

Action Plan: Classical Studies

Date Self-Study was submitted to AQA: 8 September, 2023

Date of External Review: 13 October, 2023

Institutional Response

Congratulations on completing the Self Study, External Review, and Action Plan. Important recommendations to support the department over the long-term were identified during this process.

In the current environment of significant declines in international student enrolment, focusing on actions to support domestic students should be prioritized. Strengthening articulation with the research universities will provide the most benefit for students. Currently, all but two of the existing CLST courses transfer as unassigned credit which offers limited value to the students. I also recommend getting feedback from domestic recruiting to better understand what information potential CLST students might be looking for. Exploring ways to engage all faculty members teaching in CLST will help achieve the goals of the area.

Further discussions with the Division Chair, Dean and Associate Dean in the Faculty of Arts and related areas will help prioritize the recommendations and best determine where the courses fit in the college's mix of programming.

Signed



March 14, 2025

Dean, Faculty of Arts

Date

Signed



March 14, 2025

Provost and Vice-President

Date

Recommendations from the Self-Study and External Review this Action Plan does NOT Address.

Provide a brief rationale for why each Recommendation cannot be addressed.

Recommendation	Self-Study or External Review	Rationale
Collaborate with Communications and Marketing to develop increased awareness of the program and the Latin classes.	Self-Study pg. 13	Not within Communication and Marketing's purview.
Since AY 2015-16, when the last External Review took place, the program has grown from an average of 12 students per year to 20 students per year. The program has potential to continue to grow, and the College should promote such growth by providing Classical Studies with more first-year sections.	External Review pg. 3	Not within the program's power to do.
The reviewers endorse the suggestion, raised by the administrators, that the Latin program be removed from the Faculty of Social Sciences and be brought into the Faculty of Arts, where it could benefit from association with the Department of Modern Languages.	External Review pg. 4	Not within the program's power to do. The program recommends that, should Latin be moved to Arts, it become a part of Classical Studies to ensure the program can better integrate the classes.
Explore the possibility and feasibility of developing a Co-op program that would be of interest to students to Classical Studies and other related disciplines (such as: History, Political Science, Art History).	Self-Study pg. 46	Cannot be supported by Co-op and Career Development
Faculty praised the people who work in Accessibility and Counselling Services, but lamented their lack of funding and availability (i.e., they are closed after 4:30 pm and Langara classes from Monday to Friday run until 9:50 pm). Faculty noted the need for them to spend a great deal of time dealing with these issues themselves and suggested a need for further hiring, and increased hours, for these two services. Reviewers endorse this suggestion, but it may be necessary to work within the limited means of Accessibility Services, for instance by scheduling Accessibility exams before 4:30 PM.	External Review pg. 6	The program does not control budget/staffing for Counselling and Accessibility Services. Exams are already re-scheduled within hours of Accessibility Services, but this reduces exam security.
Consult further with faculty and current students regarding a name change for the program.	Self-Study pg. 53	Program review provided the opportunity to do so; we will be moving forward with exploring the administrative implications.

Goal 1: Program Development

Which [Academic Plan 2025 Lens or Lenses](#) does this Goal support?

Academic Plan 2025 Lens (only include the title of the lens)
CURIOSITY, CREATIVITY, AND INNOVATION: CREATE THE FUTURE TOGETHER
HOLISTIC STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT
TRANSFORMATIONAL LEARNING EXPERIENCES
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY/ COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

Planned Actions: What Planned Actions will the department complete to achieve this goal?

Planned Actions	Led by	Begin on	Anticipated Completion	Notes
Set up a more formal mechanism for articulation with receiving institutions.	KNAPP	Sept 2024	May 2025	
Update program learning outcomes.	KNAPP	Sept 2024	Aug 2025	Finalize learning outcomes with TCDC by end of summer 2025. Submit to EdCo after pause lifts.
Complete a curriculum map.	KNAPP	May 2025	Aug 2025	
Based on articulation discussions and curriculum map, review program requirements for both credentials and review necessity of having both credentials.	KNAPP	Aug 2025	Aug 2025	
Change program name to Ancient Mediterranean Studies.	KNAPP	Jan 2025	Sept 2026	Dependent on the administrative implications of the change, such as the impact on current scholarships.

