For hundreds of years, Classics has been the core discipline of the humanities. It is ideal for developing problem solving, critical reading, persuasive writing & speaking, & general research.

Medical professionals who interact with the public must understand the patients’ experience of their bodily health from their perspective. They must be skilled in both medical knowledge & personal caregiving. A broad humanities education - in language, history, philosophy, religion - complements scientific training & makes medical professionals more responsive to patients’ experience of illness.

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

From Hippocrates’ Aphorisms

[The doctor] must be practised in logical theory in order to discover the nature of the body, the differences between diseases, & the indications as to treatment.... He must, therefore, know all the parts of philosophy: the logical, the physical, & the ethical.

From Galen's The Best Doctor is Also a Philosopher
SUCCESS IN CRITICAL THINKING & VOCABULARY

Courses in Latin & ancient Greek are particularly successful at training students in analysis, problem solving, critical thinking, & 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 & ANCIENT LANGUAGES & CULTURES

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

Pre-medicine students will also gain historical perspective from the Classics course in English, CLSA:1181 Ancient Medicine, a history of medicine in Greco-Roman antiquity.

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 & two of ancient Greek (or vice versa) & a composition course in one language or (2) four years of one of the languages, a composition course, & 2-3 other relevant courses. Ancient Civilization majors complete 30 s.h. of coursework, including courses in ancient art, archaeology, history, philosophy, religion, science, & ancient languages or literature.

class.uiowa.edu/classics