

TEACHING LATIN IN THE SCHOOLS

Information for Prospective Teachers

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1. How to PREPARE for Teaching Latin

DEGREES/MAJORS/CONTACTS: Complete a major in Latin in either the College of Arts and Sciences (A&S) or the College of Education (COE) or BOTH preferably (via our Dual Degree program), AND at least a minor in another area. Your UGA Latin major program should prepare you well in Latin and classical civilization, but many positions call for a person who can teach a second subject: English, history, modern foreign languages, math, and science are all good options for a second major or minor. For A&S Latin programs, visit <http://www.classics.uga.edu/htdocs/overview.html>, and contact Dr. Keith Dix or Dr. Rick LaFleur in Classics, 706-542-9264; for COE programs, visit <http://www.coe.uga.edu/lle/> and contact Professors Laurent Cammarata (loulali@gmail.com or lc@uga.edu) and Pamela Sheppard (pshepp@uga.edu), 706-542-5674, or undergraduate advisor Anna Durden (adurden@uga.edu, 706-583-8148); for the Dual Degree (which conveys both the A.B. in Latin and the B.S.Ed. in Language Education), go to www.bulletin.uga.edu/bulletin/prg/flan_latn_abbsed_req.html and contact Dr. Dix, Dr. Cammarata, or Dr. LaFleur.

CERTIFICATION/GACE EXAM/EDUCATION COURSES: Most schools, especially public schools, will give priority to applicants who are fully certified, as UGA COE and Dual Degree graduates routinely are; this is even more important now under the “No Child Left Behind” initiative. Certification requirements vary considerably from state to state, and those in Georgia have recently been revised; for Georgia certification requirements and reciprocity with other states, visit www.gapsc.com; for certification requirements for other states visit www.uky.edu/ArtsSciences/Classics/teaching.html.

A&S STUDENTS: A&S graduates are not automatically certified upon graduation as COE and A&S/COE dual degree graduates are, but our graduates typically fare very well in the job market, especially if they have taken education courses, have some experience in the schools or working with youngsters in community service, and passed the GACE (or PRAXIS) exam.

Methods and education courses: You should enroll in one or more professional education courses, including UGA classes in Foundations of Education, Educational Psychology, Exceptional Children, and Foreign Language Education; some of the classes are closed to non-COE majors, but may be taken through UGA's Department of Independent and Distance Learning (www.gactr.uga.edu/idl). UGA Classics graduate students should enroll in LATN 7770 (“Latin Teaching Apprenticeship,” 3 hours credit: 2 in the fall, 1 in the

spring), which is offered annually; graduates and undergraduates should also enroll in the Classics Department's new Latin Teaching Methods class (LATN 4770/6770), which will be offered periodically during the summer and/or the academic year and via an online distance education course; for details, see Dr. Dix or Dr. LaFleur, and visit the department's website (www.classics.uga.edu/htdocs/overview.html) for scheduling and other information.

GACE (and PRAXIS) exams: You should take the GACE Latin subject-area exam, which is required for certification in Georgia; information is available at <http://www.gace.nesinc.com/>. The PRAXIS Latin exam is required in some states; information is available at www.ets.org/praxis, which has a "Tests at a Glance" section to help you prepare for the exam www.ets.org/Media/Tests/PRAXIS/pdf/0600.pdf. A passing score on these exams will certainly boost your qualifications.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE: If you are enrolled in the COE, your advisor there will arrange a semester-long practice-teaching experience for you. Otherwise, it is crucial that you obtain experience through tutoring, class visitations, and/or "shadowing" in local high schools; see Dr. LaFleur to arrange this with Ellen Harris at Clarke Central, Kelly Ryan or Gail Polk at Athens Academy, Leslie Rogers at Oconee County High School, Sarah Traut at Monsignor Donovan School (all UGA Arts and Sciences Latin alumnae), and/or Brad Tillery at North Oconee County High School.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Scholarships are available from ACL and CAMWS for prospective Latin teachers working toward certification; the Classics Department and the Georgia Classical Association also have scholarships for inservice (current) teachers; see each issue of *The Classical Outlook* as well as the UGA Classics Department's scholarship flier, and visit the National Latin Teacher Recruitment Week site at www.promotelatin.org/nltrwcolleges.htm for a list of other scholarship opportunities.

RESOURCES FOR METHODS AND MATERIALS: Obtain a copy of Latin for the 21st Century: From Concept to Classroom. This book (ISBN 0-673-57608-6) is a comprehensive introduction to methodology and resources for teaching Latin at all levels, elementary school through graduate school, and, with its extensive bibliography and resource list, is a *vade mecum* for all Latin teachers and a great introduction to the profession for prospective teachers. Available in the UGA Bookstore (706-542-3171) or from Prentice Hall Publishers (www.phschool.com, 800-848-9500). For other useful books and articles for new and prospective teachers, see Texas Latin teacher Ginny Lindzey's "New Teachers" page at www.txclassics.org/newteacher.htm.

