



Joining the Classical Education Movement

AN EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



UNIVERSITY
of DALLAS

BRANIFF
GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF LIBERAL ARTS



INTRODUCTION

In recent years, many educators and families have turned to the time-honored approach of classical education, seeking a comprehensive learning experience that cultivates wisdom and virtue. This movement not just embodies a return to tradition, but a response to modern education that appears to **leave learners and educators searching for more.**





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CHAPTER 01: The Rise of the Classical Education Movement

Traditional education models have struggled to meet the needs of students, leading parents to search for something more.

According to a recent survey, 72% of parents have considered a new school, 63% have searched for a new school, and 44% have chosen a new school for their children.



In this search for “something more,” an increasing number of parents were drawn to the enriching classical education model. Classical schools saw an average annual increase in teaching staff by 5% over the past four years. Furthermore, it is estimated that by 2035, 1.4 million K-12 students will be enrolled in classical school — breaking down to 2.4% of all K-12 students.

This demand is further highlighted by the surge in requests for classical education materials. Classical Academic Press, a major classical education curriculum supplier, saw inquiries for their curricula escalate by 82% since 2019.

To this day, classical education programs continue to grow across varied formats—from homeschool cooperatives to private institutions—each catering to the demand.

Parents and educators alike have observed that existing structures often fail to provide the depth and breadth of education that children deserve. Their solution? The return to classical education.



CHAPTER 02:

Unpacking the Core of the Classical Education Model

Classical education is an education for freedom. Rooted in the belief that the human mind naturally hungers for truth, classical education provides a foundation for students to flourish in all aspects of life — mind, body, and soul.

This educational model not only seeks to teach the truth but also aims to instill a foundation of virtue, enabling students to consistently choose what is good time and time again.

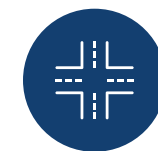
The classical education curriculum includes classic works of art, literature, music, mathematics and science.

Classical pedagogy intentionally develop habits of mind, with the aim of cultivating the habits of virtue and wisdom.

The classical education model primarily instructs from the following core principles:



Trivium: The Trivium, meaning “three roads” or “three ways,” consists of three foundational arts of language: grammar, logic, and rhetoric. This structure facilitates clear thinking and effective communication by emphasizing mastery over language, structured argumentation, and the ability to express oneself convincingly.



Quadrivium: Quadrivium means “four roads” or “four ways” and refers to arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy. Complementing the literary focus of the Trivium, the Quadrivium enriches understanding by linking abstract mathematical concepts with the empirical investigation of the natural world, presenting a balanced approach that integrates scientific inquiry with philosophical understanding.



The Great Books: The [Great Books](#) forms the foundation of the classical education curriculum, encompassing works in literature, philosophy, theology, and science. This allows students to engage with the enduring questions and ideas that shaped human thought and history.



Socratic Seminars: Socratic Seminars are formal discussions, based on a text, in which the leader ask questions that guide the conversation. Within the context of discussion, students listen closely to the comments of others, think critically for themselves, and articulate their own thoughts and their responses to the thoughts of others.

[Learn More About the Classical Education Model](#)

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS OF CLASSICAL EDUCATION

Through virtue-forming classical curricula, students learn to make free and responsible choices and are encouraged to wonder about the great questions of our lives – *Who am I? What is my calling? How should I serve the common good?* Because of this time-tested form of education, classical education uniquely positions students for a holistic learning experience.

CULTIVATION OF VIRTUOUS CHARACTER

Cultivating virtuous character means that education is not only a means of acquiring information; it is a vital part of shaping a student's moral character. Teachers emphasize virtues like integrity, discipline, respect, and courage alongside academic learning. Educators in this model serve as teachers and mentors who exemplify these virtues.

COHERENCE AND CONSISTENCY

Unlike educational approaches that might fragment knowledge into disconnected units, classical education seeks to integrate learning across subjects, showing students how different fields interconnect and inform one another. This structured approach builds intentionally, ensuring that the foundational knowledge is firm before moving on to more complex ideas. This consistency continues throughout different levels of education, reinforcing and deepening a student's understanding of the subjects' integration over time.





