Program Description

Are you curious about how and where Western culture began? Perhaps you have always been intrigued by the drama and adventure of Greek mythology. Maybe you have just always really liked those legendary allegories set in ancient Greece and Rome. Whatever catches your interest, you can be sure that Classical Studies at Nipissing will thoroughly explore the ancient world.

In order to understand the present, it is vital to understand the past. Our program examines ancient Greek and Roman cultures and civilizations, the origins of our contemporary Western civilization, our laws, religions, democratic system, cultural institutions, scientific methods, and standards of beauty and art. You will study ancient literature, Latin language, religion, military traditions, mythology, philosophy, history, art and architecture, social and political thought.

Classical Studies is one of the oldest academic disciplines, and if you join us, you will be joining a long and cherished tradition of scholarship. In fact, Classical Studies is an incredibly multidisciplinary program that encompasses art, archaeology, language, philosophy, religion, culture, and much more. A degree in Classical Studies will help you become a critical thinker and a concise communicator—important skills for any career. It is also a great foundation for graduate studies or professional schools.

There is plenty to do outside the classroom, too. Get involved with the Classical Studies Club, an active group that organizes guest speakers, trips to places like the Royal Ontario Museum, movie nights, Greek and Latin poetry readings, social events and, of course, toga parties. The club also visits local high schools to speak to history classes about Classical Studies, and puts on Greek and Roman theatre performances. In your upper years, you can participate in the annual Open House to talk to high school students about our program, conduct study sessions for the club, or even tutor first-year students in Greek and Latin.

Our Teaching Approach

Our small department means that you will always have access to one-to-one help from your professors, small class sizes, and a tight-knit group of peers. After you take our foundational introductory courses, Classical Studies at Nipissing focuses on social history through more specialized courses in your upper years. Throughout the degree, courses take an interdisciplinary approach. For example, Sport and the Ancient World examines its topic through political, social, economic, and gender lenses, which means you will always find a way of studying a topic according to what interests you.

We are unique in that we offer graduate-level research opportunities to our undergraduate students. Often reserved for Grad students at other universities, keen students just like you find research assistantship opportunities with faculty projects. Some students also attend conferences with faculty, and are exposed to the latest research and networking opportunities with other academics. You will also have the chance to present your work at the Undergraduate Student Conference.

To further enrich your education, you can also get involved in our unique project: an online interactive digital map of the ancient world, created using NASA satellite mapping technology. Students can help plot important ancient sites on the map, and then add lists of primary (literary references or archaeological material) and secondary sources (scholarly literature) associated with the site. This project makes the tangible connections between history and real geographic spaces, and also gives you more opportunities to research and learn technology.
Program and Faculty

Bachelor of Arts

- Honours Specialization
- Specialization
- Major
- Minor

In first and second year, you will focus on gaining a strong foundational introduction to the field with our Introduction to Greek Civilization and Introduction to Roman Civilization courses. You will learn about literary genres and archaeological remains, and develop an understanding of different types of evidence. You will also be introduced to fields of study that apply to Classical Studies— theories of economics, anthropology, sociology, and more.

In upper years, class sizes become even smaller as you begin to hone in on topics that interest you most. Courses cover topics like Greek and Roman history, famous figures like Alexander and Cleopatra, or very particular subjects such as slavery in the Roman world. In these years, the courses separate out into four general areas: literary, social history, political history, and material culture (which includes art and archaeology). The Special Topic course offerings change every year according to what our students request.

In the past topics included the conquests of Alexander, the Hellenistic kingdoms, marginal groups in the Roman world, and Roman colonization.

Our focus is on your success. Professors are active researchers in their field, and are accessible if you need help even outside of office hours.

Bachelor of Education: The Schulich School of Education

If you want to earn a Bachelor of Education (BEd) degree, you can choose from the Concurrent route (available with all honours undergraduate programs except Nursing and Social Work), or the Consecutive Program (once you’ve completed your undergraduate degree).

The Schulich School of Education is one of the best education programs in Ontario. It will prepare you to teach in both traditional and non-traditional environments, and you will gain communication and collaborative skills that can be used in any career.

Our teacher candidates are immersed in an active professional learning environment with support and resources available through our Professional Learning Centre.

Each term a calendar of opportunities is made available, and you will be invited to participate in a series of real-world professional experiences that help you to hone skills, strategies and activities that integrate digital technology resources, enhance school community involvement, develop a personal résumé, portfolio and interview techniques, and much more.

All professional learning opportunities are designed to support and supplement course content by broadening teaching/learning skills and by building your confidence and readiness for the teaching profession.
Why Nipissing?

You will feel right at home the minute you step onto campus. Becoming a part of our community is just one of the many perks of attending Nipissing. You will also benefit from small class sizes where you will have a name and a voice.

Nipissing is focused on student success and you will have access to a full range of student services that will help you succeed academically, financially, and personally. In addition, we have some of the best residences in Canada, with a guaranteed private room for all first-year students coming directly from high school.

We encourage you to come and see for yourself that Nipissing University is right where you belong.

Where Can I Go From Here?

A degree in Classical Studies is useful for many different career paths. Your newfound knowledge of culture, history, and language will give you a great foundation if you are interested in pursuing graduate studies, or professional school.

Classical Studies graduates can pursue successful careers in archeology, museum management, tourism, publishing, translation, public relations, archiving, and writing, to name just a few. When you are armed with the knowledge and skills of a Classical Studies degree, where you go and what you do will be completely up to you!

For more information please visit: www.nipissingu.ca/classicalstudies