Accelerated Master of Arts in Classics

The combined B.A. / M.A. degree allows high-achieving undergraduate majors in Classical Languages at the University of Kansas to move directly into the Master's degree program in Classics, completing it within one year of completing the B.A.

Students take the same courses (and the same number of courses) as those required for the two degrees under the normal sequence, but in a more flexible configuration. All requirements for the M.A. are the same as for other tracks: the principal focus remains ancient Greek and/or Latin (concluding with a comprehensive exam in both languages), and there remains a thesis and non-thesis option and required reading knowledge of a modern research language.

Careful course selection and steady progression through the undergraduate career is necessary to ensure all requirements for both degrees may be completed within the 5-year time frame. All prospective students should discuss their interest in the 4+1 track with the Director of Graduate Studies no later than the student’s Junior year (Year 3). Admission standards depend not only on academic record but also on the demonstrated ability to continue with accelerated work, as determined by the department’s admissions committee (to include the Chair, Director of Graduate Studies, and Undergraduate Director).

Application to the program requires: three letters of recommendation (two of which must be from KU Classics faculty), a strong writing sample, a statement of purpose, and a KU Advising Report showing a 3.5 GPA in the major (slightly lower would be acceptable with especially strong letters of recommendation).

Candidacy will be reviewed in the seventh semester to ensure the student is on track to complete all requirements for a B.A. degree in Classics from KU by the Spring semester of Year 4. If the committee decides at that time that the candidate is not suited to continue with the accelerated program, or if the student is not on track or no longer wishes to pursue the M.A., the student will be eligible to earn the B.A. when those requirements have been met. Should the student not be able to complete the M.A. in the fifth year, providing good academic standing, the student may continue into a sixth year but can no longer double-count courses completed in Year 4 toward completion of the terminal M.A.

Combined B.A./M.A. in Classics

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Students take the same courses (and the same number of courses) as those required for the two degrees under the normal sequence, but in a more flexible configuration. For especially well prepared students with superior grade-point averages, the M.A. requires 24 graduate hours rather than 30. Students enroll as an undergraduate in six hours of 500-700 level courses that count toward the B.A. but are beyond those required for the Classical Languages major. All other requirements for the M.A. are the same as for other tracks: the principal focus remains ancient Greek and/or Latin (concluding with a comprehensive exam in both languages), and there remains a thesis and non-thesis option and required reading knowledge of a modern research language. See department website (http://classics.ku.edu/overview-0) for details.

Students enroll as an undergraduate in six hours of 500-700 level courses that count toward the B.A. but are beyond those required for the Classical Languages major. All other requirements for the M.A. are the same as for other tracks: the principal focus remains ancient Greek and/or Latin (concluding with a comprehensive translation exam), and there remains a thesis and non-thesis option and required reading knowledge of a modern research language.

The shift of 6 credit hours from the M.A. to pre-requisites for the B.A. allows students greater flexibility and will ease the burden on their final year of study. More precisely, the flexibility allows faculty to advise students on a course of study that distributes courses across the 5 years of study in the most optimal way for language development.

In summary, students will successfully complete the M.A. in Classics from the University of Kansas if the following credit hour and Enroll & Pay career conditions are met:

1. A minimum of 24 hours at the 500+ level on the graduate program line.
2. A minimum of 6 hours at the 500+ level on the undergraduate program line beyond what is required of the Classics undergraduate major.

Students may be eligible to co-enroll in their final semester of undergraduate study. This should be discussed and planned during the junior year of undergraduate study.

The requirement that students in the program write an undergraduate honors thesis also provides preparation toward the M.A. thesis. Students who choose the non-thesis option are not required to write an undergraduate thesis.

Examinations

All students must write a final translation examination prepared by a committee of three members of the graduate faculty, at least two of whom, including the committee chair, must be members of the Classics Department. The members of the examination committee will be selected by the student, with the approval of the graduate faculty of the Department, and the examination will be prepared by the committee in consultation with the student.

One section of this examination will be drawn from material read in graduate classes. The student will present a reading list of no less than 400 pages, according to pagination in the Oxford Classical Text or its equivalent. This will consist of 50-150 pages from at least four of the eight major areas of Greek and Latin literature that form the four-semester cycle of courses (see below). A second section will be a sight passage from one of the major genres of Greek or Latin literature selected by the student.

Four-Semester Cycle of Courses

Headings indicate areas from which instructors may draw material for author or genre courses. Author listings are representative, not exclusive.

Greek

- Epic and Lyric Poetry: From Homer to the Hellenistic poets
- Drama: Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, Aristophanes
- History and Oratory: Herodotus, Thucydides, Xenophon, Attic Orators
• Philosophy: Pre-Socratics, Plato, Xenophon, Aristotle

Latin

• Epic Poetry: Lucretius, Ovid, Vergil, post-Augustan epic poets
• Lyric and Elegy: Catullus, Horace, Tibullus, Propertius, Ovid
• History, Oratory, Philosophy: Caesar, Sallust, Cicero, Livy, Seneca, Tacitus, Augustine, Boethius
• Drama, Satire, and Novel: Plautus, Terence, Horace, Petronius, Seneca, Juvenal, Apuleius