committee to make an oral presentation of the prospectus before the department.

THE DISSERTATION

Once a student has completed the candidacy examination and has been admitted to Candidacy (i.e., is ABD), he or she begins work on the dissertation. While working on this project, students continue to earn credit hours, typically three credits of dissertation research (Greek or Latin 8999) per semester.

The dissertation: Rules governing the dissertation may be found in the Graduate School Handbook. In accordance with those rules, a student must submit the final copy of his or her dissertation within five years of being admitted to Candidacy. The student must submit an **Application to Graduate** in **GRADFORMS** at start of the semester they are planning to graduate.

Final oral examination: Rules governing the final oral examination may be found in the Graduate School Handbook. The student must submit an **Application for Final Examination** in **GRADFORMS** and have this approved by his or her program and advisor at least two weeks before the proposed date.

Terminal M.A.

If a student leaves the program before obtaining the Ph.D., a terminal M.A. degree may be provided upon the fulfillment of the following requirements: completion of at least 30 credit hours; passing at least one of the Greek and Latin examinations; completion of courses at the discretion of the DGS, typically:

- Greek 6891
- Greek 6892
- Latin 6891
- Latin 6892
- At least three 7000-level seminars

If the student has not passed the other language at the M.A. level, the student may submit a research paper on a topic that engages with texts in that language.

II. Overview of and rationale for changes to PhD program

The Greek and Latin (Classics) PhD program requires 80 credits including a 30-credit “voluntary terminal status” MA in Greek and Latin that is awarded in the instance of a student not continuing with the doctoral coursework. The MA requirements are typically completed by the end of Year 2; students typically pass Candidacy in Year 3. The changes to coursework affect the MA and the coursework requirements for Candidacy only. All other requirements (e.g. in modern and ancient language exams, and candidacy exams) remain unchanged.

The foundation of our graduate training remains the sequence of four survey courses in Greek and Latin literature (6891 and 6892 in each language), which provide intensified language and translation training and a survey of the major developments in the history of ancient literature. They have been requirements of the Terminal MA. Originally 5 credits each, earlier in 2025 they were reduced to 4 credits each in order to create more balanced workloads among faculty and to provide students with more time to pursue electives. These courses have been renamed “Survey I” and “Survey II” (previously “Prose” and “Poetry”) to enable more flexibility in their delivery – the major division can be either verse-prose or chronological. These courses remain core courses within the Terminal MA.

We wish to make Classics 6001 Proseminar (3 credits) a core course for Candidacy and for the Terminal MA. This new course provides a broad introduction to the history of Classics and its subdisciplines, especially as represented by the range of research expertise among current OSU faculty. It will be taken by students in their first or second Autumn semester of study.

We wish to make Classics 6002 Classics Professionalization Seminar (2-credits) a core course for Candidacy (but not the Terminal MA). This new course will be offered to students in the second or third year of the program, and is designed to prepare them for the job market and for the practical aspects of a tenure-track career as a Classicist. Weekly topics include job application dossiers, drafting grant applications, and course design.

The final change relates to the range of 7000-level seminars required for the Terminal MA and Candidacy. Previously six courses, three Greek and three Latin, were required for Candidacy. We wish to retain the overall total but extend the range to include Classics courses (i.e. courses where the main focus is not just literary, but historical or cultural). We propose 2 Greek, 2 Latin, and 2 Classics. We already offer several 7000-level Classics courses, which offer specialized training in specific periods (e.g. Late Antiquity) or approaches (e.g. Religion). The change will better prepare our students for a job market that still requires a foundation of training in Greek and Latin language and literature, but also now additional skills in cultural, historical, or philosophical studies or other sub-disciplines.. Students must complete three 7000-level seminars for the MA, and a further three to total 2 Greek, 2 Latin and 2 Classics for Candidacy.

