



The University of Georgia

University Council
Athens, Georgia 30602

December 20, 2006

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Dear Colleagues:

Attached for consideration at the January 12, 2007, Full UCC meeting is a request from the College of Arts and Sciences for a non-thesis option for the major in Latin (M.A.).

Sincerely,

Dr. William K. Vencill, Chair
University Curriculum Committee

cc: Dr. Arnett C. Mace, Jr.
Mr. Jere W. Morehead



The University of Georgia

James C. Anderson, Jr.
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Robert I. Curtis, Head
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October 18, 2006

Dean Maureen Grasso
The Graduate School
Boyd Graduate Studies Research Center
The University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia 30602-7401

Dear Dean Grasso,

The Graduate Faculty of the Department of Classics has decided to revise the graduate degrees offered by the department. An essential element in this reorganization is the creation of a non-thesis M.A. degree in Latin. I strongly support the proposal to establish such a degree in the Department of Classics. Thank you.

Best Wishes,

Robert I. Curtis
Professor and Head

Department of Classics M.A. Program Revisions: Change to M.A. Latin Degree

[Approved by Classics Graduate Faculty: 12-9-05; prepared by R. LaFleur]

CURRENT PROGRAM: The graduate program of the Department of Classics currently consists of three M.A. degrees, one in Latin, one in Greek, and one in Classical Languages; the M.A. Latin requires language competency in Latin only, the M.A. Greek requires Greek only, and the M.A. Classical Languages, strongly encouraged for students on a Ph.D. track, requires both languages; all three programs require a thesis. The department is very highly respected nationally, and the Latin and Classical Languages degrees have been strongly enrolled and have consistently channeled large numbers of highly qualified students onto two tracks in particular, a) Ph.D. programs at other institutions and b) secondary-school teaching positions.

For nearly a quarter century, the department has also sponsored the Georgia Classics Summer Institute, a program focused on high-school teachers from across the nation and providing them the opportunity not only for coursework to upgrade their subject-area skills and certification levels but also to earn the M.A. Latin on a summers-only basis.

PROPOSED REVISION: The department proposes revision of the M.A. Latin to substitute 9 hours of additional regular graduate coursework, a research portfolio, and final assessment activities in lieu of a conventional thesis (see attached chart). This option would be made available only to secondary-school Latin teachers, primarily those enrolled in our highly successful and nationally respected summers-only M.A. program who believe that they would benefit intellectually and professionally more from the extra coursework and other requirements than from writing a traditional thesis.

Very many of our summers-only students, as well as a number of our academic-year M.A. Latin students who are also high-school teachers or are preparing to become teachers, have over the years requested a degree option that would involve additional coursework in lieu of a thesis and better suit their needs as classroom teachers. We have, in fact, experienced growing demand in the last several years for such a non-thesis degree, as this option has become increasingly available at peer institutions (Florida State, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kent State, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, Ohio State); competition from these programs, we are convinced, has had an increasing negative impact on our recruiting. Moreover, non-thesis M.A. degree programs have been instituted at UGA in recent years, including, for example, the new non-thesis M.A. in Journalism, approved in fall, 2004, by the Graduate School and unanimously approved by the University Council in February, 2005.

It is the firm intent of this proposal that only students on a high-school teaching track *who specifically indicate their preference for this non-thesis option* would be admitted into this degree program, while others, including especially those bound for the Ph.D. but those preparing for high-school teaching as well, would be advised into the M.A. Classical Languages, which will provide for a Latin emphasis and requires a thesis; both during the application process and once matriculated, students will consult with the Graduate Coordinator to determine which degree program is most appropriate to their career objectives.

[This proposal is contingent upon approval of our proposal to change the M.A. Classical Language to provide for three

“areas of emphasis,” Greek, Latin, and Greek and Latin, instead of only the current single “Greek and Latin”; that change to the Classical Languages M.A., which accords with new UGA policy allowing for official “areas of interest” that will appear on transcripts and diplomas, will provide for the thesis-option Latin degree. If these two proposals are approved, the department will also propose discontinuing the M.A. Greek; students wishing to pursue graduate study in Greek only would enroll in the Classical Languages program with Greek as their area of emphasis. Contingent upon approval of all three proposals, advertising of the department’s graduate programs (via our graduate studies flier, website, journal and internet notices, and the UGA Graduate Bulletin etc.) will be revised to specify that we offer two Masters degrees, the 1) M.A. Classical Languages, with areas of emphasis in Greek, Latin, and Greek and Latin, and 2) the M.A. Latin, a track specifically open to high-school teachers that requires additional coursework and research and writing projects in lieu of a thesis; letters of recommendation written for our M.A. graduates will also address this distinction. Careful advertising will make it clear to the profession that our M.A. Latin is specifically not a pre-Ph.D. track and will at the same time help recruit more teachers who are seeking a Masters degree but prefer a non-thesis program of study.]

PURPOSES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES: This proposed revision to the M.A. in Latin accords with both national trends and UGA policies, and will allow students on a high-school teaching track the opportunity of earning the degree without a thesis, an option increasingly requested by both current and prospective summers-only M.A. Latin students in particular; significantly increased enrollment and retention are firmly expected outcomes.

REQUIREMENT:	Current M.A. Latin (<i>to become M.A. Classical Languages with Latin concentration</i>):	Current M.A. Latin modified to require no thesis, but additional coursework and research portfolio:
Proficiency exam	x	x
Proseminar	x	x
Modern language	x (French, German, or Italian)	recommended (French, German, Italian, or Spanish)
Reading list exam	x	x
Coursework	<p>27 hours regular graduate courses (9 courses), including:</p> <p>at least 3 hours/1 course must be in Classical Culture; at least 12 hours/4 courses Latin, including 2 surveys; at least 12 hours/4 courses open to graduates-only</p> <p>PLUS: 3 hours thesis (LATN 7300)</p> <p>1 hour Proseminar</p> <p>TOTAL: at least 31 hours</p>	<p>36 hours regular graduate courses (12 courses), including:</p> <p>at least 3 hours/1 course must be in Classical Culture; at least 18 hours/6 courses Latin, including 2 surveys if offered; at least 12 hours/4 courses open to graduates-only; at least 1 hour Latin teaching methods (LATN 4770/6770 or 7770, not to be counted among the 18 hours of required Latin language courses)</p> <p>[N.B.: the above distribution indicates the MINIMUM number of hours in each category; students will be required to elect MORE than that minimum number in one or more of the categories to meet the total number of at least 36 hours, 9 more hours than currently required for the M.A.]</p> <p>PLUS: Research and writing portfolio (at least 4 research papers or course projects, written for UGA courses in the Program of Study and awarded grades of A or B)</p> <p>1 hour Proseminar</p> <p>TOTAL: at least 37 hours</p>
Oral exam	x (on thesis)	Final assessment (oral exam on coursework and/or some other approved final assessment activity)