University of Michigan
Classical Studies PhD Program

PROGRAM HANDBOOK

I. INTRODUCTION

This handbook aims at providing background and guidance for successfully completing the requirements for a PhD degree in Classical Studies at the University of Michigan. It will explain why the program requirements are what they are. At the same time, it will offer some advice about how to complete the requirements successfully.

The Department of Classical Studies strives to provide an intellectually stimulating, diverse and friendly atmosphere in which all students can thrive. Among the various assets that the University of Michigan can offer to help each student reach his or her potential are the breadth of the interests of its faculty; the frequent visiting scholars; the active engagement in the various on-campus collections (Kelsey Museum of Archaeology; Papyrology Collection; etc.); and the close relation to students in the Interdepartmental Program in Classical Art and Archaeology (IPCAA) and the Interdepartmental Program in Greek and Roman History (IPGRH).

II. ADMINISTRATION

The Classical Studies PhD program is administered by a Director of Graduate Studies (DGS), appointed by the Chair of Classical Studies. The DGS also serves as Chair of the Fellowships and Admissions Committee. The DGS will report regularly to the faculty as a whole about matters pertaining to the graduate program. The current DGS is Basil Dufallo.

The primary graduate administrator for Classical Studies is Sarah Kandell-Gritzmaker. Funding and the dossier service are handled by Michelle Biggs.

III. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Classical Studies PhD program is designed to take five to six years, three years of course work and two to three years of dissertation writing. It is the aim of the program to train scholars who can engage in cutting-edge research on the ancient world. The Department believes it is important that students develop into effective teachers as well as scholars, and works to achieve this objective in two principal ways. First, the ability to express ideas clearly is stressed. Students are expected to prepare frequent oral reports in graduate classes and in seminars, and there are oral components to both preliminary and dissertation examinations. Second and more importantly, students are required to teach for a minimum of four terms, under faculty supervision, in both the Elementary Latin and Classical Civilization programs. Within the limitations of available funding, research
assistantships are also offered which provide an opportunity for close collaboration in research with one of the department faculty.

The program is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills required to conduct research and teach effectively in the field of Classical Studies. Students will acquire deep familiarity with a range of classical authors as well as their historical contexts. As is the case with most PhD programs, the requirements are rigorous and students must be disciplined in order to finish on time. Individual schedules vary slightly, but the general pattern is as follows.

**First, Second, Third Years**

During the first three years, students’ efforts, both in classes and in self-study to prepare for examinations, are directed intensively toward five main goals:

1) Improving and refining a command of Greek and Latin, especially the ability to read the languages both intensively and extensively with understanding and enjoyment.

2) Gaining a broader and firmer grasp of the development of Greek and Roman literature in their historical settings—a knowledge based on, among other things, wide reading in the original languages.

3) Acquainting themselves with the various subfields and basic tools, methods, aims, and achievements of classical scholarship, and with the methodologies (literary, historical, linguistic) currently being applied to classical texts.

4) The ability to formulate research questions and develop a research program

5) The ability to communicate the results of one’s research program in oral presentations and in clear academic writing.

In the first year, students will be supported by a Fellowship, and are expected to take four classes per semester (plus the one-credit Proseminar in the Fall semester). In the second and third years, students will be teaching as Graduate Student Instructors (GSIs) in the Department’s Classical Civilization and Elementary Latin programs. In their second year, students are expected to take three courses each semester. In the third year, students usually register for two classes and one Greek or Latin 990 with the advisors of their Preliminary Exams (see below).

At the end of the third year, after meeting all course and exam requirements, including passing the Preliminary Exams, students will reach candidacy. Under Rackham rules, students who do not reach candidacy by the start of Fall term of their fourth year in the program will be put on Academic Probation: [http://www.rackham.umich.edu/policies/academic_policies/section5/](http://www.rackham.umich.edu/policies/academic_policies/section5/) - 511
Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Years
The final two to three years of the program constitute a period of intense research and writing under the supervision of a committee of faculty members. Students will be on fellowship their fourth year. By the beginning of Fall Break of the fourth year, students should present a Dissertation Prospectus (see below).