The requirements for which we request formal approval are listed below. Overall, the new structure allows more flexibility for students to pursue electives, while also providing a solid foundational core curriculum in Greek and Latin language and literature. Required courses (both Core and required Electives) now total 28 for the Terminal MA and, cumulatively, 46 for Candidacy. The remaining 2 credits for the MA can be taken as free electives; and the

remaining 34 credits for the PhD are still to be earned via Independent Studies for exam preparation, Dissertation Research, and extra seminars as required.

Other requirements for Candidacy remain unchanged: one ‘ancillary’ courses (3 credits) in technical subjects such as palaeography, epigraphy, or modern languages; one History course in an ancient topic offered by the History Department (3 credits); and Latin pedagogy (1 credit)

No change will be made to the current Program Assessment Plan.

None of our graduate-level courses are approved for Distance Learning. We do not intend to offer any courses via Distance Learning as part of the revised curriculum.

Changes as a percentage of the existing program

The changes to the credit hours of Greek and Latin 6891 and 6892 have already been approved by ASC, The Graduate School, OAA and the Registrar.

Addition of 2 new core courses (6.25% change):

- Classics 6001 (3 credits)
- Classics 6002 (2 credits)

Change in distribution of required electives from 3 Greek and 3 Latin seminars to 2 Greek, 2 Latin, and 2 Classics. This change does not affect the total number of required electives, though it affect 6 credits-worth of courses (i.e. 7.5% of the program total).

III. Revised Curriculum for PhD in Greek and Latin (Classics)

MA Coursework: a minimum of 30 credits

Core Courses (19 credits)

- Classics 6001 Proseminar (3 credits)
- Greek 6891 Survey I (4 credits)
- Greek 6892 Survey II (4 credits)
- Latin 6891 Survey I (4 credits)
- Latin 6892 Survey II (4 credits)

Electives (9 credits)

- 3 elective 7000-level seminars from Classics, Greek or Latin (9 credits)

Remaining credits can be taken from any graduate-level courses, including from other departments.

MA additional exams: Greek or Latin translation

Candidacy

Core courses (3 credits)

- Classics 6002 Professionalization Seminar (2 credits)
- Latin 6894 Pedagogy (1 credit)

Electives (15 credits)

- A further three elective 7000-level seminars from Classics, Latin, Greek (9 credits), to create a total of 2 Latin, 2 Greek, and 2 Classics to qualify for Candidacy.
- 1 Ancillary course (3 credits)
- 1 History course (3 credits)

Required Core and Elective coursework prior to Candidacy total 46 credits. The remaining 34 credits for the PhD were earned via Independent Studies for exam preparation, Dissertation Research, and additional seminars as required

Additional exams: Greek and Latin translation; modern language exams in German and French

A candidacy exam set and examined by a committee of four faculty members and comprising three submitted research papers, four three-hour written exams, and an oral exam.

IV. Advising Sheet. Ph.D. Classics (80 credits)

The Ohio State University

Date Range: Effective AU26

Name:

CORE COURSES (21 credits)		*SEMINARS (18 credits – 7000 level)	
*Latin 6891 (4)		Classics Sem (3)	
*Latin 6892 (4)		Classics Sem (3)	
*Greek 6891 (4)		Greek Sem (3)	
*Greek 6892 (4)		Greek Sem (3)	
*Classics 6001 (3)		Latin Sem (3)	
Classics 6002 (2)		Latin Sem (3)	
Latin 6894 Pedagogy (1)			
History Course (3) Dept. of History course in Greek, Roman, Byzantine, NE		Ancillary Field (3) Paleog., ling., epig., art, arch., philosophy, religion, NE lg/cultures, etc.	
Electives (34 credits)			
Language Exams Greek/Latin/2 Modern Lang.	Pass (Y/N-date)	Candidacy Exams 4 Written, 1 Oral, 3 Papers	Pass (Y/N-date)
Greek		Topic 1	
Latin		Topic 2	
French/Other		Topic 3	
German/Other		Topic 4	
Dissertation Paper, Defense	Pass (Y/N-date)	Oral Exam	
Topic		Research Papers (3)	

* Denotes MA core course (only 9 credits of 7000-level seminars are required for the Terminal MA)