Great Works Academic Certificate Program
Great Works of Our Intellectual Heritage

Not all works by an author are listed; the committee will likely accept all works by authors on the list. The list is open to change.

Epic of Gilgamesh
Homer (?-?) Iliad, Odyssey
The Hebrew Scriptures
Hesiod (fl. c. 700 BCE) Theogony, Works and Days
Tao-te Ching
Sappho (fl. early 6th century BCE) Fragments
Confucius (c. 551-479 BCE) Analects
Aesop's Fables
Heracleitus (c. 540 - c. 480 BCE) Fragments
Aeschylus (525-456 BCE) Tragedies (esp. Agamemnon, Libation Bearers, Eumenides, Prometheus Bound)
Parmenides (b. c. 515 BCE) On Nature
Sophocles (c. 496-406 BCE) Tragedies (esp. Antigone, Oedipus Rex, Philoctetes, Oedipus at Colonus)
Euripides (485/80 - 406 BCE) Tragedies (esp. Medea, Hippolytus, The Bacchae)
Herodotus (484? - 425? BCE) History (of the Persian Wars)
Hippocrates (c. 460 - c. 370 BCE) Medical writings
Thucydides (c. 460 - c. 400 BCE) History of the Peloponnesian War
Xenophon (c. 430 - c. 354 BCE) Cyropaedia, Memorabilia, Anabasis
Plato (427-347 BCE) Dialogues (esp. Apology of Socrates, Crito, Phaedo, Republic, Laws,
Symposium, Meno, Phaedrus, Protagoras, Gorgias, Sophist, Theaetetus, Parmenides, Timaeus)
Bhagavad-Gita
Sun-tzu (c. 400?-320? BCE) The Art of War
Theophrastus (c. 372 - c. 287 BCE) Inquiry into Plants, Growth of Plants, Characters, Opinions of Natural Philosophers
Chuang-tzu (c. 369-286 BCE) The Pure Classic of Nan-hua
Epicurus (341-270 BCE) Letter to Herodotus, letter to Menoeceus
Euclid (fl. 300 BCE) Elements (of Geometry)
Archimedes (c. 287-212 BCE) Works (esp. On the Equilibrium of Planes, On Floating Bodies, The Sand-Reckoner)
Apollonius of Perga (c. 262 - c. 190 BCE) On Conic Sections
Ssu-ma Ch’ien (c. 145 - c. 85 BCE) Historical Records
Lucretius (c. 99 - c. 55 BCE) On the Nature of Things
Vergil (70-19 BCE) Eclogues, Georgics, Aeneid
Horace (65-8 BCE) Works (esp. Odes and Epodes, The Art of Poetry)
Livy (59 BCE - 17 CE) History of Rome
Ovid (43 BCE - 18 CE) Works (esp. Metamorphoses)
Plutarch (46 - c. 120) Lives of the Noble Grecians and Romans (esp. Lycurgus, Solon, Caesar, Cato
the Younger), Moralia
Flavius Josephus (47/48-100) History of the Jewish War, Antiquities of the Jews, Against Apion
Epictetus (c. 50 - c. 138) Discourses, Encheiridion (Handbook)
Tacitus (c. 55 - c. 117) Histories, Annals, Agricola, Germania
Nicomachus of Gerasa (c. 60 - c. 120) Introduction to Arithmetic
Ptolemy (fl. 100s) Almagest
Marcus Aurelius (121-80) Meditations
Lucian (c. 125 - ?) Works (esp. The Way To Write History, The True History, The Sale of Creeds)
Galen (c. 130 - c. 200) On the Natural Faculties
The New Testament
Plotinus (205-70) The Enneads
Doctrine, On Free Will, Letters 91 and 138)
The Song of Roland
The Nibelungenlied
The Saga of Burnt Njal
The Koran
Beowulf
Tales from the 1001 Nights
Al-Balādhuri (d. c. 892) The Origins of the Islamic State, Lineage of the Nobles
Alfarabi (c. 870-950) The Enumeration of the Sciences, The Political Regime, The Attainment of
Happiness, The Philosophy of Plato, Plato’s Laws
Murasaki Shikibu (c. 978 - c. 1014) The Tale of Genji
Avicenna (980-1037) Book of Healing, The Canon of Medicine
Anselm (1033?-1109) Proslogium
Omar Khayyam (1048-1131) Treatise on Demonstration of Problems of Algebra
from Error, The Aims of the Philosophers, The Incoherence of the Philosophers, Essentials, The
Just Mean in Belief, Counsel for Kings
Judah ha-Levi (c. 1075-1141) Book of the Khazar, Ode to Zion
Ibn Ṭufayl (1109/10 - 1185/86) Self-Taught Philosopher
Averroës (1126-98) General Medicine, Decisive Treatise on the Agreement between Religious Law
and Philosophy, Examination of the Methods of Proof concerning the Doctrines of Religion,
The Incoherence of the Incoherence, Commentary on Plato’s Republic, commentaries on
Aristotle’s works
Moses Maimonides (1135-1204) Guide of the Perplexed, Treatise on the Art of Logic, Letter on
Astrology
Thomas Aquinas (1225-74) On Kingship to the King of Cyprus, On the Truth of the Catholic Faith,
Commentary on the Nicomachean Ethics, Commentary on the Politics of Aristotle, Summa
Theologicae
Marsilius of Padua (c. 1275-1342) The Defender of the Peace
Petrarch (1304-74) Secretum, Canzoniere
Giovanni Boccaccio (1313-75) Decameron
Ibn Khaldûn (1332-1406) Introduction
Geoffrey Chaucer (c. 1340-1400) Works (esp. Troilus and Criseyde, Canterbury Tales)
Catherine of Siena (1347-80) The Dialogue
Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