What Self-Study or External Review Recommendations do the Planned Actions support?

Recommendation	Self-Study	External Review
Review the program requirements in two areas: a) establishing a language requirement (LATN or GREK) to ensure students are better prepared for their university program and b) requiring at least one of the CLST-focused electives (such as Women in Antiquity or Ancient Philosophy) in addition to the four more general electives.	pg 13	
The Classical Studies Program has an Associate of Arts Degree in Classical Studies and a Diploma of Arts and Sciences (Classical Studies). The Associate of Arts is by far the more popular option, with 12 to 21 yearly enrolments between AY 2017-28 to AY 2021-22. In the same period, the Diploma of Arts and Sciences had 0 to 4 yearly enrolments. Reviewers were not entirely clear about why students would prefer one type (associate degree or diploma) over the other. Could administrative time and money be saved by retaining just the associate degree, which is by far the more popular of the two?		pg. 3
Collaborate with TCDC to finalize program learning outcomes and prepare for EdCo approval.	pg. 24	
The Program Learning Outcomes are thorough and provide students with a clear understanding of the skills and knowledge they will acquire from the program. Classical Studies' interdisciplinary focus is a good one, and ideal for the discipline.		pg. 4
Re-evaluate whether a curriculum map would be of use and, if so, complete one.	pg. 24	
Evaluate the ancient language component of the program and whether a full year of an ancient language needs to be re-established as a requirement to ensure majors are not too far behind their peers when they transfer to a university program.	pg. 24	
Articulation, particularly with UBC and SFU, should be reviewed in order to keep abreast of changes at those institutions.		pg. 5
The delivery and assessment methods for Classical Studies are well explained and contribute to student success and satisfaction. The class sizes are ideal, and the range of courses offered (including CLST and cross-listed courses) is impressive. A majority of students are very satisfied with the education and instruction that they receive (100% are either 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied'). Reviewers noted that students highlight the progressive nature of the program, as seen in comments such as "[it] giv[es] students a picture of the classical world based upon reality, not how 'the west' has defined it" and "Holistic, emphasized the perspectives and contributions of minorities (slaves, women, less discussed cultures)".		pg. 5
Explore the administrative implications of a name change, including potential problems with the ability to award scholarships.	pg. 53	
One point that stands out in the Self Study chapter is the idea to change the program's name. A name like Ancient Mediterranean Studies may demonstrate the direction that studies of the ancient world are taking today, as well as complement name changes at such institutions as UBC (whose former Department of Classical, Near Eastern and Religious Studies is now the Department of Ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern Studies). The students that the reviewers spoke to were clearly in favour of such a change. It was noted that a program name change may require changes to the naming of some scholarships.		pg. 7

Recommendation	Self-Study	External Review
Students largely support a name change (from Classical Studies to Ancient Mediterranean Studies). Students would also like to see a new curriculum that looks beyond ancient Greece and Rome to their wider contexts around the Mediterranean.		pg. 8
Review the program requirements in two areas: a) establishing a language requirement (LATN or GREK) to ensure students are better prepared for their university program and b) requiring at least one of the CLST-focused electives (such as Women in Antiquity or Ancient Philosophy) in addition to the four more general electives.	pg 13.	
The Classical Studies Program has an Associate of Arts Degree in Classical Studies and a Diploma of Arts and Sciences (Classical Studies). The Associate of Arts is by far the more popular option, with 12 to 21 yearly enrolments between AY 2017-28 to AY 2021-22. In the same period, the Diploma of Arts and Sciences had 0 to 4 yearly enrolments. Reviewers were not entirely clear about why students would prefer one type (associate degree or diploma) over the other. Could administrative time and money be saved by retaining just the associate degree, which is by far the more popular of the two?		pg. 3

What resources will be used to achieve this Goal? Indicate if existing resources will be used or if additional resources are requested.

