Greek and Latin Languages and Literature

+ College of Arts and Sciences

Degree(s)

+ Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Greek and Latin languages and literature
+ Minor in Greek or Latin

About the Faculty

The department has a small but dedicated core faculty that works with other classically-related faculty on campus in departments such as English, philosophy, history, and fine and performing arts. Faculty help students pursue their interests and attain an excellent foundation in the classical languages.

Program Overview

Saint Louis University’s study of classical languages is designed for students wanting to improve their word power and language skills, interested in the sources of Western culture, seeking firm foundations and interdisciplinary depth in their liberal arts education, and who intend to pursue studies that are facilitated by knowledge of classical languages and culture. This includes fields such as law, medicine, theology, philosophy, medieval and Renaissance studies, political science, communication, mythology, anthropology, psychology, art history, cultural criticism, history of education, literary studies and comparative literature.

The study of Greek or Latin languages and literature provides a unique coherence, depth and breadth to the undergraduate scholar, offering variety, flexibility and scope. Classical studies allow for exposure to a vast range of significant personalities, influential writing and wisdom literature that is relevant to all times. It is the “royal road” (the via regia) to important moments, ideas and movements in the cultural history of the Western world.

A concentration in Greek or Latin language and literature can complement almost any undergraduate degree program. The B.A. emphasizes the study of ancient texts in their original languages. It is often combined with another major, usually art history, biology, English, philosophy or theology. Students studying classical languages enjoy small classes and personalized attention. Students have flexibility in their programs, with many types of tutorials or independent study possible.

Saint Louis University encourages students to enhance their academic experience by studying abroad. Many Greek and Latin languages and literature students choose to reside and take Greek and Latin classes in Rome and other Mediterranean cities.

Curriculum

The requirements for the major in Greek and Latin language and literature include six prerequisites ((1010, 1020 and 2010 in Greek and Latin) and eight electives (taken from Greek and Latin upper division courses, with at least six credit hours in each language).

A minor in Latin or Greek requires three prerequisites ((1010, 1020 and 2010 in Greek or Latin) and three electives (taken from Greek or Latin upper division courses).

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For course listings and more information about our faculty, visit slu.edu/x49823.xml.

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Admission Requirements

Freshman: All applications are thoroughly and carefully reviewed. Solid academic performance in college preparatory course work is a primary criterion in reviewing a freshman applicant’s file. College admission test scores (ACT or SAT) are used as an additional indicator of the student’s ability to meet the University’s academic requirements and to qualify the student for certain University scholarship programs. To be considered for admission to any Saint Louis University undergraduate program, the applicant must be approaching graduation from an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the General Education Development (GED) test.

Transfer: Applicants must be a graduate of an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the GED. An official high school transcript and official test scores are required only of those students who have attempted fewer than 24 transferable semester hours (or 30 quarter hours) of college credit. Those having completed 24 hours or more of college credit need only submit a transcript from previously attended college(s). In reviewing a transfer applicant’s file, the office of admission holistically examines the student’s academic performance in college-level coursework as an indicator of the student’s ability to meet the academic rigors of Saint Louis University.

Internships and Careers

While most graduates of this program continue in other fields, a few recent graduates have pursued graduate studies in classical languages. Alumni have attended graduate schools such as the City University of New York and Washington University.

Other graduates have entered such fields as law, theological studies, social work, art history, hospital administration and education. These students have attended graduate and professional schools such as the University of Wisconsin at Madison, University of Chicago, University of Notre Dame, Bowling Green State University, Northwestern University and Saint Louis University.

Scholarships and Financial Aid

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:

+ Scholarships: awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need.
+ Financial Aid: provided in the form of grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, applicants should apply for admission by Dec. 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1.

For information on other scholarships and financial aid, visit the student financial services office online at finaid.slu.edu.