Thomas à Kempis (c. 1380-1471) The Imitation of Christ
Sir Thomas Malory (fl. c. 1470) The Death of Arthur
Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519) Notebooks
Desiderius Erasmus (1466-1536) The Praise of Folly
Niccolò Machiavelli (1469-1527) The Prince, Discourses on the First Ten Books of Livy
Nicolaus Copernicus (1473-1543) On the Revolutions of the Heavenly Spheres
Ludovico Ariosto (1474-1533) Orlando Furioso
Baldassare Castiglione (1478-1529) The Courtier
Thomas More (1478-1535) Utopia
Martin Luther (1483-1546) Commentary on Psalm 101; Three Treatises; Secular Authority; Sincere
Admonition; Whether Soldiers, Too, Can Be Saved; Commentary on Galatians; Table-Talk
François Rabelais (c. 1490-1553) Gargantua and Pantagruel
John Calvin (1509-64) Institutes of the Christian Religion, Commentary on Romans, Commentary
on the Harmony of the Gospels
Teresa of Avila (1515-82) Autobiography
Michel de Montaigne (1533-92) Essays
François Viète (1540-1603) “Introduction to the Analytical Art”
John of the Cross (1542-91) Dark Night of the Soul
William Gilbert (1544-1603) On the Loadstone and Magnetic Bodies
Miguel de Cervantes (1547-1616) Don Quixote
Edmund Spenser (1552-99) Prothalamion, The Faerie Queene
Richard Hooker (1553-1600) The Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity
Francis Bacon (1561-1626) Advancement of Learning, Wisdom of the Ancients, History of the
Reign of Henry VII, New Atlantis, Novum Organum, Advertisement touching an Holy War, Of
the True Greatness of Britain, Essays (esp. 6,10,11,13,14,16,17,19,29,41,51,55,58)
Galileo Galilei (1564-1642) The Starry Messenger, Dialogues Concerning Two New Sciences
William Shakespeare (1564-1616) Works (esp. Richard II, Henry IV, Henry V, As You Like It,
Hamlet, Othello, King Lear, Macbeth, Coriolanus, The Tempest, Sonnets)
Johannes Kepler (1571-1630) Concerning the Harmonies of the World, Epitome of Copernican
Astronomy
John Donne (1572-1631) Poems (esp. Songs and Sonnets, Elegies, The Anniversary Poems)
Ben Jonson (1572-1637) Plays (esp. Volpone, The Alchemist, Bartholomew Fair, Sejanus), Poems
William Harvey (1578-1657) On the Motion of the Heart and Blood in Animals, On the Circulation
of the Blood, On the Generation of Animals
Hugo Grotius (1583-1645) The Law of War and Peace
Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679) Leviathan
René Descartes (1596-1650) Rules for the Direction of the Mind, The World, Discourse on Method,
Geometry, Meditations on First Philosophy, Objections against the Meditations and Replies
Tenure of Kings and Magistrates, A Second Defense of the People of England, The Ready and
Easy Way to Establish a Free Commonwealth, A Treatise of Civil Power in Ecclesiastical Causes,
Paradise Lost, Samson Agonistes, the minor poems)
François La Rochefoucauld (1613-80) Maximes
Jean La Fontaine (1621-95) Fables
Blaise Pascal (1623-62) Scientific treatises (esp. Generation of Conic Sections), The Provincial Letters, Pensees
Christian Huygens (1629-95) On the Movement of Bodies by Impact, Treatise on Light
Benedict Spinoza (1632-77) Ethics, Theologico-Political Treatise, Political Treatise, Letter 50
Jean Baptiste Racine (1639-99) Tragedies (esp. Andromache, Berenice, Phaedra)
Isaac Newton (1642-1727) Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy, Optics
Matsuo Basho (1644-94) The Narrow Road to the Deep North
Daniel Defoe (1660?-1731) Robinson Crusoe
William Congreve (1670-1729) The Way of the World
Shaftesbury (1671-1713) Characteristics
George Berkeley (1685-1753) Principles of Human Knowledge, Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous
Alexander Pope (1688-1744) Essay on Criticism, Rape of the Lock, Essay on Man
Montesquieu (1689-1755) Persian Letters, Considerations on the Greatness and Decline of the Romans, On the Spirit of the Laws
François Voltaire (1694-1778) Letters on the English, Candide, Philosophical Dictionary
Benjamin Franklin (1706-90) Autobiography
Henry Fielding (1707-54) Joseph Andrews, Tom Jones
Samuel Johnson (1709-84) The Vanity of Human Wishes, Dictionary, Rasselas, The Lives of the Poets (esp. the essays on Milton and Pope)
David Hume (1711-76) A Treatise of Human Nature; Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding; An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals; Essays, Moral, Political, and Literary
Denis Diderot (1713-84) Rameau's Nephew
Laurence Sterne (1713-68) Tristram Shandy, A Sentimental Journey through France and Italy
Tsao Chan (1715-63) Dream of the Red Chamber