Resources
Meetings with: TCDC, EdCo, RES, Langara College Foundation, Financial Aid, receiving institutions (UBC, SFU, UVic)

Goal 2: Course Development

Which [Academic Plan 2025 Lens or Lenses](#) does this Goal support?

Academic Plan 2025 Lens (only include the title of the lens)
CURIOSITY, CREATIVITY, AND INNOVATION: CREATE THE FUTURE TOGETHER
HOLISTIC STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT
TRANSFORMATIONAL LEARNING EXPERIENCES
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY/ COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

Planned Actions: What Planned Actions will the department complete to achieve this goal?

Planned Actions	Led by	Begin on	Anticipated Completion	Notes
Develop a course that directly articulates to UBC's AMNE 200.	KNAPP	Sept 2024	Sept 2026	AMNE 200 is a new requirement for majors at UBC; our program majors are at a disadvantage until we have an equivalent course.
Finalize learning outcomes for all current courses.	KNAPP	July 2024	August 2025	Finalize along with program learning outcomes with TCDC by end of summer 2025. Submit to EdCo after pause lifts.
Review all course content to ensure interconnections between Mediterranean and other related cultures are addressed.	KNAPP	July 2024	ongoing	Has started with the core intro classes in summer 2024.
Change scheduling of LATN 1115 to a 2x2 to assess impact on enrollment.	KNAPP	Sept 2024	ongoing	LATN 1115 has been scheduled as a 2 x 2 for Fall 2024. Enrolment is higher than Fall 2023; further consultation will be necessary with HLPS and the division of Social Sciences.
Discuss with HLPS the possibility of redesigning Latin classes to allow LATN 1115 and LATN 1117 to be offered simultaneously to boost enrolment numbers and allow 1117 to run.	KNAPP	May 2025	May 2026	Dependent on enrollments in Latin. Further consultations with HLPS and the division of Social Sciences will be necessary.
Increase opportunities in classes for students to gain further skills in oral communication and group collaboration.	KNAPP	July 2024	ongoing	Will discuss with TCDC as well as current faculty in CLST.

What Self-Study or External Review Recommendations do the Planned Actions support?

Recommendation	Self-Study	External Review
Develop a first-year class that incorporates content from a variety of ancient Mediterranean cultures or further contextualizes ancient Greece and Rome within their broader cultural environment. The viability of adding such courses to the elective options without further sections must be investigated as students are frustrated with the lack of offerings and having further interesting courses that are only offered every few years may frustrate them further.	pg. 24	
One point that stuck out to the reviewers and students alike was that the second semester of first year Latin (LATN 1117, Beginner's Latin II) is not being offered, as the College has made baseline enrolments for the class too high. Administrators point out that the modalities for offering such courses are in the Program's control. The reviewers suggest that, for instance, Latin 1115 and 1117 be offered simultaneously (with combined enrollment numbers), and/or with in-class and online (asynchronous) elements (video lectures, online quizzes) offered on alternating days in the four-meeting/week scheme.		pg. 3
Explore possibilities to ensure LATN 1117 is offered annually so that students can complete at least one full year of an ancient language. Students expressed significant dissatisfaction with its lack of availability including one whose graduation was affected. It is clearly important to ensure students have this pathway.	pg. 24	
Review course-level learning outcomes and prepare for EdCo approval.	pg. 24	
The Content-Focused Learning Objectives are well considered, too, though alumni have been slightly dissatisfied with "identify local indigenous and global worldviews within the Ancient World". The Program makes clear to students to be cautious of societal trends in the appreciation of the ancient Mediterranean world that conflict with open enquiry. Scrutiny of the foundations of terms such as 'Classical' Studies goes hand-in-hand with other decolonizing initiatives. Indigenous and global worldviews should be a consideration.		pg. 4
Develop a first-year class that incorporates content from a variety of ancient Mediterranean cultures or further contextualizes ancient Greece and Rome within their broader cultural environment. The viability of adding such courses to the elective options without further sections must be investigated as students are frustrated with the lack of offerings and having further interesting courses that are only offered every few years may frustrate them further.	pg. 24	
Another point brought up by students is that the program's predominant focus on Greece and Rome leaves out other interconnected regions of the ancient world, including West Asia and Egypt. Developing new course material that incorporates content from a wider variety of cultures around the Mediterranean and Middle East or that contextualizes Greece and Rome in a broader cultural environment (Recommendation 4) is a commendable goal. Realistically, accounting for the number of instructors in Classical Studies, modules that discuss, for example, Persia, Egypt, and Carthage could be integrated into already existing courses, rather than relying on instructors to develop entirely new courses centered on such areas that may be beyond their expertise.		pg. 4
Evaluate the course assignments for their ability to address the skills-focused program learning objectives.	pg. 24	
Assess current assessment methods for opportunities for students to gain further skills in oral communication and group collaboration.	pg. 46	