Rackham permits students to take one course per semester without fee while in candidacy (see below, IX C) and students are encouraged to do this as long as it does not slow progress on the dissertation. For example, some students take courses during these years if they are working towards a certificate or MA in a cognate field (see below). Students are also strongly encouraged to take Greek or Latin 602 (Professionalism) during their Candidacy. It is a good idea to confer with your advisor about these decisions. Funding for these years includes teaching as GSIs, U of M fellowships, and perhaps external fellowships from overseas institutions such as the American Academy at Rome or the American School in Athens.

IV. COURSE WORK
The Department requires the students to fulfill the following courses before advancing to candidacy.

* Reading courses, both special and regular, in Greek and Roman authors or in periods or genres of literature. These are designed to help increase speed, accuracy, and pleasure in reading Greek and Latin and thus equip students for wider reading in classical authors. There is no required number, since each student has a different background and interests, but the department tries to ensure that every student has a similar amount of reading experience.

* Greek and Latin Composition, one course in each at the graduate level.

* History of Greek and Roman Literature courses (two courses in each), the grades of which are recorded as the third part of the Preliminary Examination component of the program (see below).

* Upper-level courses in the specialized disciplines (600-level). At some point before the students present themselves for the Preliminary Examinations they must have taken one course in the methods and problems of a particular sub-discipline such as linguistics, textual criticism, paleography, papyrology, numismatics, epigraphy, law, archaeology, philosophy, history, or religion.

* Seminars involve advanced and intensive exegesis, in collaboration with the professor, of a classical author or subject, with particular emphasis on the independent research of the student in the form of reports and papers. Often these research papers result in a paper to be presented at one of the professional meetings such as CAMWS or SCS. Two seminars are required.
*Cognates.* The Rackham Graduate School has a four-credit cognate requirement but the Department requires at least **two cognate courses** For students in the Classical Studies PhD program these can be courses in other departments or cross-listed with other departments (History, Linguistics, History of Art, Comparative Literature, etc.). Classical Studies PhD students are permitted by the Graduate School to count some courses in technical fields within the Department (such as paleography) as cognates, but the Department encourages students to take cognates offered outside the Department. Students may also wish to pursue a cognate discipline more intensively by working towards a certificate or MA in such fields as Ancient History, Archaeology, Women’s Studies or Philosophy. These are usually obtained by taking a specified number of courses in the relevant department.

Rackham specifies that to maintain satisfactory academic standing students must have a minimum cumulative Rackham grade point average (GPA) of B (3.00 on a 4.00 point scale). This is especially important because students who do not maintain satisfactory academic standing are not eligible for the Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship, for which many of our students apply once they are actively working on their dissertations. For more on Rackham’s grade policies, see: [http://www.rackham.umich.edu/current-students/policies/academic-policies/section4-45](http://www.rackham.umich.edu/current-students/policies/academic-policies/section4-45)

Apart from the required courses in prose composition and the history of Greek and Latin literature, students have considerable flexibility to decide which courses and seminars best suit their interests. As a rule, students are advised to meet the course requirements as quickly as possible, so as not to hinder the preparation of Preliminary Exams in the third year. At the same time, the Department realizes that individual student interests may not fit this general pattern. For example, it may be that the one cognate course that fits the student’s research interests most is only offered in the student’s third year.

The Department strives to offer required courses at regular intervals so that the student can meet the course requirements within the prescribed period.

Courses that are offered in a given semester can be found through the LSA Course Guide ([http://www.lsa.umich.edu/cg/](http://www.lsa.umich.edu/cg/)). Courses numbered 500 and up are for graduate credit only. Although upper-level 400 courses in Greek and Latin as a rule count towards graduate credit, Philology students in Classical Studies are discouraged from taking courses in Greek and Latin below the 500 level, though exceptions are sometimes made.

