

Classics Advising FAQ

1. If I think I might want to be a Classics major, what courses should I take in first year?

- If you think there's even an outside chance that you'll want to do a Major in Classical Languages and Literatures, you should start Latin or Greek right away (CLAS 120/220 or CLAS 125/225).
- Otherwise, you might also consider taking CLAS 101 (Intro to Classics) or CLAS 250 (Myth).
- There's no "standard progression" through the Classics major and there's no 100-level course that students must take in order to take upper-level courses.

2. I've studied Greek or Latin at high school. At what level should I start?

- If you've studied Latin or Greek prior to coming to Lawrence, it might be appropriate for you to start at the intermediate or advanced level.
- There is a Latin placement exam, which is held every Fall during Welcome Week. The exam (which lasts 90 minutes) consists of parsing questions, a short sight passage, and accompanying grammar questions about the passage. You can download a sample placement exam and an answer key from the department website.
- There is no placement exam for Greek. If you have prior Greek experience please contact the department.
- While everybody's language experience will be judged on a case-by-case basis, here are some rough guidelines:
 - 1-2 years of HS experience: start at the 100-level
 - 2-3 years of HS experience: start at the 200-level
 - 3-4 years of HS experience: start at the 300-level

3. What's the difference between 300- and 400-level language courses?

- Students taking courses at the 400-level will be held to a higher standard of reading, translation, and performance in class and on exams, and will be assigned an additional research paper.
- 300- and 400-level classes meet concurrently. You can't take the same course at both the 300- and 400-level.

4. What prerequisites should I be aware of when considering taking Classics courses?

- The only courses in the Classics department that have specific prerequisites are the advanced language classes. You must have the 100- and 200-level courses to take Greek or Latin at the 300- or 400-level (or the equivalent high school/AP experience).
- 100- and 200-level civilization courses (taught in English) have no prerequisites.
- 300- and 400- level civilization courses (taught in English) require sophomore standing or permission of the instructor.

5. How often are Classics courses offered?

- Intro/Intermediate Latin (120/220) and Greek (125/225) are reliably offered every year.
- Advanced Latin and Greek courses (those with a 300/400-level designation) are offered at most every four years. It's highly unlikely any of these courses will be offered twice

during your time at Lawrence. In a normal year there are one to two advanced Latin and one to two advanced Greek courses.

- Introduction to Classics (CLAS 101) and Classical Mythology (CLAS 250) are typically offered in alternating years. If you pass up the opportunity to take one of these in freshman year, you will likely have another chance in junior year.
- Most other courses in English are offered only every three or four years. If you don't take these courses in freshman year, it's possible that you won't get another chance.

6. What departments does Classics cross-list with?

- ANTH, ARHI, ENG, HIST, RLST, THAR
- See the list of course offerings for more details.

Questions? Contact:

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