

Recommendation for Discontinuance of Active Academic Programs

Name/Type of Program and Academic Plan Recommended for Discontinuance:

1. BA/BGS in Classical Antiquity (CLSAA-BA & CLSAA-BGS)
2. BA/BGS in Classical Languages (CLXLA-BA & CLXLA-BGS)
3. Minor in Classics (CLASSICS)

Department: Classics

School/College: College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

CIP Code: 30.2201 (Classical Antiquity) and 16.1200 (Classical Languages and minor in Classics)

Number of students currently enrolled (from Tableau Academic Plan Counts – Spring 2021):

Program	Spring 2021
BA in Classical Antiquity	13
BGS in Classical Antiquity	0
BA in Classical Languages	7
BGS in Classical Languages	0
Minor in Classics	21

Number of students enrolled over the past five academic years (from Tableau Academic Plan Counts):

Program	Fall 2016	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020
BA in Classical Antiquity	20	16	16	16	18
BGS in Classical Antiquity	1	1	1	0	0
BA in Classical Languages	10	9	9	9	8
BGS in Classical Languages	0	0	0	0	0
Minor in Classics	7	13	19	22	19

Number of program graduates over the past five years (from Tableau Degrees Awarded):

Program	AY 2016	AY 2017	AY 2018	AY 2019	AY 2020
BA in Classical Antiquity	3	7	5	5	3
BGS in Classical Antiquity	0	0	0	1	0
BA in Classical Languages	2	3	4	3	3
BGS in Classical Languages	0	0	0	0	0
Minor in Classics	9	5	5	2	8

Rationale for recommendation:

Classics has proposed consolidating its two majors (BA/BGS in Classical Antiquity and BA/BGS in Classical Languages) into one major (BA/BGS in Classics) with five concentrations in response to the Kansas Board of Regent’s (KBOR) desire for program efficiency. Concentrations will be available in Classical Languages, Latin, Greek, Archeology and Art, and Classical Humanities. The concentrations reflect Classics’ inherent interdisciplinarity and allow students the flexibility to pursue – and demonstrate – different purposes (the related approval of two minors described below preserves students’ flexibility to mix and match credentials). The new structure facilitates double-majoring across the university and better accommodates the BGS. Upon KBOR approval of the consolidated major – which is expected by October 1, 2021 – the first admit term for that major will be Spring 2022.

Two new minors complement the newly consolidated major. The two minors – one in Classical Languages and one in Classical Antiquity – are approved with a first admit term of Fall 2021. These two new minors replace the current Classics minor which has four tracks: one in Classical Languages, one in Greek, one in Latin, and one in Classical Antiquity.

Impact of discontinuance:

On students:

Current students will complete their Classical Languages or Classical Antiquity major unless they choose to switch to the newly consolidated Classics major. Advisors will work with each student to determine the student’s best option. For the minor, current students will complete their Classics minor, unless they choose to switch to one of the new minors. Advisors will work each student to determine the student’s best option.

Future students will not be able to enroll in the Classical Languages major, the Classical Antiquity major, or the Classics minor and instead will enroll in the newly consolidated Classics major or one of the newly-approved minors.

On faculty:

None.

On staff:

Advising staff will work with the ~50 undergraduate students enrolled in either one of the two degree programs being consolidated or the minor as noted above.

On mission:

None. Classics faculty will continue their intellectual and creative scholarship focused upon Greek and Roman antiquity. The College and University continue to offer students the opportunity to major and minor in programs that provide interdisciplinary training in ancient Greek and Roman cultures and in classical languages. The Department will continue to offer a breadth of courses based on the faculty's expertise.

Dept Chair/Classics: Tara S. Welch Date: August 5, 2021

Interim Dean/CLAS: John Stamba Date: August 5, 2021

Provost/EVC: Barbara A. Behlmeier Date: August 6, 2021

CLASSICS DEPT PROGRAM REVIEW SUBMITTED TO KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS FEB 2020

Departmental Mission: Degree programs in the Classics Department support KU's mission of educating leaders and building healthy communities. KU's degree programs in Classics at all levels produce students who are interdisciplinary thinkers, adept at analyzing complex situations, attentive to detail, and steeped in perspective. The challenges facing Kansas, the US, and the world call out for citizens equipped with these intellectual habits and broad understandings.

Strengths, Productivity, and Qualifications of the Faculty: The department's eight members enjoy a strong reputation for scholarly productivity and impact. Faculty have collectively published 10 books since 2010, all in prestigious presses. In addition, two faculty members have published edited volumes. There have been 13 major articles and 35 major chapters in books published. In addition, 19 invited talks at conferences were given. Tony Corbeill received three named visiting professorships and residencies and three unnamed residential research fellowships at such places as Oxford University (All Souls and Corpus Christi) and the Institute for Classical Studies in London. Pam Gordon is a Fellow at the Foro di Studi Avanzati Gaetano Massa. Classics faculty have garnered KU's highest awards, including the HOPE teaching award (selected by the senior class), the Kemper Teaching Award, Hall Center for the Humanities residential fellowships, sabbatical leaves and General Research Fund grants, and many prizes for outstanding courses. To continue to support this high out-put, the department has developed a plan to maintain scholarly productivity.

Student Learning and Curricular Changes: The department offers an undergraduate degree in Classical Languages, a minor and undergraduate degree in Classical Antiquities, and a MA in Classics. Undergraduate students receive training in ancient Greek and/or Latin and can assess and integrate primary texts and secondary scholarship. Assessment has focused on these two learning goals, and appropriate changes have been made based on that assessment. The department is now assessing two different degree-level learning goals at the undergraduate level. Faculty regularly assess all three learning goals at the graduate level, and as a result have amended policies and procedures in support of these goals.

