

**Classics Department**  
**Assessment Planning Document I**  
March 31, 2002

**I. Departmental Mission Statement**

Classics studies the cultures, history, languages, literatures, and material remains of the ancient Mediterranean world with particular emphasis on the civilizations of Greece and Rome and their reciprocal relations with surrounding Near Eastern, African, and European societies. The department of classics at Bucknell University seeks to provide its major and non-major students with an enhanced appreciation of the classical past and the vital contributions of that past to Western cultural traditions.

**II. Goals**

- 1) to give our students a deeper sense of historical and social perspective through a study of ancient languages and civilizations in preparation for a wide range of careers;
- 2) to prepare exceptional students for graduate level study and careers in teaching and research at the college / university level
- 3) to nurture effective and empathetic teachers of Latin and Greek at the primary and secondary level
- 4) to provide students with an understanding of the kinds of issues, major approaches, methods, and skills needed to analyze the various aspects of classical (or any) civilization

**III. Objectives**

**A. Language Skills:**

- 1) in elementary language courses: the ability to analyze grammatical structure; to read, understand, and translate appropriate Latin and Greek passages.
- 2) in advanced language classes: to call on these same skills as well as various skills of literary analysis and research

**assessment measures:**

**skills may be effectively assessed through embedded measures such as participation in class, performance on examinations, and on papers and research projects; the vertical nature of language study makes successes and failures apparent**

## **B. Knowledge**

1) understanding of basic aspects of classical civilization appropriate to course -- historical outlines, the evolution of society, the development and functions of literary genres, architectural and artistic trends and their reflection of social values and ideology

### **assessment measures:**

- 1) embedded measures such as participation in class, performance on examinations, and performance on papers and research projects**
- 2) pre- and post testing or comparison of assignments over the course of several classes**

## **C. Humanistic Attitudes and Perspectives**

1) perhaps most important of all -- to change the way our students think about themselves and the world they live in -- to give them a better sense of historical perspective, to instill in them a long-lasting curiosity about human cultural achievement, to get them to see themselves as an element in history rather than its pinnacle

### **assessment measures:**

- 1) embedded measures**
- 2) exit interviews with majors, minors, and other students who have done significant coursework or research in the department**
- 3) alumni/ae survey and unsolicited correspondence**