A **typical** course package will look as follows:

**First year**

Fall: HGL I (Greek 591) or HRL I (Latin 591) (depending on which is offered; Greek or Latin 501 is sometimes recommended as well); two reading courses or a seminar and a reading course; a cognate class; one-credit
Proseminar (which fulfills the Rackham Responsible Conduct of Research requirement)
Winter: HGL II (Greek 592) or HRL II (Latin 592) (depending on which is offered); Advanced Prose Composition in Greek or Latin (depending on which is offered); a cognate class; a reading course or seminar

Second Year
Fall: HGL/HRL I; two classes, including a seminar
Winter: HGL/HRL II; two classes, including Advanced Composition

Third Year
Fall: two classes, including a seminar; Greek or Latin 990 as needed to prepare for Preliminary Examinations
Winter: two classes; Greek or Latin 990 as needed to prepare for Preliminary Examinations

Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Years
Greek or Latin 995 for 8 credits: Independent Dissertation Research and Writing (under supervision of the Dissertation Chair; please see Molly Cravens to set up this class); no required courses; optional coursework.

V. TEACHING

Students begin teaching as Graduate Student Instructors (GSIs) in the second year of the program and continue to do so intermittently throughout the length of the program. Teaching assignments in the second and third years are in the undergraduate survey courses on Classical Civilization (101 and 102) and in the Elementary Latin sequence. The Department strives to have each student experience one year in both the teaching sequences before reaching candidacy. In later years, students teach in a wide range of courses, including Classical Civilization, Elementary Latin, and Great Books. One position as a GSI in Elementary Greek is normally available in Spring term.

In large lecture, GSIs teach two or three Sections of 18-25 students. In these courses, GSIs are typically responsible for leading discussions of topics raised in lecture and readings, and grading exams and essays. In smaller courses, such as Latin language courses, GSIs are the instructors of record, are responsible for assignments, grading, and the daily work of their classes, and contribute to course design and materials. GSIs in these courses are supervised by the Director of the Elementary Latin Program, Prof. Deborah Ross.

Students who will be GSIs are asked mid-way through each term for their teaching preferences for the following term. The Department tries to accommodate these preferences but cannot guarantee them. Individual preferences must be balanced against general departmental needs, and the Department must also ensure that each GSI teaches a broad range of different courses, as stated above. Course assignments are determined by
the Fellowships Committee of the Department of Classical Studies; when enrollments require last minute changes, these are made by the Chair in consultation with the DGS.

In addition, the Rackham School of Graduate Studies, as well as the Center for Research on Learning and Teaching (CRLT), sponsor workshops and training sessions covering all aspects of the teaching process. Students are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities. A workshop in late August put on by CRLT is required of all new GSIs.

VI. FUNDING

Support Package

In the first year of study students receive a fellowship that provides a stipend covering basic living expenses plus tuition and coverage in GradCare (health insurance).

In the second and third years, support usually comes in the form of a graduate student instructorship. These positions currently provide a stipend covering basic living expenses, tuition and health insurance. The precise terms of employment are the subject of collective bargaining between the University and the Graduate Employee Organization (GEO).

During the fourth and fifth years (while a Candidate) students may receive two more terms of fellowship and two terms of graduate student instructorships in courses offered by the Department of Classical Studies. Graduate student instructorships are normally also available to students continuing into a sixth or seventh year, if they are making good progress toward their degree. Both the fellowships and instructorships provide stipends, tuition, and health insurance. Students are also encouraged to apply for external fellowships outside the Department, offered either by the University or by outside foundations. Any external fellowships students receive can replace terms of teaching or can be used to extend support into a sixth or seventh year.