To improve student learning the unit transformed the large-enrollment course CLSX 148: Greek and Roman Mythology. This course deepens students' level of critical inquiry and engagement with ancient texts and artworks. The redesign was successful and data show that students are achieving higher levels of critical thinking. Better still, students with the weakest backgrounds coming into the course show the most benefit. Best yet, the DFW rate for the course has dropped significantly which helps support efforts to retain and graduate students. This course won the Haufler KU Core Innovation Award. In addition to the course redesign, the department has introduced and tested eight new courses that have been both popular (and well-enrolled) and, in many cases, have attracted majors to the unit. Through its courses in the KU Core, faculty teach a number of students in other disciplines.

Effectiveness of Degree and Program Demand: For both undergraduate degree programs combined the number of majors has ranged between 26-43 during the review period and number of graduates has averaged eight over a five-year period. While this falls below minima for the number of majors and graduates, these numbers are similar to peer programs of comparable size. It is noteworthy that the program attracts high-ability students. Composite ACT scores for both undergraduate programs range between 28 and 30. These are meaningful numbers, especially given the rigor of the major curriculum, which requires at least 2 years of ancient languages for every major and interdisciplinary competence. In addition, the Classics minor – offered in support of the broader university community and other majors – awards an average of 10 minors per year.

The Classical Antiquity major is popular for students who double-major, and students often declare the second major late in their studies. The late declaration is consistent with what is known: that students do not enter KU intending to major in Classics, but find it along the way, fall in love with the discipline, and declare it as advanced students. The time-to-degree for these majors now averages 4.2 years, down from around 4.5 in the earlier part of the review period. The department sees two areas for improvement: getting students to declare the major earlier

and streamlining their flow through the major courses (earlier major declaration will enable better advising).

Many Classics students graduate with complicated degree programs (double or even triple majors, completion of the Honors Program, etc.). The department is proud that the major pool includes students who face significant challenges to succeeding at the university - single parents, first-generation students, those who must work full time, and those who struggle with mental illness. These vulnerable students are welcomed and nurtured in this small, collegial department. Though few of majors go on to a career directly in Classics because it is often their second major, KU is confident that they enter the workforce with strong skills in critical thinking in all its aspects, including the ability to read carefully and between the lines; to assess and use evidence skillfully; to write clearly and persuasively; to be sensitive to cultural context and other contexts that inform situations; and to hold in balance the scrutiny of details and the sweeping reach of bigger pictures. Study after study confirms the value of these skills in society. It is a significant contribution to launch students thus equipped into Kansas and beyond.

The MA degree remains effective by numerous measures. The average program size is 11, with 5 graduates per year. Though enrollment is roughly half of the minima – not surprising given the department does not admit graduate students it cannot fund – the number of graduates meet minima requirements. Early in this review period (starting 2010), the department put in place policies and practices that would reduce the time-to-degree for graduate students. These policies have been effective, and time-to-degree now averages 1.8 years, down from 3.1 in 2010. The success of the MA program can be seen in students' activities after earning the MA. Recent graduates who chose to pursue the PhD are doing so at top institutions such as Penn, Yale, Brown, UCLA, Chapel Hill, and Virginia. Those who sought secondary teaching jobs found immediately them in Kansas, Missouri, Utah, Texas, Colorado, Maine, New Jersey, and Vermont.

Service Provided to the Discipline and University: The department's culture encourages, accommodates, and supports participation in service to the university and the discipline. The department's faculty provide service to their academic disciplines working as editors and reviewers for academic journals, leading academic organizations, and conducting external reviews for other departments and faculty. Since the last review, faculty members have served as editorial board members at five journals and as an editor of book reviews at one journal. Faculty have also been appointed or elected to leadership positions at nine different professional associations. All post-tenure faculty members have acted as referees for national and international fellowships or societies, academic presses, and journals having read proposals for the American Academy in Berlin, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and American Research Institute in Turkey. Faculty have reviewed manuscripts for the presses from the University of Michigan, Johns Hopkins University, Oxford University, Cambridge University, Ohio State University, and the University of Oklahoma, plus Palgrave-MacMillan and Hackett. Journal refereeing includes work for *Aegean Archaeology*, *AJA*, *AJP*, *Antichthon*, *Arethusa*, *Dictynna*, *CAJ*, *CA*, *Ciceroniana*, *CJ*, *CP*, *CQ*, *CW*, *Critical Inquiry*, *EuGeStA*, *Gesture*, *Hesperia*, *ICS*, *Journal of the History of Sexuality*, *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, *Mousaion*, *Phoenix*, *Studi egei e vicinorientali*, *TAPA*, and *Transformations*.

Faculty serve on multiple university standing committees in support of KU initiatives and activities and to carry out governance responsibilities. Faculty also serve on a number of ad hoc committees. Three have also been tasked to lead other university units or departments during the review period. Given its size, the dedication of faculty to service beyond the department is significant.

Teaching Loads, Student Recruitment/Retention, Ideal Program Size, Mentoring:

In addition to the 2+2 teaching load, faculty regularly supervise MA and undergraduate honor theses, and take on independent studies to support students moving through the program. This combined with high service loads and strong research output is why an external review team was “thoroughly impressed with the quality and efficiency of the Department, both in its scholarly profile and in its commitment to the care and handling of its . . . programs.” Program retention is strong, the MA program is ideal in size given the available funding resources, and the faculty are working increase the number of undergraduate majors through more deliberate advising.