

CLASSICS (PHD)

Graduate School

Program Website (<https://classics.cornell.edu/phd/>)

CIP: 16.1200 | HEGIS: 1504.00 | NYSED: 13649

Graduate Field

Classics (<https://catalog.cornell.edu/graduate-school/classics/>)

Program Description

The Ph.D. degree requires six semesters in residence and the successful completion of one of the programs listed below:

Ancient History

Ancient History at Cornell can be studied either in the Field of History or in the Field of Classics. The concentration aims to train students both as historians and as classicists. It is designed differently for students in the two Fields, but strongly encourages those in one Field to strengthen their preparation by relevant work in the other.

Ancient Philosophy

The study of ancient philosophy at Cornell is administered jointly by the Fields of Classics and Philosophy, and members of the two Fields cooperate in teaching and supervising graduate students. The program aims at training productive scholars and effective teachers of ancient philosophy who will also be well-rounded classicists and philosophers. The concentration is designed differently for students in the two Fields, but it strongly encourages those in one Field to strengthen their preparation by relevant work in the other.

Classical Archaeology and Art

The Concentration in Classical Archaeology and Art aims to provide the training and context to produce scholars ready to engage in cutting-edge archaeological research and teaching about the Greek and Roman worlds (including Cyprus and the wider Mediterranean area) in any period from prehistory through to Late Antiquity. Candidates are trained to be qualified for academic positions with an archaeological focus in Departments of Classics, History of Art, or Anthropology, as well as in interdisciplinary Archaeology Programs concerned with the ancient world and complex societies. The Cornell program offers a strong institutional setting, combining a long pedigree in outstanding Classical scholarship, cognate departments and courses in History of Art, Near Eastern Studies, and Anthropology, and world-leading science departments for those seeking to develop inter-disciplinary projects.

Classical Literature and Philology

This concentration, focusing on Greek and Latin languages and literature, is the most frequently chosen Ph.D. program in the Field of Classics, and provides students with the opportunity to follow a traditional training in philology and textual criticism, to explore Classical literature in the light of modern literary critical methodology, or to do both. The Graduate Faculty offers seminars and other graduate-level courses, taught from a wide range of critical perspectives, on ancient authors from Homer to Boethius and on topics such as textual criticism, epigraphy, and Greek and Roman Religion, to name but a few.

Greek and Latin Languages and Linguistics

Graduate applicants to the Field of Classics whose primary interest is in the Greek and Latin languages per se may choose to pursue the Concentration in Greek and Latin Languages and Linguistics. The aim of this concentration is to acquire a broad background in general linguistics; Greek, Latin, and Indo-European linguistics; and Greek and Latin philology.

Interdisciplinary Classics

Interdisciplinary Classics is a concentration that fully promotes an interdisciplinary approach to the ancient world by training students in three different disciplines of Classics through course work and reading lists. It encourages students to make new connections between areas that have been traditionally distinct, bringing together, e.g., epigraphy, science, art history, history, philosophy, literature, and classical reception.

Concentrations

- Ancient history
- Ancient philosophy
- Classical archaeology and art
- Classical literature and philology
- Classical myth (minor)
- Classical rhetoric (minor)
- Greek and Latin language and linguistics
- Indo-European linguistics (minor)
- Interdisciplinary track

Program Information

- Instruction Mode: In Person
- Location: Ithaca, NY
- Minimum Credits for Degree: 162

Program Requirements

- Minimum Semesters for Degree: 10

Graduate School Milestones

- Responsible Conduct of Research Training: Required
- Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID): Required
- Student Progress Reviews (SPR) begin: Second Year
- Examination for admission to candidacy (A Exam): Spring of third year
- Defense of Dissertation (B Exam): Spring of sixth year

Field Specific Milestones

- Qualifying Examination (Q Exam): Spring of second year
- First modern language exam by the end of the third year
- Second modern language exam by the end of the fourth year
- Classical language exam by the end of the sixth year
- Prospectus presentation in the third year

Course Requirements

- Course requirements are determined by the student's Special Committee and vary dependent up on the student's concentration.
- Enrollment in a GRAD research course or the equivalent field specific research course is expected of all students.

University Graduation Requirements

Requirements for All Students

In order to receive a Cornell degree, a student must satisfy academic and non-academic requirements.

Academic Requirements

A student's college determines degree requirements such as residency, number of credits, distribution of credits, and grade averages. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the specific major, degree, distribution, college, and graduation requirements for completing their chosen program of study. See the individual requirements listed by each college or school or contact the college registrar's office (<https://registrar.cornell.edu/service-resources/college-registrar-directory/>) for more information.

Non-academic Requirements

Conduct Matters. Students must satisfy any outstanding sanctions, penalties or remedies imposed or agreed to under the Student Code of Conduct (Code) or Policy 6.4. Where a formal complaint under the Code or Policy 6.4 is pending, the University will withhold awarding a degree otherwise earned until the adjudication process set forth in those procedures is complete, including the satisfaction of any sanctions, penalties or remedies imposed.

Financial Obligations. Outstanding financial obligations will not impact the awarding of a degree otherwise earned or a student's ability to access their official transcript. However, the University may withhold issuing a diploma until any outstanding financial obligations owing to the University are satisfied.

Learning Outcomes

- Make an original and substantial contribution to the field
 - Think originally and independently.
 - Identify new research opportunities.
- Achieve breadth and diversity of knowledge in the field
 - Proficiency in the relevant languages, ancient and modern.
 - Thorough command of theoretical and empirical knowledge across the field.
 - In-depth knowledge of one major area.
- Communicate research findings effectively
 - Produce publishable scholarship.
 - Achieve excellence in spoken presentations.
- Demonstrate effective skills in undergraduate teaching
 - Design appropriate learning outcomes and relevant assessments for a variety of courses.
 - Engage effectively with students to help them reach learning goals, through both direct communication and feedback on assessments.