Edmund Burke (1729-97) Tracts on the Popery Laws in Ireland, Thoughts on the Cause of the Present Discontents, Speech to the Electors of Bristol (3 November 1774), Speech on Conciliation with America, Letter to the Sheriffs of Bristol, Speech on Economical Reform, Speech on the Reform of the Representation of the Commons in Parliament (7 May 1782), Reflections on the Revolution in France, An Appeal from the New to the Old Whigs, Letter to Sir Hercules Langrishe (1792), Letter to a Noble Lord, Four Letters on a Regicide Peace

Edward Gibbon (1734-94) The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, Autobiography


James Boswell (1740-95) Journal (esp. London Journal); The Life of Samuel Johnson, Ll.D.

Antoine Laurent Lavoisier (1743-94) Elements of Chemistry

Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832) A Fragment on Government, An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation, Theory of Fictions, Deontology together with A Table of the Springs of Action and the Article on Utilitarianism

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832) The Sorrows of Young Werther, Faust, Poetry and Truth

Alexander Hamilton (1755-1804), James Madison (1751-1836), and John Jay (1745-1829) The Federalist Papers (together with the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the Constitution of the United States)


Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-97) A Vindication of the Rights of Woman, Maria

Jean Baptiste Joseph Fourier (1768-1830) Analytical Theory of Heat


William Wordsworth (1770-1850) Poems (esp. Lyrical Ballads, Lucy poems, sonnets, The Prelude)

Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834) Poems (esp. Kubla Khan, Rime of the Ancient Mariner), Biographia Literaria

James Mill (1773-1836) Essay on Government

Jane Austen (1775-1817) Pride and Prejudice, Emma

Karl von Clausewitz (1780-1831) On War


Byron (1788-1824) Don Juan

Arthur Schopenhauer (1788-1860) Studies in Pessimism

Michael Faraday (1791-1867) Chemical History of a Candle, Experimental Researches in Electricity

Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822) Collected Poems

Nikolay Ivanovich Lobachevsky (1793-1856) Theory of Parallels

Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881) The French Revolution; On Heroes, Hero-Worship, and the Heroic in History; The History of Friedrich II of Prussia, Called Frederick the Great