Summer Funding

The Department is committed to offering at least one summer of support with a fellowship stipend of up to $4000.00 to be used for a specific project or program, such as an excavation or research in a European library. Although only one summer is guaranteed, students are welcome to apply for summer funding as needed – funds will be awarded based on availability of funds and number of requests the department receives in a given year.

In addition to the summer funding mentioned in the previous paragraph, the Department provides funding for students to take language courses during at least one summer. Students must submit a budget and narrative explaining the necessity of the course. It is available especially for students who need extra preparation in a modern language in order to pass their language exams, but is also open to students who need to learn an
additional language for their dissertation research (e.g. Turkish, Arabic). Students may apply for these funds at any time during their graduate career.

**Rackham Funding**

In addition, students are eligible to apply for summer funds and conference funding from Rackham. Students can apply for one Rackham research grant of up to $1,500 during pre-candidacy years and another of up to $3,000 during candidacy. In the past, students have received these Rackham grants to participate in archaeological expeditions or attend workshops, such as those offered by the American Numismatic Society. Rackham also offers travel grants to cover the expenses for delivering a paper at a conference, one grant each fiscal (= academic) year of up to $800 for a conference in the continental U.S. and up to $1,300 for a conference abroad. The Department can also help with funding for research or conferences.

All support is contingent upon satisfactory progress in the Program.

**VII. ADVISING, MENTORSHIP, PROGRESS REPORTS**

Students are required to meet at the beginning and end of each term with the **Director of Graduate Studies**. These meetings provide an opportunity to discuss any aspect of the PhD program, but typically include course selection, examination scheduling, and the formation of preliminary exam or dissertation committees. Students are encouraged to meet as often as they wish with the DGS, as well as other members of the core faculty, for advice on meeting program requirements as well as broader issues of intellectual and professional development.

At the end of each academic year, the DGS will schedule a year-end meeting to discuss the student’s progress in the program. The DGS will have received comments from all faculty who have worked with the student in the preceding year. The student can also bring up his/her Summer and future plans during this meeting, and discuss anything else that has come up in the preceding year. After the meeting, the DGS will draw up a written **Progress Report** (usually in the form of an email), which is sent to the student and kept in the student’s file.

In addition to the DGS, each student submits preferences for a **Faculty Mentor**. The mentor is an additional source of advice and support for students on matters both personal and academic. For example, students may wish to discuss how to maintain a good work-life balance or how to balance teaching and research and other aspects of career development. The mentor need not be the prospective thesis advisor but may be.

**VIII. EXAMS**
The Classical Studies PhD program requires a number of examinations designed to assess whether the student has acquired the knowledge and skills necessary for research and teaching in Classical Studies. All exams except the diagnostics are graded on a Pass/Fail system.

A. The required examinations are the following:

* **Diagnostic exams**: these sight-reading exams in Greek and Latin are administered before the start of the first semester and are designed measure the student’s command of the languages. The results are used to advise the student regarding course selection in the first year. These exams are not part of the students’ files and are not assigned a grade.

* **Modern language exams** (French or Italian and German). Knowledge of German, French and/or Italian is essential for reading modern scholarship on classical studies, and students must pass an exam designed to test their ability to read and make sense of scholarship in modern languages. These exams consist of a passage of roughly one page in one of the languages, to be translated into English in one hour with the help of a dictionary. Students typically prepare for these exams through independent study, though some have done some course work in these languages as undergraduates. The Department has summer funding available for students wishing to take language courses; we strongly encourage students to acquire a speaking knowledge of at least one modern foreign language.

