Classics and Classical Studies

About the major

Classics is the study of the thought, art, and life of ancient Greece and Rome. The founding works of Western literature, history, and philosophy are its main subject matter, together with the languages—Greek and Latin—that enable students to approach these works in the original.

We offer a core of lecture courses and seminars that provide introductions to the major works of Greek and Roman literature, history, and philosophy—all studied in English translation.

Middlebury is also fortunate to have the Classical Studies Program in which students can major as well. The Classical Studies Program is designed to offer a broad, rigorous, education in the classical world, and illustrates how the achievements of classical civilization form the foundations upon which so many disciplines are built. The interdisciplinary nature of the program is reflected in a teaching staff that includes faculty in the departments of classics, history of art and architecture, philosophy, political science, and religion.

“I was a physics major with a concentration in classics, which to me has been a powerful combination. The complex problem-solving skills paired with the ability to communicate articulately have been a major factor throughout my career.”

—Chris Coates ’86
Managing Director, Accenture

Reasons you might choose this major

• You are interested in some of the world’s oldest languages and cultures.
• You want to deepen your understanding of contemporary society by studying its origins in Greek and Roman society, politics, and art.
• You are ready to delve deeply into the study of a language with the aim of reading and translating original texts.
• You want to understand some of the greatest monuments of human thought, appreciate and analyze productions of human culture, and develop and construct careful arguments in the classical tradition.
• You want a solid foundation for any number of careers, including in law, government, art, teaching, and other paths.

Learning Goals

1. To attain the ability to read at least one classical language (Greek or Latin).
2. To develop strong close-reading skills.
3. To develop strong analytic writing skills.
4. To gain the ability to discuss the major works and ideas of classical texts.
5. To be able to conduct basic research necessary for the study of the classical world.
6. To be able to pursue a career in teaching Latin and/or Greek at the secondary school level.
7. To be able to pursue graduate work in classics.
Where classics and classical studies majors go

Applying your learning through internships . . .

Students pursue internships and research in a variety of fields, enabling them to apply their liberal arts learning in real-world settings. Internships, research, and self-directed projects enrich your academic experience and help prepare you for life after Middlebury. Students have interned or done research at the following:

- NYU Yeronisos Island Excavations
- Transformative Justice Law Project
- National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty
- Merrill Lynch
- Carolyn Jenks Literary Agency
- Emerging Asia
- The White House
- Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee
- Climate Justice Alliance
- Locus Analytics
- Bloomsbury Publishing

. . . leading to meaningful, dynamic, and engaging career paths.

See just some of the many interesting ways our graduates have applied their liberal arts learning to engage the world. If you want to see what other Middlebury alumni are doing now, log into Midd2Midd and search by major. go/midd2midd

- Blackwell's Rare Book, Rare Books Dealer
- John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Co., Assistant Vice President
- Yale University School of Medicine, Anesthesiologist
- Athena Global Advisors, CEO
- ACLU, Senior Staff Attorney, Speech Privacy & Technology
- Yelp, Key Account Executive
- Woofer Music & Sound, Executive Creative Director, Director of Licensing
- United States Marine Corps, Senior Defense Counsel, Okinawa Japan
- The Fenn School, Sustainability Director
- Computer Sciences Corp., Senior Software Engineer
- Responsible Endowments Coalition
- Smithsonian National Museum of American History
- First Judicial District of Pennsylvania
- Karamah: Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights
- Corporate Accountability International
- Morgan Stanley
- Conflict Records Research Center at the National Naval Defense Institute
- Catholic Charities
- New York Press
- Bellevue Hospital
- Forensic Risk Alliance LLP, COO and Partner
- Nikita Group Media LLC, Chief Revenue Officer
- Hartford Investment Management Company, Senior Portfolio Analyst
- Johnson Capital, Director
- Thermo Fisher Scientific, Senior Director, Human Resources
- University of Washington, Law Librarian
- Mizuho Alternative Investments, Global Head of Strategic Development
- Lexington Pediatrics, PC, Pediatrician
- Third Wish Media, Producer
- CIBC World Markets, Director
- U.S. National Park Service, Park Ranger