John Keats (1795-1821) Collected Poems
Charles Lyell (1797-1875) Principles of Geology
Mary Shelley (1797-1851) Frankenstein
Auguste Comte (1798-1857) The Positive Philosophy
Honoré de Balzac (1799-1850) Eugenie Grandet, Pere Goriot, Cousin Bette
Aleksandr Pushkin (1799-1837) Tales of Belkin
Victor Hugo (1802-85) The Hunchback of Notre Dame, Les Misérables, Selected Poems
Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-82) Journal, Essays, Representative Men
Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-64) The Scarlet Letter
Alexis de Tocqueville (1805-59) Democracy in America, The Old Regime and The French
      Revolution, The European Revolution and Correspondence with Gobineau, The Recollections
      of Alexis de Tocqueville
John Stuart Mill (1806-73) A System of Logic, Principles of Political Economy, On Liberty,
      Considerations on Representative Government, Utilitarianism, The Subjection of Women,
      Autobiography
Charles Darwin (1809-82) The Origin of Species, The Descent of Man, Autobiography
Nikolai Gogol (1809-52) Dead Souls
Abraham Lincoln (1809-65) Selected Speeches
Edgar Allan Poe (1809-49) The Murders in the Rue Morgue, The Raven
Charles Dickens (1812-70) Works (esp. Pickwick Papers, David Copperfield, Hard Times, Little
      Dorrit)
Claude Bernard (1813-78) Introduction to the Study of Experimental Medicine
Søren Kierkegaard (1813-55) Fear and Trembling, Philosophical Fragments
Charlotte Brontë (1816-55) Jane Eyre
Frederick Douglass (c. 1817-95) Autobiography, Collected Speeches
Henry David Thoreau (1817-62) Civil Disobedience, Walden
Emily Brontë (1818-48) Wuthering Heights, lyric poems
Karl Marx (1818-83) Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844, Theses on Feuerbach, The
      German Ideology, Capital, Manifesto of the Communist Party
Ivan Turgenev (1818-83) Fathers and Children
George Eliot (1819-80) Adam Bede, Middlemarch
Herman Melville (1819-91) Moby Dick, Benito Cereno, Billy Budd
Walt Whitman (1819-92) Leaves of Grass
Fyodor Dostoevsky (1821-81) Crime and Punishment, The Idiot, The Brothers Karamazov
Gustave Flaubert (1821-80) Madame Bovary, Three Stories
Gregor Johann Mendel (1822-84) Experiments in Plant Hybridization
           Builder)
Leo Tolstoy (1828-1910) War and Peace, Anna Karenina, What Is Art?, Twenty-three Tales
Emily Dickinson (1830-86) Poems
Mark Twain (1835-1910) The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, The Mysterious Stranger
Henry Adams (1838-1918) The Education of Henry Adams
Thomas Hardy (1840-1928) The Return of the Native, The Mayor of Casterbridge, Tess of the
      d’Urbervilles, Jude the Obscure
      Experience, Pragmatism, Essays in Radical Empiricism
Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900) The Birth of Tragedy, The Advantage and Disadvantage of History for Life, Thus Spoke Zarathustra, Beyond Good and Evil, The Genealogy of Morals
James Frazer (1854-1941) The Golden Bough
Jules Henri Poincaré (1854-1912) Science and Hypothesis, Science and Method
Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) The Picture of Dorian Gray, Lady Windermere’s Fan, The Importance of Being Earnest
Sigmund Freud (1856-1939) The Interpretation of Dreams, Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis, Civilization and Its Discontents, New Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis
George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950) Plays (and Prefaces) (esp. Caesar and Cleopatra, Man and Superman, Major Barbara, Pygmalion, Saint Joan)
Booker T. Washington (1856-1915) Selected Writings
Thorstein Veblen (1857-1929) The Theory of the Leisure Class
Henri Bergson (1859-1941) Time and Free Will, Matter and Memory, Creative Evolution, The Two Sources of Morality and Religion
Edmund Husserl (1859-1938) “Philosophy as Rigorous Science,” “Philosophy and the Crisis of European Man,” The Crisis of European Sciences and Transcendental Phenomenology
Mori Ogai (1862-1922) The Wild Goose
George Santayana (1863-1952) The Life of Reason, Skepticism and Animal Faith, Persons and Places
Max Weber (1864-1920) Essays in Sociology
William Butler Yeats (1865-1939) Collected Poems