* The **Greek and Roman History exam** is a written examination of four hours (with the option to break that over two days) with both an ID-component of one hour and an essay component of three hours taken from eight areas of focus. Both the IDs and the essay topics are listed on the website and are updated regularly. This exam should be taken at the beginning of the Fall term of the second year. Note that this exam does not cover all aspects of ancient history that the Department would like its graduates to have, but what it regards as essential for understanding the texts and conducting research in any area in the discipline. Passing the exam early in the second year will also help ensure that students have adequate background for their assistant-teaching in Classical Civilization courses, which also begins in the Fall of that year. The reading list and required terms for the History Exam can be found at: [http://lsa.umich.edu/classics/graduate-students/current-students/ancient-history-exam.html](http://lsa.umich.edu/classics/graduate-students/current-students/ancient-history-exam.html)

* **Qualifying examinations** in the translation of Greek and Latin. The Department expects the holder of the PhD in Classical Studies to have read a considerable amount of Greek and Roman literature in the original languages, particularly in those authors which the student can reasonably be asked to teach upon entering the profession.
The survey classes HGL and HRL are not always aligned with the Qualifying Exams reading lists, because these courses are the third component of the Preliminary Examinations (see next). Some instructors assign many readings from the list, some do not.

The reading list for the Greek and Latin Qualifying Exams can be found at: http://lsa.umich.edu/classics/graduate-students/current-students/ph-d--reading-list.html

*Preliminary Examinations.*

Two preliminary examinations of a kind described in A and B below are required, and students have the option of taking a third prelim of this kind if the potential prelim advisor and the DGS agree to this in advance of the exam. At least one of these exams must be on a Greek topic and at least one on a Roman topic and at least one must include attention to textual transmission. A third prelim of the type described in C below is also required: it consists of the students’ work in the three required survey courses.

Apart from the survey courses, the preparation for prelims should be roughly a semester in length with a meeting between the student and the advisor every one to two weeks. The student may enroll in a 990 course with the advisor while preparing for the prelim but is not required to do so. The student and advisor should agree in advance on the general area of the prelim and compose a preliminary bibliography (to be shared with the DGS), which may be revised as the preparation progresses. If the prelim takes the form of an oral examination, the DGS is present as an observer. If the prelim takes the form of a research paper, the paper must be completed within a month after the advisor-student meetings have ceased and if revisions are needed these should be completed within another month after this. The final version of the paper is submitted both to the examiner and, for oversight, to the Director of Graduate Studies.

There are three categories of prelim, at least one of which should ideally help students transition from coursework to conducting independent research. Normally, apart from the survey courses, at least one of the prelims is an oral exam and at least one is satisfied with a research paper.

A. The Latin/Greek examinations test the student on authors/periods/genres. These are typically oral examinations. The examination often takes the form of a discussion of three or four questions or topics agreed upon by the student and advisor in advance of the exam. The Director of Graduate Studies is present during the exam as an observer. The exam should not last more than 1 to 1.5 hours.

B. The topic of a special field examination is typically chosen by the student from areas pertinent to Classics: for example, archaeology, philosophy, literary or critical theory, history, ancient scholarship or scholia, papyrology, religion, linguistics, numismatics, epigraphy, metrics, law, Medieval Latin, etc. It may have a pedagogic orientation. A professor in another department can be the
director of a prelim by approval of the DGS. This requirement is normally fulfilled by a substantial research paper, but can also be met by an oral examination by agreement of the student, the examiner and the Director of Graduate Studies. If the student and the DGS agree, an exam of this kind may be replaced with a 600-level course beyond the one required of all students.

C. Greek and Roman literature: The grades in the three required survey courses in the history of the literatures are used to fulfill this requirement and must be B- or above. The student must take at least one survey course in each language.

B. Typically the student should strive to have all exams except the Preliminary Exams finished by the beginning of the third year. This will allow the student to use the third year to prepare for Preliminary Exams and reach candidacy at the required moment (beginning of the fourth year). Preliminary Exams may also be prepared for and taken during the summer before or after the third year.

Students should strive to do two exams (including one Qualifying exam and one modern language exam) by the beginning of their second year, the History exam at the beginning of the second year, and the remaining Qualifying exam at the end of their second year (at the beginning or at the end of the summer). Typically, students should attempt the Qualifying Exam in May in the language that has been offered in the HGL/HRL sequence.

