

## **Proposal for a Post-Baccalaureate program in Classical Studies**

The department of Classical Studies has received a grant from the provost's Creative Adaptation fund to institute a post-baccalaureate program in Classical Studies. We are submitting the following proposal for approval in hopes of starting the program in the Fall semester of 2013.

### **General description of the program:**

The Post-baccalaureate Program in Classical Studies would be a 1-3 year program for students who have earned a bachelor's degree either at William & Mary or at another institution, but who want to continue their education to prepare for graduate school or a teaching career in Classical Studies. After completing the program successfully students would be awarded a post-baccalaureate certificate in Classical Studies.

This program would not produce a need for additional staffing, since students in the program would enroll in classes that are normally offered in the curriculum but almost always have additional seats available, including upper-level classes in Latin, Greek and Hebrew, and upper-level seminars in Classical Studies.

Bringing more upper-level students into our classes would also enhance the experience of our own undergraduates, exposing them to students of different backgrounds and allowing them to interact with more Classics students of high motivation and ability, giving them a better acculturation to their potential future in graduate school.

Students in the program could also enhance the department's ability to contribute to the general education program. Post-baccalaureate students could be offered credit for assisting instructors in large general education classes with tutoring, grading, and for supervised instructional activities such as the leading of discussion sessions.

### **Need for the program and expected audience:**

Nowadays few students enter college with a substantial background in Classical Studies. This is particularly true for the languages that are central to the discipline, Latin and Ancient Greek. As a result, the growing number of students who decide in their second or third year of college that they want to pursue work in Classical Studies or Archaeology beyond the undergraduate level, often find themselves in a bind. By the time they make this decision it is already too late for them to gain the level of proficiency in the ancient languages that the best graduate programs expect.

To serve these students, a number of institutions across the country have instituted post-baccalaureate programs in Classical Studies. Ours would be the first such program in Virginia, and we anticipate that it would be attractive not only for many of our own students, but also for Virginia residents who have bachelors degree at other institutions and who would appreciate an in-state option for continuing their studies. It is likely that this program would also be of interest to Virginia high school teachers who need to take courses in Latin and Classical Studies for certification and re-certification.

### **Curriculum of the Program:**

The curriculum described here was formulated after an examination of the curricula of all nine currently-existing Classical Studies post-bac programs in the US. The curriculum we have devised is most similar to schools that are similar to W&M in faculty and student body size and that are, like W&M, institutions lacking graduate programs in Classical studies. The closest comparanda are with Georgetown University, Catholic University, Loyola University in Chicago and UC-Davis. Other successful programs are offered at research universities with large faculties and large graduate programs in Classical Studies including Penn, UNC-Chapel Hill, Columbia, and the University of Iowa.

- For admission, post-baccalaureate students must have a bachelor's degree (in any field) and at least one year of study at the college level (or equivalent) in Latin or Greek.
- Students will enroll in 6 - 10 credits per semester, for a minimum of two and a maximum of six semesters.
- To earn the post-baccalaureate certificate each student must:
  - earn at least thirteen credits in the program
  - complete at least two semesters in the program
  - enroll in at least one course in Latin or Greek each semester
  - earn at least six credits in the program at the 300 level or above in either Latin or Greek
  - earn at least six credits in the program at the 200 level or above in the other language (whichever is not used for the previous requirement)
  - complete a one-credit proseminar in the first semester in which students are introduced to research methods and resources in Classical Studies
- In addition to courses in Latin and Greek and the post-baccalaureate proseminar, students may also enroll in other classes offered by the department in Hebrew and Classical Civilization or other classes at the College (space permitting) that are consistent with their professional goals. This may include classes in Modern Languages, Art History, History, Anthropology, etc.
- Whenever possible the department will also offer a 1 to 3 credit class in supervised teaching in classical studies, in which a student in the program will work under the supervision of a faculty member in a class that the faculty member is teaching. At the discretion of the faculty member, the post-baccalaureate student will engage in such activities as moderating discussion sections in large classes, running language tutorials and review sessions, preparing and delivering a lecture. The emphasis in this class will be on giving the student a mentored introduction to college teaching, not on relieving the professor's workload or substituting for the professor in his/her absence.

### **Curricular Changes:**

The program described above will allow the post-baccalaureate students to fulfill the bulk of their requirements in courses that are already in the catalogue and offered regularly by the department. The only exceptions to this would be the one-credit Post-baccalaureate proseminar and the one to three credit Supervised Teaching Experience. If EPC approves of the general idea of these courses, specific course proposals will be submitted for approval.

**Staff and Resources:**

The reason we thought our proposal would be appropriate for the Creative Adaptation grant competition is that even if only one or two students enroll in the program it will generate net revenue for the College. Students will largely be enrolling in courses that would be offered anyway. The department will appoint a director of the post-baccalaureate program from its permanent faculty, and that director would be responsible for advising the students in the program and for teaching the one-credit post-baccalaureate seminar in addition to his/her regular course load. Our Creative Adaptation grant provides funds for a one-course buyout for the director in the first year of the program, and we hope to work out a MOU with the administration to continue this buyout if a certain level of enrollment is maintained. Apart from this the program would entail only a minimal additional expense for publicity. To make sure that department and College resources are not overtaxed, enrollment in the program would be limited initially to five students per year.

**Additional Issues:**

To our knowledge this would be the first formal post-baccalaureate certificate program offered at W&M, so to some extent we are journeying into uncharted territory. We have already determined that SCHEV does not require such programs to be submitted for its approval, and SACS offers no explicit guidelines for post-baccalaureate curricula. We have initiated conversations with a number of entities on campus, including the office of the Dean of A&S, the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and the Registrar's office, etc., to determine how the logistics of such a program will be handled at W&M. Among the issues we are discussing are the following:

- Would the students be classified as undergraduate, graduate, non-degree, or would a new classification need to be created?
- How would the admissions process be handled differently from regular UG or grad admissions?
- How would students pay tuition (per credit or a fixed rate for a certain credit bracket)? What, if any, fees would they be responsible for?
- What form would the 'certificate' take and how would it be awarded?
- Housing: we have assumed that students in the program would either be ineligible for campus housing or put at the bottom of the waiting list after undergraduates and graduates.
- Financial Aid: we have assumed that students in the program would not be eligible for financial aid from the College, but their status may make them eligible for certain types of student loans and for financial aid from other sources.