TEACHERS SERVE AS ROLE MODELS

In the classical education model, teachers are not just instructors but models for virtue. Their attributes, commitment to education, and character are crucial to a student's educational experience. Educators in this model must exemplify the virtues and intellectual rigor the curriculum advocates for. By embodying the characteristics they aim to instill, teachers serve as powerful, living examples to their students.

HIGH-QUALITY CURRICULA

Classical education insists on high-quality curricula that are intellectually rigorous. This emphasis on quality challenges students and provokes deeper thinking, promoting a rich intellectual growth that modern texts often lack on their own. Ultimately, the choice of high-quality curricula cultivates a deep appreciation for the complexity and beauty of human knowledge.

WESTERN HERITAGE

Classical education concentrates on Western heritage and culture. This focus involves a deep engagement with Western civilization's philosophical, literary, and historical contributions. The curriculum extensively covers seminal works and ideas from Western thinkers, exploring the evolution of thought and society throughout the Western world.

This focus does not aim to exclude other cultural viewpoints but rather grounds students in a tradition they are part of, building a strong foundation from which they can appreciate and understand reality.

CHAPTER 03:

Benefits of a Classical Education For the Teachers

As an educator, you know firsthand the profound influence you can have in the classroom, shaping minds and inspiring a lifelong love of learning. In a classical education setting, these responsibilities are enhanced, offering unique opportunities to engage with students on a deeper intellectual and moral level.

LONG-TERM STUDENT SUCCESS

Teachers in classical education play a critical role in shaping students into lifelong learners. Through their guidance, educators foster the development of ethical judgment, leading to long-term success as students engage with the world more respectfully and responsibly.

PERSONAL FULFILLMENT

Teaching subjects that challenge students intellectually and cultivate their moral character helps teachers realize their impact on the world. The foundations they lay for students each year can make a lasting impact on the next generation, and foster a sense of fulfillment in educators.

PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Specializing in classical education can help educators stand out in the educational field. Teaching the classics gives teachers a broad knowledge foundation and helps them develop a successful teaching methodology, which increases job opportunities and career potential.





CHAPTER 04:

Steps to Becoming a Classical Educator

Whether you're a seasoned veteran, somewhat familiar with the classical education model, or just beginning to explore, below are three concrete steps you can take to find your fit as a classical educator.

EVALUATE YOUR PATHWAY

Here are some key questions to ask yourself when deciding if a classical education path is right for you:

How familiar are you with the classical education curriculum?

To become a classical educator, it's crucial to know how familiar you are with the classical curriculum. Since most classical educators use similar core materials, staying well-versed in these essential works is key.

What grades are you interested in instructing? Though the goal of holistic student growth remains constant, the topics and great works vary by grade level. Understanding these differences can guide you in choosing which grade to teach.

Do you want to instruct online, in person, or both? Modality also matters when considering teaching classical education. If you're interested in teaching online, in person, or through a hybrid option, having your goals in mind is crucial when researching and preparing for classical education roles.

Are you interested in teaching from a lens of faith? Classical education can align with teaching through a lens of faith. Classical education can be a meaningful way to express those beliefs in your teaching if you want to explore great works of fiction and philosophy from your faith's perspective.





EXPLORE CAREERS: FIND YOUR FIT IN THE CLASSICAL EDUCATION SPHERE

Teaching classical education can take you to many places in your career, from traditional classrooms to consulting. Below are possible career pathways for those with classical education training.



PRIMARY AND SECONDARY TEACHERS

For those dedicated to shaping the next generation of learners and leaders, teaching in the classroom offers an unparalleled opportunity. Whether you choose a classical charter school, a private classical institution, or a parochial school with a classical curriculum, you will have the privilege of joining the ranks of thought leaders in imparting wisdom and fostering collaboration in young minds.



ONLINE CLASSICAL EDUCATORS

You may find teaching opportunities in virtual settings serving homeschooling families or online classical academies. These positions offer flexibility and the ability to reach students beyond your immediate community.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

One of the most impactful ways to improve and implement a classical education in schools is to become a principal, a vice principal, or a headmaster. From these positions, you can promote the vision of classical education and work with faculty to find teachers who also believe in that mission.

