Eta Sigma Phi is a national honors society that exists to promote the study of ancient Greece and Rome, and to provide fellowship between students with classical interests. Iowa’s Epsilon chapter is the oldest active chapter in the nation. We function as both the campus ΗΣΦ chapter and as an informal, open-membership classics club. We get together for laid-back meetings every two weeks, where students with classical interests can talk, get to know each other, and collaborate on whatever project we happen to be working on. These include art projects, preparing for poetry readings and conference trips, etc. Anyone is welcome to join us.


The Department of Classics at The University of Iowa is proud of its long and honorable tradition as one of the four original departments created at the foundation of the University in 1847. The Department’s professors are devoted not only to their personal research, but also to their students. They teach classes in a variety of subjects, including Latin language, ancient Greek language, ancient religion, Roman and Greek history, pedagogy, ancient sports and recreation, the history of science and medicine, and classes focusing on Classical literature and philosophy. The Department also publishes its own journal — Syllecta Classica.

Department of Classics
The University of Iowa
210 Jefferson Building
Iowa City, IA 52242
Enjoy the benefits of a small liberal arts college within a larger university

Our classes are small and students get to know their professors and each other, but they still have access to all of the academic and extra-curricular options of a Big Ten university. Many of our students decide to spend a semester, a summer, or a year studying abroad, for which travel scholarships are available. Some participate in archaeological digs in Israel or Sicily; others have traveled to Athens as a sequel to the course “Concepts of the City: Athens.”

Our undergraduate classics club and honors society, Eta Sigma Phi, offers a variety of activities and every spring stages a public reading of an ancient author (in English translation) on the pedestrian mall in downtown Iowa City. Students who are members of the University Honors Program may choose to complete honors course designations or to write an honors thesis under the direction of a faculty member. Each year cash prizes are awarded to undergraduate students for their superior performances in Greek and Latin translation contests.

The department sponsors a colloquium series and coffee hours, during which undergraduates mingle with faculty, graduate students, and members of the community. In recent years undergraduates also have attended national and regional classics conferences. Our majors go on to graduate school in many fields and to careers in teaching, law, health sciences, and museum work.