Recommendation	Self-Study	External Review
In our discussion with them, Administrators expressed admiration for the program and for the Program Coordinator. Faculty is clearly committed to students and their learning experience. Enrolments are good, though they may be improved with more advertising. Classes might enroll in higher numbers, too, if more scheduling options were offered (i.e., 2x2 classes that require fewer days on campus and/or more online elements).		pg. 7
Develop a first-year class that incorporates content from a variety of ancient Mediterranean cultures or further contextualizes ancient Greece and Rome within their broader cultural environment. The viability of adding such courses to the elective options without further sections must be investigated as students are frustrated with the lack of offerings and having further interesting courses that are only offered every few years may frustrate them further.	pg. 24	
One point that stuck out to the reviewers and students alike was that the second semester of first year Latin (LATN 1117, Beginner's Latin II) is not being offered, as the College has made baseline enrolments for the class too high. Administrators point out that the modalities for offering such courses are in the Program's control. The reviewers suggest that, for instance, Latin 1115 and 1117 be offered simultaneously (with combined enrollment numbers), and/or with in-class and online (asynchronous) elements (video lectures, online quizzes) offered on alternating days in the four-meeting/week scheme.		pg. 3
Review course-level learning outcomes and prepare for EdCo approval.	pg. 24	

What resources will be used to achieve this Goal? Indicate if existing resources will be used or if additional resources are requested.

Resources
Meetings with TCDC, HLPS, Classical Studies instructors, creation of curriculum maps for each course,

Goal 3: Improve and Promote Applied Learning Opportunities

Which [Academic Plan 2025 Lens or Lenses](#) does this Goal support?

Academic Plan 2025 Lens (only include the title of the lens)
CURIOSITY, CREATIVITY, AND INNOVATION: CREATE THE FUTURE TOGETHER
TRANSFORMATIONAL LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Planned Actions: What Planned Actions will the department complete to achieve this goal? Add or remove rows as needed.

Planned Actions	Led by	Begin on	Anticipated Completion	Notes
Assess courses for potential applied learning opportunities within course assignments.	KNAPP	July 2024	ongoing	Should include methods of reflection to ensure students are aware of the skills they gain and can articulate them.
Design a new research project that will prioritize student participation.	KNAPP	May 2026	ongoing	The Calabrian projects are ending, but it is clear that they should be replaced with further opportunities for students.
Develop a new field study program.	KNAPP	Sept 2024	May 2025	Similar to the Rome 2023 FS but with a different partner. Goal would be to apply in Summer 2025 for a May 2026 FS.

What Self-Study or External Review Recommendations do the Planned Actions support?

