

Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate

MEMO

To: The UVM Faculty Senate

From: Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate, Colby Kervick, Co-Chair

Date: November 4, 2021

Re: Approval of a proposal from the Department of Classics and the College of Arts and Sciences for a substantial revision to the Classical Civilizations Major and Minor

On November 4, 2021, the Curricular Affairs Committee approved the actions recommended in the following memo.

The Curricular Affairs Committee unanimously approved a proposal from the Department of Classics and the College of Arts and Sciences to substantially revise the major and minor in Classical Civilizations. Zero public comment was received during the 30-day circulation of the proposal.

Revisions Overview and Rationale:

The revisions of the Classical Civilization major and minor are offered in response to the proposed termination of the Greek and Latin majors and minors, which were approved at the CAS faculty meeting on September 14, 2021. By revising the Classical Civilization major and minor, the faculty hope to preserve the opportunity for students to continue to pursue advanced study in Greek and Latin, while also making clearer distinctions between those students who want to concentrate in language study and the study of classical history and culture.

In preparing the new outline of the major, the faculty modeled the degree and concentrations on majors well-established at other universities. These changes were first discussed in spring 2021 and were passed unanimously in a department faculty meeting September 3, 2021.

Proposed changes include 5 key elements:

1. **Revising the name of the major and minor** from Classical Civilization to Classics major and minor to accommodate the introduction of separate concentrations for classical studies and classical language.
2. **Introducing two tracks within the major and minor:** a Classical Studies concentration (based mainly on history/culture/literature courses taught in English) and a Classical Language concentration focused on intensive language study.
3. **Introduction of common core to the major and minor**, requiring all students in both tracks to take coursework in both classical studies and languages.
4. **Reduction of the number of credits in the major from 36 to 33** accomplished by eliminating an

ancillary course requirement of 6 credits taken outside the department and moving related courses into core requirements.

5. **Modification of the current requirements for the study of Classical Civilization**, reducing the current number of possible Greek or Latin credits possible in the studies track (currently 21 credits) to 12.

Changes in Relationships and Effects on Other Programs:

There is no expected impact on other programs, as a result of these changes. The revised Classics major and minor will continue to rely on courses from other departments and programs, whose courses are regularly cross listed under the CLAS prefix. The only courses required outside the department, ARTH 146 and ARTH 148, will continue to be included as core offerings in the major and minor.

Changes to the Curriculum:

Changes to the new major and minor include reducing the number of credits in the major from 36 to 33 by eliminating ancillary course requirements of 6 credits taken outside the department and moving related courses into core requirements. Modifying requirements for the study of Classical Civilization, reducing the current number of possible Greek or Latin credits possible in the studies track (currently 21 credits) to 12.

Current catalog:

The **major** in Classical Civilization requires 36 credits, including:

- 21 credits in Classics, Greek, Latin, ancient art, and/or ancient history
- 1 course in ancient art from the following:
 - o ARTH 146 Egypt and the Ancient Near East
 - o ARTH 148 Greek Art
- 2 courses in ancient history, in 2 different cultural areas, from among the following:
 - o Greece:
 - CLAS 021 Greek History and Civilization
 - CLAS 121 Greek History and Civilization
 - o Rome:
 - CLAS 023 Classical Roman Civilization
 - CLAS 122 Roman History and Civilization
- At least 12 credits in the major discipline must be at the 100-level or higher.
- 6 credits in approved related courses in fine arts, humanities, social sciences and the natural sciences. See Chair of Classics for a list of approved courses.
- Fulfillment of the language Distribution Requirements of the College of Arts and Sciences is required, preferably in Latin or Greek.

The **minor** in Classical Civilization requires 18 credits (at least 9 of which have to be at the 100-level or above), drawn from the following list:

- All courses in Greek and Latin above the 050 level

- All courses in Classics
- ARTH 146 Egypt and the Ancient Near East
- ARTH 148 Greek Art
- All Special Topics courses (095, 096, 195, 295, 296) in Classics, Latin or Greek
- All Classical Civilization minors must fulfill the college foreign language requirement, preferably in Greek or Latin.

Proposed catalog:

CLASSICS MAJOR

33 credits, including:

Foundational Courses		
6 credits in a classical language chosen from the following: GRK or LAT		6
6 credits in CLAS at any level or ARTH 146 or ARTH 148		6
SELECT A CONCENTRATION		
Classical Studies concentration		
3 credits in Greek History (CLAS 021 or CLAS 121)		3
3 credits in Roman History (CLAS 023 or CLAS 122)		3
3 credits from ARTH 148 or ARTH 149		3
6 additional credits in CLAS, GRK, or LAT		6
6 additional credits in CLAS		6
Classical Language concentration		
9 credits in GRK		9
9 credits in LAT		9
3 credits at the 200 level in GRK or LAT		3
NOTES		
At least 12 credits must be at the 100-level or above		
HON 214 and HON 215 may be counted as CLAS courses; HON 230 and HON 231 may be counted as GRK courses, and HON 236 and HON 237 may be counted as LAT courses.		
Ineligible minors: A Classics major with a Classical Studies concentration may not take a Classics minor with a Classical Studies track A Classics major with a Classical Languages concentration may not take a Classics minor with a Classical Languages track		

CLASSICS MINOR

18 credits, including:

Foundational Courses		
3 credits in a classical language chosen from the following: GRK or LAT		3
3 credits in CLAS at any level or ARTH 146 or ARTH 148		3
SELECT A TRACK		
Classical Studies		
12 additional credits in CLAS or ARTH 146 or ARTH 148		12
Classical Language concentration		

	12 credits in GRK or LAT	12
NOTES		
At least 9 credits must be at the 100-level or above		
Ineligible majors: A Classics minor with a Classical Studies track may not take a Classics major with a Classical Studies concentration. A Classics minor with a Classical Languages track may not take a Classics minor with a Classical Languages concentration.		

Effects on Students and Faculty/Staff

- a. Students:** Classics faculty anticipate there will be more students choosing the Classics major as a result of these revisions, both as students who might otherwise have chosen Greek and Latin now major in Classics, and as the degree becomes more clearly defined.
- b. Faculty:** No changes in staffing levels or faculty lines will result from these changes.

Costs of Revisions: None anticipated.

Assessment:

The Department plans to continue with their existing assessment plans and will evaluate the success of these changes on an ongoing basis. The department has committed to a thorough review of the viability of the major after five years. The learning goals for the revised major and minor remain unchanged.

Evidence of Support:

This proposed revision is in response to and intended to support the termination of the Greek and Latin majors and minors, all of which have very low enrollments over the last several years. By revising the Classical Civilization major and minor the faculty are able to support and accommodate students who might otherwise have wanted to pursue the Greek and Latin majors and minors. The changes proposed will bring Classical offerings at UVM more into line with how they are commonly delivered at other schools in the region.

Summary:

There is strong support and demonstrated need for revision of newly named Classics major and minor in response to the proposed termination of the Greek and Latin majors and minors. The revision will preserve the opportunity for students to continue to pursue advanced study of the Greek and Latin, while making clearer distinctions by offering two tracks: language study and study of classical history and culture. This revision brings the major in line with those offered at other universities.

If approved by the Faculty Senate and the Board of Trustees these revised changes to the major and minor would go into effect during the 2022-2023 catalog year.