

Thanks to my training in the department, and to the liberal arts approach to education at Stanford, I'm not afraid to ask the 'why' behind the 'what' when dealing with issues that either need resolving or unpuzzling--even in a field as far removed from Plato and Aeschylus as Sales & Trading. Additionally, my grasp of language has proved to be invaluable given that my role in business development also spans marketing for my firm. Clearly articulating sometimes opaque concepts in the capital markets for the benefit of clients can be very frustrating and it is sometimes very tempting to impress meaning upon my audience with brute force. I constantly lean on my experiences as a student of Classics to resolve this struggle. I like to describe myself as a humanist and often discuss life philosophy casually with friends. The topics are ones typical to twenty-somethings figuring out life in the pushy New York City bustle but debates on whether to seek the ideal standards of Plato's Realm of the Forms or instead be content with caving to the principles of extreme competition that govern city living often come up. You might think I'm kidding but I'm not - they really do, and I'm the only one with a degree in Classics! On a lighter note, Classics will every once in a while pop up in my social life, mostly through the performing arts. This past summer I went to see a flamenco adaptation of Sophocles' *Antigone*!

Alisa Finn (B.A., '13) | Business Development Associate at R. Seelaus & Co., Inc.

Classics endowed me with a moral compass and with the knowledge of the endurance of the human condition. Through following a major that is a bit off the beaten path and the reading involved in that major, Classics has made me realize how important it is to let your principles guide you. Additionally, Classics made me a more thoughtful person, and I would say a better reader as well. Taking Latin and other courses in the Classics department forced me to become a faster and more careful reader, which has been integral in my post-grad life. Because of this, the subject matter, and of course the people, I would definitely recommend students major or minor in Classics.

Jonathan Madorsky (B.A., '14) | Analyst at StarVest Partners NY

Classics changed my life. I had dreamed of being an archaeologist when I went to Stanford, but my very first Greek class with Helene Foley introduced me to the world of ancient Greek drama and I never looked back. Not only did I come to understand the profound role drama played in a nascent democracy, but I received rigorous training in literary analysis and historical research that has informed all of my subsequent work. While I didn't end up in archaeology, I did inherit a ruined theater when I became the Artistic Director of the American Conservatory Theater, and my love of ruins helped me navigate the very complex process of rebuilding the earthquake-damaged Geary Theater! At Stanford I studied the archaeological methodology of piecing together disparate clues in order to construct a narrative about a culture, and this process has deepened all of my investigations of theatrical texts, both ancient and modern. Most of all, my deep immersion in the world of classical Greece has shaped my feelings about what it means to be an active citizen and a member of the polis. Every time I direct or produce a play, I understand that I am part of an ancient tradition of asking a culture to reflect upon itself and its crises through the metaphors and magic of drama. That is an immeasurable gift.

Carey Perloff | Artistic Director, American Conservatory Theater

When I tell people in the sports world that I studied Classics, a good number figure that means I watched a lot of ESPN Classic while sitting in the dorm. While there is some truth to that, the real Classics at Stanford prepared me beautifully for a career in sports broadcasting. I loved my classes and my professors - and simply by being so engaged in my work I became a better learner and a smarter person. Command of language, the art of storytelling...those are things I thought about over and over, and which have helped shaped my professional work. Plus, all classicists know *The Odyssey* is the world's first baseball broadcast - start at home, face obstacles along the way, all while trying to get back home safely - it's all there!

David Fleming (B.A., '98) | ESPN Radio sportscaster, play-by-play announcer for the San Francisco Giants

Stanford Department of Classics



Careers after Classics



Why study Classics at Stanford?

Stanford's Classics department trains students to excel in logical analysis, ethical reasoning, investigating culturally complex situations, and putting complicated problems into words. This is why our majors have pursued successful careers in medicine and science as well as in education, journalism, law, and business. Law schools and medical schools look with great favor on Stanford's Classics majors and minors.

What will I do after Classics?

Study of classics is truly an invaluable experience, preparing me for my previous work in Google's legal department, and now as a teaching fellow at ISF Academy in Hong Kong. It lays a foundation for an enhanced understanding of other fields, while simultaneously fostering a mode of critical inquiry both into rich ancient texts and how best to explore life. To top it off, the Classics program at Stanford is a ludicrously good deal: tiny classes with the absolute masters in the discipline, rampant funding for undergraduate research, and several vivacious student groups--from a research journal to a politically incorrect theater troupe--dedicated to engaging with the legacy of the ancient world.

Jacob Kovacs-Goodman (B.A., '13) | Teaching fellow, ISF Academy, Hong Kong

Studying the cultures of the Ancient Greeks and Romans, and especially their languages, hones a person's analytical thinking skills. There is too much to say in favor of studying Classics to a prospective student, so I will just say what strikes me as most important: if you major or minor in Classics, some of the things you will study are the greatest works of literature and philosophy ever produced, and encountering them will make your life better. This is partly because it will make your life more meaningful. In the Stanford Classics department, you will get to study these works with professors and graduate student instructors who both know their subjects better than anyone else in the world *and* are excellent, generous teachers. In my own case, some of the professors and graduate student instructors in the Classics department were the best teachers I've ever had.

Nick Gardner (B.A., '13) | Classics Ph.D. student, Stanford University

After earning an MA from the Classics department, I began teaching Latin, English, and social studies at a public middle school. Besides being able to teach Latin, studying Classics has given me a broad picture of history and literature. In fact, I didn't really learn how to write well until I studied Latin, and that knowledge informs how I approach both writing and reading instruction.

Mike Dumbra (M.A., '03) | Latin teacher, La Entrada Middle School

after Classics?

The study of Classics has provided a wealth of benefits throughout my career. As I was leaving law school, a federal judge offered me a job as a law clerk in the hope that my classical training would embellish his opinions! That was just a minor (if welcome) benefit in the long run. Training in classical languages gives skill in close and attentive reading, which aids the practice of law. Reading classical texts and attention to rhetoric and literary forms promote good writing. The wide and interdisciplinary span of a classical education helps one consider how different manifestations of culture fit together, and the study of antiquity gives a perspective that aids wisdom. These lead to practical results. Classical training can yield surprises: one short passage in Book 5 of Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, on the relationship among law, equity, and justice, has become a cornerstone of much of my work litigating novel issues involving new technologies that the law has not anticipated. I wouldn't trade my classical training for anything else.

Andrew Bridges (B.A., '76) | Litigation Partner at Fenwick & West LLP

I first came to Classics because of my love of Latin literature and because I wanted to balance my engineering with an exploration in the humanities. Classics forced me to develop my critical writing and communication skills, which inform my interactions with clients and presentations to my case team. I would not have traded my experience in Classics for any other major: the study of literature and philosophy was and continues to be an occasionally hedonistic pursuit of intellectual pleasure.

Sibel Sayiner (B.A., '15) | Associate, Boston Consulting Group

My knowledge of Latin and Greek are invaluable to me as a theology student, and allow me to understand texts that I would otherwise have had to rely on a translation to read, or that I would not be able to read at all! I would recommend Classics to anyone wishing to broaden their mind, go back to the sources, and understand things on a deeper level than they would have otherwise been able to.

Megan O'Brien (B.A., '14) | Master of Divinity student, University of Notre Dame