



THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

Department of Greek and Latin

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Dear colleagues,

Greetings from Catholic University's Department of Greek and Latin! I write now, as the application season opens, to encourage your students to consider pursuing their graduate degrees with us. Our program is unique in the United States, in that we offer a full and rigorous program of classical studies at the MA level, but our PhD students specialize in the literature and history of late antiquity, down into the Middle Ages. We also enjoy uniquely deep cooperation with an especially large cohort of scholars across the university who research and teach about the history, philosophy, theology, languages, and literatures of the ancient and medieval worlds, from the British Isles to the Christian, Jewish, and Islamic Near East. Courses in all of these areas are open to our graduate students, who often choose to enrich their programs with language work in Coptic, Syriac, Hebrew, or Arabic; seminars in Early Christian Studies; or classes in philosophy. In short, our vision of antiquity is both long and inclusive, and this allows our students, alongside our own faculty and our collaborating colleagues, to pursue interests that may lie outside the temporal and geographical boundaries traditionally construed as belonging to 'classics.'

We also pride ourselves on an especially rigorous approach to the Greek and Latin languages. Even our undergraduate Classics majors complete at least five advanced-level courses in one language and four in the other, and every student pursuing a language-based degree in the department, from undergraduate through doctoral, must take prose composition. Our summer program, now almost completely online, offers intensive, fully synchronous Greek and Latin language courses at the elementary and intermediate levels every year, such that four semesters' work can be completed in a single summer. Our graduate students can choose to serve as instructors for these summer courses, which provides them with invaluable independent teaching experience in an online environment, as well as the chance to earn substantial extra income.

Teaching during the regular academic year is an important component of graduate life at Catholic University: full-tuition scholarships come with teaching appointments that in turn provide our students with stipends, a possibility that exists even at the MA level. Our most prestigious admission offers to the MA-PhD or PhD program tend to be accompanied by some purely fellowship support during the first year. Regardless of when a student begins teaching, however, his or her assignment (while its basic numerical expectations are outlined in the admissions offer letter) is carefully regulated by the department chair with an eye towards balanced workload, personal interest, and professional development. Our newest students serve as TAs or as grading assistants, gradually moving into elementary-level language teaching and from there into increasing positions of trust, creativity, and responsibility, including the opportunity to serve as instructor of record for the lecture course in classical mythology, and even to design and teach one's own classical-studies course for an undergraduate audience.

Students who want to pursue graduate work in our discipline but whose languages might need a little more formal preparation can also find a welcoming home with us. Our postbaccalaureate Certificate program accepts qualified holders of bachelor's degrees who may have little or even no Greek or Latin, and provides them with a coherent and rapid path through the advanced level of language study—at an almost 40% discount from the university's standard tuition rate. Successful completion of five approved advanced-level courses earns a student a Certificate, and also puts him or her halfway through the number of courses required for the MA, as the advanced Certificate courses can be seamlessly transferred over for students who qualify to stay on. Some of our current PhD students, in fact, began with us in our Certificate program.

Our community of students and scholars enjoys specialized resources on campus, including a substantial designated Greek and Latin collection in our main campus library; a bright and roomy departmental library of our own with abundant study space and a rapidly growing reference and research collection; and a departmental collection of ancient objects and a university collection of ancient coins, both of which can be employed for teaching and research. Our current graduate students are writing dissertations on topics as diverse as the image of the soul at war in Prudentius; ancient and early medieval lapidaries; the influence of Callimachus on Gregory Nazianzus; and the use of botanical knowledge and metaphor in the work of Basil. Current and former students have also been serving as research assistants for the Library of Early Christianity, a series of later antique texts published in scholarly editions with facing translations by The Catholic University of America Press and edited by Dr. John Petruccione, a member of our faculty. Our graduates are teaching, translating, and ministering around the US and abroad: our MAs have an excellent rate of placement in secondary schools, and most of our non-clerical PhDs hold positions in higher education.

We welcome inquiries and correspondence about our community, our faculty, and our programs, and we are always delighted to arrange visits for prospective students who may be passing through DC. More information may also be found at our website, <http://greeklatin.cua.edu>.

Thank you very much for calling our unique identity and our opportunities to the attention of your students.

Sincerely and with all best wishes,



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