C. Setting and Grading Exams. The Department strives for anonymity in the setting and grading of the Qualifying, Greek and Roman History, and modern language exams. Students should indicate only their UMID numbers on their papers. Unless staffing does not allow, two readers independently grade each exam (a third reader is called in in case of a disagreement). Exams are proctored. Consult the Director of Graduate Studies for exam-specific instructions. Students may retake exams if they fail them.

Once a student has passed all exams and completed all required coursework, Sarah Kandell-Gritzmaker will submit a Recommendation for Candidacy Form to Rackham.

IX. CANDIDACY AND DISSERTATION

Once a student has attained Candidacy, work may begin on a Dissertation. This is a work of original scholarship that usually requires 2-3 years of full-time research. The dissertation will shape your scholarly profile in the field and will form the basis of your publication record as you move from student to professional scholar.

A. Topic and Committee

As soon as possible after completing preliminary examinations, but no later than the Fall Break of the fourth year (usually the second week in October), the student should, in concert with the intended Dissertation Committee Chair and Members (if any are already
known), identify the topic, geographical and chronological scope, theoretical or methodological approaches, and any other issues that the student wishes to explore in a dissertation. Many students use the bibliography and knowledge they acquire in one or more of their preliminary exam fields as a starting point for their dissertation project. Although students are encouraged to seek the advice of faculty members as they develop their ideas for the dissertation projects, the dissertation is intended to be a work of independent, original scholarship and an opportunity for students to pursue their own interests.

At this point, the student should also select a faculty member to serve as Chair of the Dissertation Committee. Many students select a faculty member from their preliminary exam supervisors as their chair, but this is not a requirement. Rather, students should make sure that they match their project and interests with a faculty member whose expertise will be most helpful to them as they research and write their dissertation. In some cases, it may be helpful to ask two faculty members with complementary interests to act as co-chairs. Students should not assume that a given faculty member will serve as chair of their dissertation committee, but should make sure to discuss their projects with that faculty member and ask him or her if they are willing to serve as chair early in the dissertation process. It is important that students ask faculty members to serve as their committee chair(s) quickly, so that research on the project may begin in a timely fashion.

A dissertation committee consists of at least four faculty members, including the chair(s). It is not necessary for students to settle on all the members of their Committee at once, and the Prospectus (see below) needs only the approval of the Chair of the Committee. Nevertheless, students are encouraged to identify their other Committee members sooner rather than later so as to benefit from their expertise and feedback during the bulk of the dissertation writing process. Students should select Committee members whose areas of expertise will be relevant to their project in different ways. Many students find it helpful to consult with their Dissertation Chairs when determining who would be most helpful on their committees. The Rackham Graduate School requires that one of the four members come from outside the department (the cognate member), but faculty who have joint appointments with another department or school may serve as cognate members. Students should consult with the Dissertation Chair to identify possible candidates. In some circumstances, it may be appropriate, following the Rackham rules, to appoint a scholar from outside the University of Michigan to the committee. See: http://www.rackham.umich.edu/current-students/dissertation/committees/nomination-special-membership-dissertation-committee

Once four members are selected, the Dissertation Committee Form can be submitted to Sarah Kandell-Gritzmaker. After it has been signed by the Department Chair, she will forward it to Rackham. Rackham rules require that the complete Committee be constituted at least six months prior to the dissertation defense.

B. Dissertation Prospectus
By the Fall Break of their fourth year, students should submit a Dissertation Prospectus. The purpose of this document is to demonstrate familiarity with the fundamental
scholarly literature and issues pertaining to the dissertation topic and to outline what the
dissertation will aim to do. The dissertation is the largest and most ambitious research
project of one’s graduate study. The Prospectus is intended to assist the student’s
progress on this project by requiring the gathering of scholarly materials, the organization
of one’s thoughts, and the committing of them to writing. The document is intended to be
fairly brief (but at least 6 pages double-spaced including bibliography), and should
include the following:

1) the topic of the dissertation
2) questions driving the dissertation
3) a brief and broad outline of current scholarship, with which the dissertation seeks
to enter into a dialogue
4) some general idea about the structure of the thesis, ideally with a brief outline of
subtopics, sections, or chapters
5) resources needed for successful completion (ASCSA, ANS Summer School, etc.)
6) a bibliography.