CURRICULUM DESIGNERS

As a curriculum designer, you'll help to develop and refine classical education programs and materials for schools or homeschool communities. Your work will help to give tools to those looking to effectively teach classical education.

EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANTS

Classical education consultants help advise schools looking to transition to or enhance their classical education offerings. In this role, you can help guide schools through the practical steps they need to take to achieve their goals of being classical education institutions, from assisting them in determining what to look for in job candidates to helping them find the right curriculum for their needs and grade levels.



DISCERN WHICH EDUCATION TO PURSUE

Formal training is required to properly educate students in classical education. Typically, professionals in this field take one of two paths:

CLASSICAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATE

A classical education certificate provides a foundational understanding of classical education principles, pedagogy, and curriculum design. Though shorter and more condensed than a traditional master's degree, students can pursue certificate programs like this part-time, and often online, offering much-needed flexibility for working teachers.

KEY POINTS

- **Shorter duration:** Certificate programs are often shorter, sometimes just a few months to a year, allowing for faster completion.
- **Focused learning:** Certificates provide focused learning on specific aspects of classical education without the broader requirements of a degree program.
- **Career flexibility:** A certificate can be ideal for educators who want to add a specialization to their credentials or for those seeking to transition into classical education without committing to a full degree.
- **Professional development:** For those already in the field, a certificate can serve as professional development, updating their skills and knowledge in classical education.

Discover the UDallas Certificate
in Classical Education

MASTER'S IN CLASSICAL EDUCATION

A graduate degree in classical education provides more in-depth instruction for educators seeking to advance their careers in the classical education field. These programs are typically completed on a part-time or full-time basis. A graduate program in classical education provides a deep dive into the historical, philosophical, and cultural context of classical education while also preparing students with advanced pedagogical skills.

KEY POINTS

- **In-depth knowledge:** A master's program offers a deeper understanding of classical education, including philosophy, pedagogy, and curriculum development.
- **Career advancement:** A master's degree is often required for higher-level positions, such as administrative roles, department heads, or curriculum developers in schools.
- **Academic credibility:** A master's degree may carry more weight in the academic and educational fields, enhancing credibility and professional standing.
- **Networking:** Graduate programs often provide more opportunities to connect with professionals in the field, offering a broader network for career advancement.

IN SHORT:

Certificate in Classical Education: Best for those looking to enhance their current teaching credentials, gain specialized knowledge quickly, or explore classical education without the full commitment of a degree.

Master's in Classical Education: Ideal for those who seek deep expertise, aspire to leadership roles, or want to significantly advance in their career and earning potential.

Discover the UDallas Certificate
in Classical Education

CHAPTER 05:

Join the Return to Tradition in Classical Education at UDallas

A leader in the classical education movement, the University of Dallas Braniff Graduate School of Liberal Arts offers a world-renowned Classical Education Graduate Program combining the ethos of the university's Core Curriculum tradition with a focus on the theory and practice of classical education. The Braniff School equips leading educators and administrators in the field, both locally and around the country.

Through rich courses in Philosophy of Education, Trivium, Quadrivium, Classical Pedagogy, and History of Liberal Arts Education taught by our expert faculty, leaders are formed as independent thinkers, positioned to guide the next generation to encounter the good, true, and beautiful,



Classical Education at UDallas



**HOLISTIC
APPROACH**



**FLEXIBLE
LEARNING**



**PROFESSIONAL
CONNECTIONS**

OUR HOLISTIC APPROACH TO CLASSICAL EDUCATION

The University of Dallas Classical Education Graduate Program is designed for those who wish to deepen their understanding of classical teaching principles while cultivating their own wisdom and virtue.

The program is grounded in fostering inquiry and offers extensive study into the historical, philosophical, literary, aesthetic, rhetorical, and scientific roots of liberal arts within the Western tradition.

FLEXIBLE LEARNING OPTIONS

Understanding the busy schedules of educators and school administrators, the Classical Education Graduate Program is accessible through flexible delivery methods. Courses are offered online during the academic year and both online and on-site during the summer months, allowing working professionals to continue their education.

This flexibility supports a diversity of students, from current teachers to those aiming to become headmasters or engage more deeply with classical education philosophies.

