Curriculum in Classics

In addition to completing the general requirements of the University, Classical Languages majors complete at least 36 s.h. of coursework, including either (1) three years of Latin and two of ancient Greek (or vice versa) and a composition course in one language or (2) four years of one of the languages, a composition course, and 2-3 other relevant courses. Ancient Civilization majors complete 30 s.h. of coursework, including courses in ancient art, archaeology, history, philosophy, religion, science, and ancient languages or literature.

The Trojan doctor Iapyx removes an arrowhead from Aeneas (From a fresco at Pompeii, c.70 CE)

Life is short, art long, opportunity fleeting, experience treacherous, and decision difficult. The physician must do not only what is necessary himself, but also make the patient, attendants, and external factors cooperate.

From Hippocrates’ *Aphorisms* (Greece, 425 BCE) Section 1
Medical professionals who interact with the lay public must be able to understand the patients’ experience of their own bodily health from the patients’ perspective. They must be skilled in both medical knowledge and personal caregiving. A broad humanities education—in language, history, philosophy, religion—complements scientific training and makes medical professionals more responsive to patients’ experiences of illness.

Classics was for hundreds of years and remains today the core discipline of the humanities. It is an ideal major for developing traditional humanities skills: problem solving, critical reading, persuasive writing and speaking, and general research.

Success in Critical Thinking and Vocabulary

Courses in Latin and ancient Greek are particularly successful at training students in analysis, problem solving, critical thinking, and the close reading of complex textual material. After even a year of Latin or ancient Greek, students regularly report a significantly greater understanding of the use of English.

Medicine and Ancient Languages and Culture

Pre-medicine students familiar with Latin and ancient Greek will readily understand the meaning and origin of the detailed terms of skeletal and muscular structures such as xiphoid process and pericardium, and diagnostic terms such as subluxation and metastasis, among many others.

Pre-medicine students will also gain historical perspective from the new Classics course in English, Ancient Medicine, a history of medicine in Greco-Roman antiquity.

If you are interested in Classics for pre-med students, please contact our undergraduate advisor for more information: Professor John Finamore 319-335-0288 or john-finamore@uiowa.edu 210C Jefferson Building