The bibliography must consist of two parts. First is a list of a minimum of 10 books
and/or articles that the student thinks are most significant in the area of the intended
dissertation research. Each item in this list must be briefly annotated in a few sentences
(up to one short paragraph) to explain its importance for the intended dissertation project.
(If is assumed that in most cases the student will have become familiar with these during
class work and/or preliminary exams.) Second, some additional works of relevance
should be listed to demonstrate that the student is aware of the wider scholarship even if
this scholarship has not yet been read.

The student should draw up the Dissertation Prospectus and the bibliography after
discussion with intended members of the Dissertation Committee. The student should
submit the resulting Prospectus to the Dissertation Chair by the Fall Break of the fourth
year, who will give approval within 72 hours. The student shall then submit the
prospectus to the other members of the Dissertation Committee (if any) and the Director
of Graduate Studies. At the student’s request, there may be a meeting of the full
Committee to discuss the prospectus.

In some cases, the final dissertation will follow quite closely the plan outlined in the
Dissertation Prospectus. In other cases, further research will lead to significant
modifications of the project. It is important to understand that the Dissertation Prospectus
provides a starting point for the dissertation and need not dictate the form and content of
the final dissertation. Nevertheless, the Prospectus provides a helpful opportunity for
committee members to contribute to the shaping of a project from its beginning stages.
And while the Department recognizes that dissertation projects can evolve and change,
students should take advantage of the Prospectus requirement in order to design a project
that is clear in its goals and workable, and that is likely to hold their interest. See further
below on the nature of the dissertation itself.
C. Candidacy
Coursework and Registration: Most students in Candidacy (including those who have their tuition paid through a teaching appointment or a UM Fellowship) are required to register for eight credits under Rackham’s Continuous Enrollment Policy. These students should register for Greek/Latin 995, an independent research course, with their Dissertation Chair(s). See Molly Cravens to enroll in these courses.

Each semester, students in candidacy are permitted to elect one “free” course (in any department or at any level). Candidates can take one such course in the fall term and one in the winter term or, if they don't take one in the fall term, they can “bank” it and take two courses in the winter term. (They can’t, however, take two courses in the fall in anticipation of not taking one in the winter).

It is essential that students remain in regular contact with their committees, not least because committee members are a vital resource for students facing the challenges of dissertation writing. Your committee wants to see what you are doing, and wants to help you put your research onto the page. Students are strongly encouraged to maintain a regular meeting schedule with their Dissertation Committee and other faculty who can help them with this process.

Students in candidacy will be required to show progress towards their degree in order to remain eligible for teaching appointments and fellowships. Dissertation Chairs are often the primary arbiters of satisfactory progress. Progress will be discussed during the annual meeting with the DGS (see above).

Rackham Graduate School maintains a time limit for the completion of a dissertation project; for details please see section 5.4.1 of Rackham’s Academic policies (http://www.rackham.umich.edu/policies/gsh/).