[Request More Information](#)

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE AND PROFESSIONAL CONNECTIONS

Additionally, the program emphasizes real-world application and professional networking within the field of classical education. An optional practicum component allows students to implement classical teaching principles in an educational setting of their choice, under the mentorship of experienced educators.

This hands-on experience is complemented by opportunities to connect with a broad network of classical schools and educational leaders, ensuring that graduates are well-positioned for career advancement and fully equipped to contribute to the classical education landscape.



CHAPTER 06:
**Classical Education Graduate
Program Offerings**

The program offers multiple tracks including a Master of Arts in Humanities with a Classical Education Concentration, available in both thesis and non-thesis options, and a Certificate of Classical Learning.

The Master of Arts in Humanities with Classical Education Concentration

The Master of Arts in Humanities with Classical Education Concentration is a 36-hour program with a thesis or non-thesis track. Our curriculum is specifically designed for intellectual educators. Examples of course offerings include:

- Master Teachers in the Western Tradition
- History of Liberal Arts Education
- Ancient Epics
- Plato and Socratic Conversation
- Augustine the Teacher
- Aquinas on the Virtues
- Tolkien as Teacher
- The Inklings
- Teaching Great American Speeches
- Writing as Imitation
- Teaching Classical Children’s Literature
- Argumentation
- Writing as Imitation
- Roman Empire and Western Culture

THESIS VS. NON-THESIS TRACK

Thesis Track	Non-Thesis Track
30 credit hours of graduate-level courses	36 credit hours of graduate-level courses
6 credit thesis course	No thesis required
Foreign language required	None required
Comprehensive exam required for graduation	Comprehensive exam required for graduation

[Explore More Courses](#)

[Discover Degree Requirements](#)

The Master of Arts in Humanities with Jewish Classical Education Concentration

The Master of Arts in Humanities with Jewish Classical Education Concentration is a 36-hour program.

THESIS VS. NON-THESIS TRACK

Thesis Track	Non-Thesis Track
30 credit hours of graduate-level courses	36 credit hours of graduate-level courses
6 credit thesis course	No thesis required
Foreign language required	None required
Comprehensive exam required for graduation	Comprehensive exam required for graduation

Discover Degree Requirements

THE TIKVAH FUND PARTNERSHIP

The University of Dallas is proud to be a preferred educational partner of the [Tikvah Fund’s Lobel Center for Jewish Classical Education](#). Tikvah students will graduate with an M.A. in Humanities with a concentration in Jewish Classical Education.

The only program of its kind in the world, this M.A. aspires to provide a comprehensive understanding of the history, culture, and ideas of Western Civilization informed by a Jewish worldview. Graduates will understand and be equipped to teach the best of Western literature, history, philosophy, and the arts from a Jewish perspective while also enhancing their ability to teach traditional Judaic studies.

THE CERTIFICATE OF CLASSICAL LEARNING

The Certificate of Classical Learning requires 18 credit hours of graduate-level courses. The following courses comprise the “core” of the Master of Arts in Humanities with a Classical Education Concentration.

- Trivium
- Quadrivium
- Philosophy of Education

Browse Program FAQs

CHAPTER 07:

Classical Education Graduate Program Offerings



“It’s the best program you will ever find. The professors are dedicated and care for each and every student. Also, we also get to spend at least two years in close readings with the best texts the world has to offer.”

PAUL BOYER
ARIZONA STATE SENATOR & CLASSICAL EDUCATOR

[More About Paul’s Story](#)



“It’s not just an education to get from one point to another, but for learning itself.”

KATHERINE LAWHON
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR AT CHESTERTON ACADEMY
OF NOTRE DAME

[More About Katherine’s Story](#)

CHAPTER 08:

Revitalize Our Culture Through the Classroom — Connect with UD

- Join us in the pursuit of wisdom by [requesting more information](#) about the Classical Education Program at the University of Dallas. Revitalize hearts and minds and shape the next generation of independent thinkers.

[REQUEST MORE INFORMATION](#) | [SCHEDULE A MEETING](#)
[EXPLORE OUR PROGRAMS](#) | [VIEW DEGREE REQUIREMENTS](#)
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