The field of Classics encompasses the study of ancient Greek and Roman cultures and their political, social, artistic, and intellectual legacies. Our Classics program involves the study of cultural contact and hybridization, as well as the exploration of the dynamic relationships between past and present. Courses range from language, literature, religion, social and political history, as well as art and archaeology. Our program enables you to investigate ancient cultures from different perspectives and become acquainted with methods from several disciplines. Students are able to choose from four degree sub-plans including Greek, Latin, Greek and Latin, and Classical Civilization.

While studying classics you’ll have opportunities to do research, read historical texts in their original language and more. Classics prepares you well for graduate school in a variety of fields such as law school, medical school, business school and gives you a strong base for careers that require critical thinking and communication skills.

The College of Liberal Arts Advantage: More Than a Major

When you study Classics at the University of Minnesota, you gain the added advantage of a College of Liberal Arts education. At CLA, the liberal arts mean you get more than just a degree in one major or another; it means you will be exposed to different areas of study, to different ways of thinking and learning. In fact, the liberal arts teach you how to learn—how to ask the right questions, how to problem solve, and how to innovate. The liberal arts highlight the complexities of
our world, because here at CLA you will study not just, say, politics or art but also where politics and art intersect, where science and ethics intersect, where economics and the environment intersect.

Student Experiences

Internships in Classics: Gain Valuable Experience in the Twin Cities and Beyond

Did you know? Our department has its very own internship reflection course! Students taking an internship can use this course to reflect on ways that their work experience is preparing them for successful careers - and receive credit for the work.

Learning Abroad Options in Classics: Prepare to Lead in a Global Economy

Learn more about study abroad for Classics majors.

Student Organizations: Find Friends and Grow as a Leader

- Classics Club

Undergraduate Research: Turn Curiosity into New Knowledge

Faculty members in the Department of Classical and Near Eastern Studies collaborate on a number of research projects focusing on the ancient Mediterranean and Near East from the Bronze Age through the era of Late Antiquity. Our department is nationally known for its unusual reach and distinctive areas of thematic focus.

Meet Our Faculty
The Quran has captivated new Assistant Professor Mohsen Goudarzi’s interests since an early age. Today, he explains how rethinking fundamental aspects of this text can lead to a new understanding of Islam’s beginnings.

Read more about Professor Goudarzi’s work.

Meet Our Alumni

CNES alumna and recent Jeopardy! contestant Claudia Hochstein discusses the value of her Latin degree—how it’s prepared her for the future, from game shows to scientific research—and how greater diversity awareness should be brought to the Latin field.

Read more about Claudia’s story.

CLA Graduates: Successful Careers and Purposeful Lives

CLA graduates succeed in many different careers — law, health care, medicine, business, government, teaching, advertising, arts and entertainment, international relations, and more — precisely because they understand how to navigate a
complex and interconnected world. As our alumni explain below, “Being a good employee means being curious, and continuing to evolve, and learn, and educate yourself, and I can think of no stronger foundation for doing that than a liberal arts education.”

“An education in the liberal arts is a springboard to lifelong career success”
-- Dean John Coleman

You might also explore

Classic & Near Eastern Archaeology Minor
Greek Minor
Latin Minor
French and Italian Studies
Anthropology
Cultural Studies & Comparative Literature
Global Studies

Associated Careers

Antiquities, Editor, Historian, Historic Preservationist, Museum Curator, Librarian, Research, Teacher

Admission Information
TRANSFER STUDENTS: Requirements for the College of Liberal Arts

Beyond admission, if you have questions about transferring, the College of Liberal Arts (CLA) has transfer advisors to help. Please feel free to contact them about any of the topics below!

- Course plans before transferring
- Estimated time to graduation
- Career preparation in CLA
- Getting ready for orientation, if admitted
- Connecting with major/minor departments