D. The Dissertation
The dissertation is a work of original scholarship that serves as a young scholar's demonstration of research ability. Most dissertations are tightly argued discussions of particular issues—that is, potential monographs—but some are closer to a set of essays on related problems. Other dissertations are commentaries on texts, critical editions, or publications of papyri. The dissertation topic needs to be something the student truly cares about, since it will be a chief occupation for a long time, and since potential employers and other colleagues will see it as the student's most important self-definition. Advisors can sometimes suggest topics, but students need to make the subject their own. More often, students have a general idea, and the advisor helps them narrow and define it. Often, the impetus for a thesis topic will come from a seminar or preliminary examination. As students read the scholarship on a topic, they may perceive gaps, questions that should be asked that have not been asked, or established views that they think are wrong.
Because dissertations seek to display competence, they often include more citation of previous scholarship than most publications. A dissertation will often begin with a review of the state of the question. However, it is important not to become bogged down in a literature review—the dissertation is not a summary of what others have thought, but an original contribution. As much as possible, the dissertation writer should think of an audience beyond the dissertation committee.

The longest dissertation produced in this Department in the past sixty years was 570 pp., the shortest, 98 pp. Most dissertations are around 200-250 pages; they have 3-5 body chapters plus introduction, conclusion and bibliography. Copies of completed dissertations are kept in the Department and University Libraries.

E. The Dissertation Defense
Candidates must be registered for eight credits of Greek or Latin 995 in the term in which they defend.

Students are responsible for scheduling their Dissertation Defense in consultation with their Dissertation Chair and the rest of their Committee, and for adhering to the Rackham requirements for preparing for and scheduling the final defense. Rackham maintains an important set of online resources that will help students in candidacy to accomplish this: http://www.rackham.umich.edu/current-students/dissertation

Students should consult these resources well in advance so that they are prepared to schedule the required meetings with the Rackham Office of Academic Records and Dissertations (OARD) and submit the appropriate paperwork. Failure to adhere to the requirements and deadlines as they are laid out by Rackham can result in delayed graduation.

Students should schedule the date and time of their dissertation defense in consultation with their chairs and committee members. Once a time has been agreed upon, the student should ask Sarah Kandell-Gritzmaker to reserve a room and send final confirmation to committee members. Candidates must provide the OARD with information about the date, time, and location of their scheduled defense so that the information may be publicized.

X. CONFERENCE PAPERS, JOB MARKET, AND PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

The Department encourages students to present papers at professional gatherings and to publish the results of their research, as is appropriate to the project and to the extent that this does not interfere with their progress in the program. Students not yet in candidacy should discuss plans for conference presentations with the mentor and/or the DGS, and students in candidacy with the Dissertation Chair and/or the DGS. As already stated, the Rackham Graduate School provides Conference Travel Grants to defray the costs of attending conferences to present papers. Some conference travel funding is also available from the International Institute. Additionally, the Department offers funding to cover the
cost of an economy flight and a shared hotel room if a student is traveling to the SCS to present a paper.

Students giving papers at conferences are strongly encouraged to practice them in the Department beforehand. Consult the front office staff for help with arranging a practice talk. Practice talks can also be given in the Literature Brown Bag series of lunchtime lectures, which is organized by Ruth Caston.

As they near the completion of their dissertation, students can take advantage of a variety of support structures offered by the Department to help them enter the job market. The Dissertation Committee should be consulted to help determine the most advantageous timing of the dissertation defense. Each Fall, Michelle Biggs meets individually with students going on the job market. To aid in sending out applications, she maintains a dossier service, soliciting the cover letters and writing samples composed by the student as well as letters of recommendation from faculty, and sending the completed applications off. Students can also meet with the Job Seekers Committee to receive general advice on writing cover letters and other aspects of the application process, and sample letters are kept on file as models. The SCS has a number of important resources on the ins and outs of applications and interviews.

Students who receive notice of interviews (usually conducted during the annual SCS meetings) may sign up beforehand for mock interviews conducted by faculty volunteers in the Department. Those who are invited later to give a job talk can also present a practice job talk. Job talks are typically based on a portion of the dissertation.

XI. FURTHER RESOURCES

Rackham School of Graduate Studies
http://www.rackham.umich.edu

American School of Classical Studies at Athens
http://www.ascsa.edu.gr/

American Academy in Rome
http://www.aarome.org/

Society for Classical Studies
https://classicalstudies.org/