Recommendation	Self-Study	External Review
Though not directly related to Curriculum, the reviewers were impressed by the Program's effort to include students in Faculty activities, such as accompanying the Classical Studies Coordinator at a Vancouver Hellenic Society talk and travelling with the Coordinator to Calabria to participate in archaeological field work that included learning digital recording techniques. The Field Schools were also a huge hit amongst students; reviewers recommend that the College continue to offer, advertise, and financially support (in the form of student scholarships) such initiatives. This kind of experiential learning enhances the already great classroom learning students are receiving and contributes to Langara College's reputation as an institution that privileges its students.		pg. 4
Revise applied learning assignments to increase reflective elements that will help students understand the skills they have gained and how they might apply them in further studies and/or career.	pg. 46	
Assess whether more practical elements can be incorporated into the current course offerings.	pg. 46	

Recommendation	Self-Study	External Review
<p>The Classical Studies Program clearly works hard to provide students with a high-level educational experience. The European Field Studies, Calabria research trip, and the HiPo student academic journal are the kinds of experiences that students forever remember. From speaking to students, it was clear how enthusiastic they were about initiatives like HiPo: students who had published their first academic work in the journal or who worked on the editorial team noted having an edge over other students when transferring to university and/or applying for Graduate Studies programs.</p>		
<p>The Classical Studies Program has identified areas for further improvement, including the addition of a Co-op component, more practical elements in the classes that would engender transferrable skills, and more assignments that help students to develop oral communication and group collaboration skills. The Program could also perhaps consider more online elements, though reviewers do note the Self Study's point that CLST classes work best in person (especially for language learning). The four-meeting-per-week scheme does create scheduling complications for students; some integration of online teaching seems advisable.</p>		pg. 5
<p>There is a clear value to an education in the Program that goes beyond learning about the ancient world, and this was reinforced in large part by students (former and current) who were effusive about it. The students to whom reviewers spoke expressed how grateful they were for the Classical Studies program, which prepared them very well for further education and gave them a knowledge base that they believed put them ahead of their peers at their new institutions. Students also emphasized the "transferrable skills" they gained from course work and experiential learning, particularly the field school and student journal HiPo.</p>		pg. 8

What resources will be used to achieve this Goal? Indicate if existing resources will be used or if additional resources are requested.

Resources
Meetings with TCDC, Classical Studies team

Goal 4: Strengthen Student Support

Which [Academic Plan 2025 Lens or Lenses](#) does this Goal support?

Academic Plan 2025 Lens (only include the title of the lens)
HOLISTIC STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT
TRANSFORMATIONAL LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Planned Actions: What Planned Actions will the department complete to achieve this goal?

Planned Actions	Led by	Begin on	Anticipated Completion	Notes
Develop an opt-in contact list of former students of the program.	KNAPP	Jan 2025	Jan 2026	Goal is to develop a community of former student supporters for the program. Ideally we could contact them with updates, lectures, mentoring opportunities, etc. and tap into their support in promoting the program.
Design a communications strategy for supporting current majors.	KNAPP	May 2026	Jan 2027	Actual method of communication (and ability to do so) is dependent on the features available in Workday Student. Strategy would also incorporate such elements as: info sessions, brown bag sessions, newsletters. The primary purposes are to foster a community of engagement and to support majors in their transfer and/or career goals, but a more engaged community may also promote the classes and enrolments.
Review library resources with subject librarian.	KNAPP	Apr 2024	Sept 2026	Some recommendations have already been purchased or added to future planning budgets. Full review has started but will take some time. Note that library resources have improved significantly in the past few years with the addition of several e-book databases.

What Self-Study or External Review Recommendations do the Planned Actions support?

