PhD in Classical Studies

Admission Contact Information

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Admission Criteria

Fall deadline: April 1st
NOTE: Deadline for teaching assistantship applicants: January 15th
Spring deadline: November 1st (Departmental support not typically available)

• MA with a major in Greek, Latin or classics, or the equivalent of a minimum of 21 hours of graduate work in the language(s). Reading knowledge of Greek and Latin and a reading knowledge of German and French (or Italian)
• Minimum GRE score: no minimum
• Minimum TOEFL scores:
  - Internet-based test (iBT)
    | 61
  - Paper-based test (PBT)
    | 500

Required Application Materials

To the Office of Graduate Studies

• 3 letters of recommendation
• Statement of interest
• 10-20 pp. writing sample
• Transcripts
• GRE scores

Application materials that cannot be submitted directly to the Office of Graduate Studies may be sent to the Classical Studies program.

Financial Aid from the Program

Some programs require an extra form or statement from those who wish to be considered for internal assistantships, fellowships or other funding packages. Check the program website or ask the program contact for details.

Language Requirements

Proficiency in one of the modern foreign languages (i.e., French, German, or Italian) must be demonstrated by the time of registration for the second year of graduate study; proficiency in the second language must be demonstrated by the time of registration for the third year.

Plan of Study

A minimum of 72 hours of graduate credit is required for the PhD degree. A maximum of 30 hours of this total may consist of hours transferred from the MA degree. At least 21 additional hours must be taken in the department at the graduate level. A minimum of eight hours of dissertation credit is required. At least two courses in related ancient fields, one of which must be in ancient history or classical archaeology, must be taken at the graduate level. Proficiency in Greek and Latin composition must be demonstrated at some point by course work or examination.

Minors and Areas of Concentration

All candidates must include in their plan of study a minor or area of concentration consisting of at least 12 hours at the graduate level outside the department. Suggested areas include ancient history, classical archaeology, the classical tradition, late antiquity, the oral tradition, rhetoric, or romance languages. A structured minor in ancient studies also is available.

Examinations

All candidates are required to complete two four-hour qualifying examinations, one in Greek and one in Latin.

Comprehensive: Written

After completing residency, language, and course requirements, PhD candidates must pass the comprehensive examination consisting of four written examinations in the following fields: Greek literature, Latin literature, special author or topic, and area of concentration or minor field. With the approval of the advisor and the candidate's committee, extra course work beyond the required 12 hours may be substituted for the written examination in the area of concentration or minor field. Ancient Studies minors are automatically excused from the examination in the minor field.

Comprehensive: Oral

The oral comprehensive examination is taken only after the candidate successfully passes the written examinations.

Dissertation

Within one month of completion of both written and oral comprehensive exams, or at the beginning of the Fall term if the exams are taken in May, the candidate must meet with the doctoral program committee to obtain formal approval of the dissertation topic. Continuous enrollment must be maintained while the candidate completes the dissertation. At least eight hours of dissertation credit are required. A final oral defense of the dissertation is held upon completion of the dissertation.