WEBSITES: Visit the following websites:

Latinteach: www.latinteach.com: the site has a wide range of resources for Latin teachers, and the internet list (instructions for joining are on the website) provides you with 500 "instant colleagues," both veteran and novice teachers, ready to discuss with you all sorts of teaching issues, including your job search and your needs as a new teacher.

University of Kentucky Latin teaching site: www.uky.edu/ArtsSciences/Classics/teaching.html: resources for Latin teachers, including a list of certification requirements for the various states.

CAMWS Committee for the Promotion of Latin: A further array of resources for teachers (www.camwspl.org).

AMERICAN CLASSICAL LEAGUE (ACL): Join ACL, the major national professional organization for teachers of Latin, Greek, and classical humanities. Free memberships are available to first-time members; send a brief written request to American Classical League, Miami University, 422 Wells Mill Drive, Oxford OH 45056, or email americanclassicalleague@muohio.edu. Visit the organization's website at www.aclassics.org for an overview of the many perquisites of membership, including scholarship eligibility and subscriptions to both the journal *The Classical Outlook* and the *ACL Newsletter*, which together will give you lots of information on current trends in teaching Latin and classics.

STATE AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: Join your regional and state classical associations and attend their meetings. These organizations need your support and they offer very useful publications and can help you with scholarships and your job search; attending the meetings is invaluable for networking and for the book and materials exhibits and the scholarly and pedagogical presentations. For Georgia these are the Georgia Classical Association (GCA, www.classics.uga.edu/gca/gcahome.html) and the Classical Association of the Middle West and South (CAMWS: www.camws.org: the CAMWS site lists its 30+ state and province Vice Presidents, who can assist you with job searches in particular states and Canadian provinces).

2. How to FIND a Latin Teaching Position

PLACEMENT SERVICES: Check out the American Classical League (ACL) and Georgia Classical Association (GCA) Placement Services: Information on these and other Latin teacher placement services is on our GCA Placement Service flier; obtain a copy from the Classics Office Manager in 223 Park Hall. In particular visit www.aclassics.org and click on Teacher Placement and www.classics.uga.edu/gca/gcahome.html. There are a number of commercial placement services, some of which charge fees to applicants, while others do not; among the latter is Southern Teachers Agency (www.southernteachers.com/, 434-295-9122).

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AND GREEK: Visit the National Committee for Latin and Greek NCLG website for other placement services: A wide range of resources for current and prospective Latin teachers at www.promotelatin.org/index.html; and click on the Placement Service link in particular (www.promotelatin.org/placement.htm) for information and links to national, regional, and state placement services.

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DOE) TEACHER RECRUITMENT WEBSITE: this site lists positions available in Georgia: www.TeachGeorgia.org.

NATIONAL LATIN TEACHER RECRUITMENT WEEK WEBSITE: This site provides lots of information on programs, scholarships, certification, teaching materials, etc. (www.promotelatin.org/nltrw.htm).

RESUME/CREDENTIALS SERVICES: Resumes should be clear, concise, and focused on the objective of finding a teaching position; degrees, awards, progress toward certification, and all teaching-related experience should be listed, as should special skills and interests in teaching other subjects, coaching, advising extracurricular activities, etc.; see attached sample. Conferences attended and any relevant presentations or publications should also be listed. For further assistance with resumes, go to www.career.uga.edu and click on “Resumes”; to set up a file with the UGA Credentials Service, contact the UGA Career Center in Clark Howell Hall (706-542-3375).

APPLICATION LETTERS AND FOLLOWUP CALLS: **Send letters with resumes and follow up with telephone calls:** Send a succinct one-page letter of application plus resume to all schools and districts that you are interested in; follow up with phone calls. For further advice on resumes, applications, letters, and followup, contact the UGA Career Center in Clark Howell Hall (706-542-3375) and for sample letters go to www.career.uga.edu and click on “Job Search”).

INTERVIEWS: Talk about interview strategies with your academic advisor, friends who have gone on job interviews, and specialists in the UGA Career Center in Clark Howell Hall, where you can arrange for a “mock (practice) interview” (706-542-3375, www.career.uga.edu/STUDENTS/mockinterviews.html). Some interviews and school visits will involve your teaching a class; be sure to confirm all expectations and other details well in advance of going for the interview. If you are invited to an interview at considerable distance from your home, ask if travel expenses are provided. Follow up on the interview immediately with a letter or phone call, thanking the prospective employer for the interview.

Carpe diem:
teachers affect eternity

