

## ***The Classics Graduation Examination Effective Fall Semester 2000***

**Rationale:** The oral dimension of Latin and Greek is sadly neglected in the field of Classics, but it remains significant especially for our students who are looking toward teaching and to further graduate study. The proposed examination would neither add to the unit requirements of our students nor prolong the time to degree. It would, however, put our Department -- and our students -- in the forefront in terms of addressing oral competency and communication, which is mandated by current national standards and proposed State of California standards. [See, *Standards for Foreign Language Learning*, National Standards in Foreign Language Education Project, 1996; *Standards for Classical Language Learning*, 1997.]

The **Classics Graduation Examination** combines listening proficiency in classical Latin and Greek with oral recitation proficiency in classical Latin and Greek prose and poetry. It is required:

1. For graduation with a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Classics.
  - emphasis in a single language (Greek **or** Latin)
  - emphasis in two languages (Greek **and** Latin)
  - emphasis in classical archaeology or philosophy (Greek **or** Latin)
2. As a condition of approving subject matter for a Latin credential.
  - Latin only

### **General Content**

- Each passage of Latin or Greek will be approximately 25-30 lines and will be given “at sight”
- Listening comprehension: designated faculty member will read Latin and/or Greek prose passage aloud and student will write down the recitation from the oral dictation
- Pronunciation ability:
  - student’s oral recitation of Latin and/or Greek prose
  - student’s oral recitation with correct scansion of dactylic hexameter in Latin and/or Greek

### **Specific Requirements**

1. Undergraduates must take the exam at least one semester before the semester in which they plan to graduate. It is desirable to take the exam more than one semester before the projected semester of graduation so any deficiencies noted can be corrected.
2. Undergraduates currently enrolled in Latin and/or Greek 202 must wait until the following semester to take the exam in that language, in order to ensure adequate preparation.
3. The minimum percentage required to pass each section is 70%.
4. The student must wait until the following semester to retake the failed section or sections of the exam.
5. If the student fails to pass over 50% of the total exam, s/he must retake the entire exam.
6. The student must retake the exam, or indicated portions, within three semesters after the initial attempt. If this time limit is passed, the entire exam must be retaken.
7. A failure to pass the sections attempted the second time will require a statement from the student to the Department Examination Committee showing how the student prepared for retaking the exam and the perceived reasons for the unsatisfactory performance. This ensures that the student becomes involved in the process, and that the process is a collaborative effort between faculty and student.
8. The department will specify at least two times during each semester when the examination may be taken.
9. Students will always have the opportunity to meet with representatives of the Examination Committee to discuss in detail the strengths and weaknesses of their individual exams.
10. For students with physical challenges, learning disabilities, and other special needs, the Department will make accommodations in the form of the examination.