



# Classical Studies

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## Introduction to Classical Studies

In our interdisciplinary approach, students learn of the archaeology, art, history, linguistics, literature, mythology, philosophy, political theory, religion, and science of the Greeks and Romans. Since these cultures had a profound and lasting impact, their study is central to a well-rounded liberal arts education and is an excellent foundation for postgraduate studies, including medicine and law.

## Noteworthy Characteristics

We offer majors and minors in Classical Civilization, Greek, and Latin, and a minor in Archaeology. We have faculty affiliated with the Departments of History and Art & Art History, and with programs in Linguistics and in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

### Classical Civilization

Students study the history and cultures of Greece and Rome, including their interactions with their Near Eastern and North African neighbors. Selected courses offered by Art History, English, History, and other departments may also be counted towards the degree. Study of the ancient languages is not required.

*Highlights: Mythology, literature, art and archaeology, linguistics, history, gender and sexuality studies, and the history of medicine*

### Greek

Ancient Greek is the beautiful language of so many of the texts that shaped Western culture, including the New Testament. It is a thrill to read them in the original. We offer regularly-paced (non-intensive) courses at every level.

*Highlights: Homer, Sophocles, Euripides, Plato, and the New Testament*

### Latin

The language of some outstanding poets and thinkers, and the ancestor of Spanish and the other Romance languages, is a joy to learn. We offer regularly-paced (non-intensive) courses at every level.

*Highlights: Catullus, Virgil, Ovid, Tacitus, and St. Augustine*

### Linguistics

Students pursue the study of the system of language as a medium of cognition and perception as well as social institution. Engaging in linguistic analysis enables students to view culture through the lens of language.

### Archaeology

Students study the human past through its material remains. A minor in archaeology draws on anthropology, art history, classical studies, and geography courses that focus on material culture, archaeological methods, and human behavior.

## Scholarships, Grants, & Awards

### Scholarships

The Department can offer majors three merit-based scholarships, which may be divided. First-year students are eligible, but must officially declare the major before an award can be made. The value of the award amount varies yearly; the most recent amounts are noted below.

- **Amy Karr Kratz Scholarship**  
Restricted to full-time students of Westhampton College who are Latin majors. For 2023, the award was \$8,270.
- **Mary Selma Dunn Pierson Scholarship**  
Open to all Latin majors. For 2023, the award was \$27,940.
- **Pauline Turnbull Scholarship**  
Restricted to Westhampton College students who are Classical Civilization, Latin, or Greek majors. For 2023, the award was \$19,780.

### Gertrude Howland Summer Grant

Supports the participation of outstanding Classics and Archaeology students in non-credit experiential learning programs exploring the cultures represented in the Ancient World Gallery.

### Eta Sigma Phi

Excellent students may be nominated to this venerable Classics honorary society.

### Awards for Graduating Seniors:

- The Bowen Award for Excellence in Latin
- The Tanner Medal for Excellence in Greek

## Learning Environment

We aim to provide a warm and welcoming environment for students from all backgrounds and walks of life. We have a deep commitment to our teaching—more than half of our faculty has won the Distinguished Educator Award—and classes tend to be small with lots of interaction.

### Community-Based Learning

- **Archaeology in the Community:**  
Archaeology students take part in a multidisciplinary effort to restore and document a local historic African American cemetery, and in on-campus efforts to document the history of the University.
- **Archaeology Day:** Students help to create a learning experience for the public for the Archaeological Institute of America's outreach day.

## Studying Abroad

Our students have studied in Greece, Italy, Turkey, Jordan, France, Ireland, and the United Kingdom. With Classics programs widespread, these are just some of the options.

## Digging Archaeology

Our students have participated regularly in summer fieldwork in Turkey, Pompeii, and Herculaneum. We can also help students find field experiences elsewhere - wherever their interests take them.

## Internships

Our students are highly competitive for internships at Richmond-area museums.

