of recent Notre Dame Classics majors found full-time employment, enrolled in graduate school, entered service programs, joined the military, or launched independent projects within six months of graduation.

Philip Allen ’16
Classics major
M.D. student, Columbia University

“Classics molds the way you think and approach different subjects, and it helps you better articulate yourself and your arguments. Just as importantly, studying Classics gives you an ability to understand the historical and cultural background to Western civilization.

“As a Classics major, I was most satisfied when I was able to unravel paragraph-long sentences and see how each word fit together into the whole. Spending those hours analyzing and translating has helped me learn material during medical school. There is a lot of memorization, and I found it much easier to remember when I try to synthesize and integrate the material. The ability to synthesize is just as useful when talking to patients because little details in their story will often provide the necessary clues to arriving at the correct diagnosis.

Perhaps more importantly, however, a Classics education widens the depth of one’s understanding of disease and the human condition. People still read Latin and ancient Greek because of the themes and discussions that come with them. There is a reason my medical school class has already formally recited the Hippocratic Oath twice since we began. And while none of my patients speak Latin or ancient Greek, I think that learning how social, economic, and political events shaped ancient Rome has made me more attuned to those of today and how they affect the medical system and patients I see on a daily basis.”

Curriculum requirements

Classics major
- 5 courses in either Greek or Latin, third-semester level and above
- 2 courses in non-primary language (Greek or Latin)
- 1 course in Greek or Roman history
- 2 Classics courses in English

Greek and Roman Civilization Major
- 1 course in history of ancient Greece
- 1 course in history of ancient Rome
- 1 course in ancient archaeology
- 1 course in ancient literature
- 6 Classics electives (encouraged, but not required, to include some language study)