Recommendation	Self-Study	External Review
Explore possibilities for information sessions with majors and receiving institutions.	pg. 46	
Improve communication with current majors, including a system for tracking successful transfers to university programs.	pg. 46	
Connect with the library and Classical Studies subject librarian to review current collections and consider possible additions within the library's budget.	pg. 50	
Classroom space scored lower than average scores (68% very satisfied or satisfied), both amongst students and faculty, who deem the spaces "low tech" and "cramped". Library Resources also scored lower than average scores (64% very satisfied or satisfied). The classroom spaces are not fixable in the short term and require a larger commitment from the College. The Program plans to consult with the Library about updating collections.		pg. 6
Create a system for collecting alumni contact information.	pg. 53	
Alumni are very satisfied with their education in the Classical Studies program, and it would benefit the program to develop a formal system (perhaps online?) that would encourage alumni to remain in touch with Faculty, who can speak about their experiences in the program. Alumni are happy to promote the program to new students and perhaps the Program could organize events (for instance during Orientation) where Alumni and new students have the opportunity to converse. It was noted that the administrative system used at Langara (as well as privacy concerns) make it difficult for the program to contact students during or after their studies at the College, so an online portal that will encourage alumni-initiated contact seems best.		pg. 7
Improve formal alumni communication and record-keeping.	pg. 53	

What resources will be used to achieve this Goal? Indicate if existing resources will be used or if additional resources are requested.

Resources
Workday Student, small portion of the IDS budget for events (will discuss with dept chair as needed or collaborate with other programs/departments), meetings with subject librarian and Classical Studies team.

Goal 5: Increased Visibility and Promotion of Program and Courses

Which [Academic Plan 2025 Lens or Lenses](#) does this Goal support?

Academic Plan 2025 Lens (only include the title of the lens)
CURIOSITY, CREATIVITY, AND INNOVATION: CREATE THE FUTURE TOGETHER
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SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY/ COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

Planned Actions: What Planned Actions will the department complete to achieve this goal?

Planned Actions	Led by	Begin on	Anticipated Completion	Notes
Improve CLST program website and keep it regularly updated.	KNAPP	July 2024	ongoing	Should include highlights of the program’s successes and current/past students, benefits of program, and applicability of taught skills.
Design and hold events to promote the program and courses.	KNAPP	May 2025	ongoing	Highlight the benefits of the program and its courses, demonstrate the applicability of taught skills. Engage students. May be held in conjunction with events for majors.
Collaborate with Domestic and International Recruiting to ensure they are aware of the program and its benefits. Provide them with any requested materials.	KNAPP	Sept 2024	ongoing	
Prepare materials for advising to ensure they are well-informed on the usefulness of our courses.	KNAPP	May 2025	Aug 2025	

What Self-Study or External Review Recommendations do the Planned Actions support?

Recommendation	Self-Study	External Review
Collaborate with Langara Global (Domestic and International Recruiting) to ensure incoming students are aware of the Classical Studies program and its benefits.	pg. 13	
Yearly enrolments for Classical Studies are good (more so for first-year courses than second-year courses), though the Program is looking to partner with Langara Global to develop a strategy to increase awareness among international students about the benefit of taking Classical Studies. Reviewers recommend that the College help the Program with marketing the program both internally to Langara students and, where possible, externally; when speaking with the Chair of Humanities and Dean of Arts, reviewers noted an enthusiasm for the program and a willingness to find funds for marketing.		pg. 3
Collaborate with general advising to ensure they are aware of classes, such as LATN 1101 (Greek and Latin Roots of English), that are of especial use to students in other programs.	pg. 13	
Reviewers suggest that the Program consider events to celebrate the program and past/current students. The Program's website could also be used to advertise the program.		pg. 7
There is a clear value to an education in the Program that goes beyond learning about the ancient world, and this was reinforced in large part by students (former and current) who were effusive about it. The students to whom reviewers spoke expressed how grateful they were for the Classical Studies program, which prepared them very well for further education and gave them a knowledge base that they believed put them ahead of their peers at their new institutions. Students also emphasized the "transferrable skills" they gained from course work and experiential learning, particularly the field school and student journal HiPo.		pg. 8

What resources will be used to achieve this Goal? Indicate if existing resources will be used or if additional resources are requested.

Resources
Meetings with Domestic and International Recruiters, small amount of IDS budget (to be discussed with dept chair)