## Research

Our students often take advantage of Richmond's generous research support to work over the summer with faculty mentors on their own projects. For their capstone experience, majors develop a research topic, often finding connections with other disciplines, as in these examples:

- **Art:** “Interpreting the Decoration of the VMFA’s Düver Terracottas”
- **Economics:** “The Roman Credit Crisis of 33 CE”
- **Ethics:** “The Discovery of Social Responsibility: Eleos Transformed from Homer to the New Testament”
- **History:** “The Origins of the Cato Legend in Imperial Rome and its Reconstruction and Reception in the Confederate Lost Cause”
- **History of Medicine:** “Drying, Heating, and Pungent? The Medical Properties of Apiaceae Species in Pliny, Dioscorides, and Galen”
- **Linguistics:** “Problems of Verbal Aspect in New Testament Greek”
- **Literature:** “A Loosening of Limbs: Death and Formulaic Language in Iliad 16”
- **Mythology and religion:** “Continuity and Transformation of Sacred Spaces in the Mediterranean”

## Our Courses

- Ancient Greek (all levels)
- Latin (all levels)
- Classical Mythology
- Ancient Myth in Epic Poetry
- Mythology: Greek Drama
- Classical Elements in the English Language
- Introduction to Syntax
- Ethnicity, Gender, and Class in Greece and Rome
- Introduction to Archaeology
- Cultural Property: Archaeology, Ethics, and Law
- Greek Art and Archaeology
- Roman Art and Archaeology
- Archaeology of the Middle East
- Dining and Drinking in Classical Antiquity
- Greek Magic
- History of Early Medicine
- The Classical Tradition
- Daily Life in Roman Pompeii
- The Ancient World in Cinema
- Three courses in History: Classical Greece, Hellenistic Greece and Republican Rome, The Roman Empire

### First-Year Seminars:

- Death and Commemoration in Antiquity
- Myth and Cult in Ancient Greece
- Socrates and His Legacies
- Persuasion and the Law in Antiquity
- Gender, Violence, and Rome

## Special Resources

- **The Stuart L. Wheeler Gallery of the Ancient World** houses a collection of artifacts from Egypt, Greece, and Rome, and museum-quality replicas.
- **The Classics-Philosophy Study**, a lovely and cozy library that offers a comfortable place to study and enjoy weekly teatime.
- **Lecture Series:** Several times a semester we host (or co-host with the Richmond AIA chapter) invited speakers on topics of interest to our students.
- **Classics Club:** Our students like to spend time together! Members organize weekly teas and get together for movie nights and other activities.

## What can I do with THAT degree?

A LOT! Employers say they need people with a broad knowledge base, able to solve problems and communicate well. A classical education gives you just that.

Our graduates’ career paths include: information technology, business management, intelligence and espionage, medical research, art valuation, the military, and education (including teaching high school Latin).

Students who have pursued graduate work in our field have enjoyed great success, some of them awarded full-ride fellowships to top programs.

Our program has prepared students for further study in other fields, too, including business, law, library science, and divinity. Those with double majors have entered programs in biology, chemistry, genetics, dentistry, medicine, economics, and ethnomusicology.

The Archaeology minor can prepare students for careers or graduate study in art history, geographic information systems (GIS), conservation, architectural history, museum studies, and cultural property law.

## Graduate School Acceptances

- Boston College
- Boston University
- Bryn Mawr College
- Cornell University
- Georgetown University
- Harvard University
- Indiana University
- Johns Hopkins University
- New York University
- The Ohio State University
- Oxford University
- Princeton University
- University of Cincinnati
- University of Colorado
- University of Georgia
- University of Memphis
- University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Texas at Austin
- University of Virginia
- University of Washington
- Vanderbilt University



Office of Admission  
(804) 289-8640

admission.richmond.edu

Dr. Walt Stevenson, Department Chair  
(804) 289-8424 • wstevens@richmond.edu

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