Luigi Pirandello (1867-1936) Right You Are If You Think You Are, Six Characters in Search of an Author
Maksim Gorky (1868-1936) The Lower Depths, My Childhood, In the World, My Universities
Robert Andrews Millikan (1868-1953) The Electron
Nikolai Lenin (1870-1924) The State and Revolution
Marcel Proust (1871-1922) Remembrance of Things Past
Paul Valery (1871-1945) Poems
Johan Huizinga (1872-1945) The Waning of the Middle Ages
Willa Cather (1873-1947) My Antonia, A Lost Lady, Death Comes for the Archbishop
Robert Frost (1874-1963) Collected Poems
Thomas Mann (1875-1955) Buddenbrooks, Death in Venice, The Magic Mountain, Joseph and His Brothers
Godfrey H. Hardy (1877-1947) A Mathematician's Apology
Sir Muhammad Iqbal (1877-1938) The Song of Eternity and other poems, The Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam
Wallace Stevens (1879-1955) Collected Poems
Andrey Bely (1880-1934) St. Petersburg
Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Blok (1880-1921) The Scythians, The Twelve, other poems
Richard Tawney (1880-1962) The Acquisitive Society
Arthur Stanley Eddington (1882-1944) The Expanding Universe
James Joyce (1882-1941) “The Dead” in Dublinsers, Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, Ulysses
Virginia Woolf (1882-1941) To the Lighthouse
Khalil Gibran (1883-1931) Nymphs of the Valley; A Tear and a Smile; The Madman; The Forerunner; Spirits Rebellious; The Broken Wings; The Prophet; The Storms; The Procession; Sand and Foam; Jesus, Son of Man
D. H. Lawrence (1885-1930) The Prussian Officer
Ezra Pound (1885-1972) Collected Poems
Karl Barth (1886-1968) The Word of God and the Word of Man
Junichiro Tanizaki (1886-1965) The Makioka Sisters
Erwin Schrödinger (1887-1961) What is Life?
Georges Bernanos (1888-1948) The Diary of a Country Priest
T. S. Eliot (1888-1965) Collected Poems
Eugene O'Neill (1888-1953) Mourning Becomes Electra
Anna Akhmatova (1889-1966) Poem without a Hero
Arnold Toynbee (1889-1975) A Study of History, Civilization on Trial
Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889-1951) Philosophical Investigations
Boris Leonidovich Pasternak (1890-1960) Over the Barriers, My Sister Life, Doctor Zhivago
Ryunosuke Akutagawa (1892-1927) Rashomon
F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896-1940) The Great Gatsby
William Faulkner (1897-1962) The Sound and the Fury; A Rose for Emily; Go Down, Moses
Bertolt Brecht (1898-1956) Mother Courage and Her Children
Jorge Luis Borges (1899-1986) Fictions; The Aleph and Other Stories, 1933-69; Other Inquisitions, 1937-52; The Doer; The Book of Imaginary Beings; Dr. Brodie's Report; The Book of Sand
Hart Crane (1899-1932) The Bridge
Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961) The Short Happy Life of Macomber
Yasunari Kawabata (1899-1972) The Izu Dancer
Vladimir Nabokov (1899-1977) Lolita; Pale Fire; Speak, Memory
Theodosius Dobzhansky (1900-75) Genetics and the Origin of Species
Werner Karl Heisenberg (1901-76) The Physical Principles of the Quantum Theory, Physics and Philosophy
George Orwell (1903-50) Animal Farm
Evelyn Waugh (1903-66) Decline and Fall, A Handful of Dust
Jean Paul Sartre (1905-80) Nausea, Being and Nothingness, No Exit
Conrad Waddington (1905-75) The Nature of Life
Samuel Beckett (1906-89) Waiting for Godot
W. H. Auden (1907-73) Collected Poems
Claude Lévi-Strauss (1908-2009) Structural Anthropology
Albert Camus (1913-60) The Myth of Sisyphus, The Stranger, Caligula
Ralph Ellison (1914-94) Invisible Man
Walker Percy (1916-90) The Moviegoer, Love in the Ruins
Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn (1918-2008) The First Circle, Cancer Ward
Flannery O'Connor (1925-64) Selected Stories
Gabriel García Márquez (1928-2014) One Hundred Years of Solitude, Love in the Time of Cholera, The General in His Labyrinth
Chinua Achebe (1930-2013) Things Fall Apart
Derek Walcott (1930-2017) Omeros
Toni Morrison (1931- ) Beloved
Wole Soyinka (1934- ) A Dance of the Forests, The Strong Breed, The Road, Kongi’s Harvest
Seamus Heaney (1939-2013) Death of a Naturalist, Door into the Dark
J. M. Coetzee (1940- ) Life and Times of Michael K, Disgrace