Soon after the founding of the University of Wisconsin in 1848, the department was created as one of the first academic units at the university. The Department of Classical and Ancient Near Eastern Studies (CANES) has enjoyed a long tradition of excellence in philological scholarship, literary criticism, archaeology, and ancient history. At the graduate level, the department offers the master of arts and doctor of philosophy in classical and ancient near eastern studies. Students may follow one of two courses of study, classical languages and literatures, or Hebrew bible.

The primary goal of the program is to familiarize students with the core linguistic, historical, and philological aspects of classical and ancient near eastern studies. Students also learn to conduct original research in such varied areas as gender studies, literary theory, translation studies, and classical reception under the guidance of established scholars in these areas.

In addition to specified coursework, students participate in directed readings with individual faculty members in their areas of specialization and gain valuable professional experience teaching in courses on the languages, literature, and culture of the ancient world. Additional work may be done in allied fields such as archaeology, art history, linguistics, comparative literature, history, philosophy, and political science. Affiliated faculty in many of these fields regularly offer courses, supervise theses and dissertations, and participate in department activities.

A wide range of professional networks provides graduate students with enhanced opportunities for education and career development. In addition to faculty connections to scholars and institutions in their fields of study, the department has formal affiliations with the Society for Classical Studies, the Classical Association of the Middle West and South, the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, the Society of Biblical Literature, and the American Schools of Oriental Research.

The Pillinger Library and Mansoor Reading Room, both located within the department, provide convenient access to a large number of texts, while the larger Greek and Latin Reading Room in the Memorial Library contains an extensive, noncirculating research collection of texts and commentaries. The Memorial Library maintains an excellent research collection of books and periodicals in classics and Hebrew bible, with many of its resources available online.

The department annually offers graduate fellowship support and teaching assistantships. In order for incoming students to be considered for fellowships, applications and all other materials should reach the department by January 5.
M.A. named option in Hebrew Bible: M.A. exams are based on coursework and the M.A. Reading List. The exams are given at the end of the final semester of study for the degree. An exam can be taken no more than twice. M.A. candidates intending to advance to the Ph.D. program will take only the exam in proficiency in Hebrew. Those pursuing a terminal M.A. will also take the General Exam and the Oral Exam.

TIME CONSTRAINTS
The thesis, written in consultation with the major professor, must be completed no later than two semesters after thesis work begins.

Master’s degree students who have been absent for five or more consecutive years lose all credits that they have earned before their absence. Individual programs may count the coursework students completed prior to their absence for meeting program requirements; that coursework may not count toward Graduate School credit requirements.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS
The student must pass a sight-reading proficiency examination in either Latin or Greek. An examination in German, French, or Italian must also be passed before the M.A.

ADMISSIONS
Applicants for graduate study may enter the program with either a B.A. or master’s (M.A., M.Div., Th.M.) degree. For the classics named option, candidates are expected to have covered at least the equivalent of an undergraduate major in classics, which consists of at least three years of both Greek and Latin. For the named option in Hebrew bible, candidates are expected to have taken at least two years of biblical Hebrew and one year of Greek.

Candidates whose preparation falls short of the minimum requirements may be admitted with deficiencies at the discretion of the department, but will be required to do additional work within the first year of the program. Applications are evaluated on the basis of previous academic record, Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores, letters of recommendation, the writing sample, and a personal statement.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS
- Articulates, critiques, and applies the philological and theoretical approaches established in the field of Classics or Hebrew Bible.
- Identifies appropriate sources and assembles evidence relevant to questions and challenges in Classics or Hebrew Bible.
- Demonstrates understanding of Classical or Hebrew Bible literature in a historical and social context.
- Selects and utilizes the most appropriate methodologies and practices.
- Evaluates and synthesizes information pertaining to questions and challenges.
- Communicates complex ideas in a clear and understandable manner.

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT
- Recognizes and applied principles of ethical and professional conduct.
Faculty in Classics: Professors Aylward, McClure, McKeown, Vanden Heuval; Associate Professor Beneker (department chair); Assistant Professors Brockliss, Dressler, Nelsestuen, Pandey.

Faculty in Hebrew Bible: Professor Troxel; Associate Professor Hutton

CANES Affiliate Faculty: Professors Cahill (Art History), Gottlieb (Philosophy), Kleijwegt (History), Neville (History); Associate Professor Kapust (Political Science); Assistant Professors Fletcher (Philosophy), Taylor (History)