

The Hellenion Exegete Program

The objective of our Exegetes program is to create a pool of members who are deeply knowledgeable on specific subjects (or deities) and willing to be community resources.

In antiquity, an *exegetēs* [ἐξηγητής, ex-eh-YEE-tees] was an advisor, an expounder, an interpreter, especially of oracles, dreams, or omens. And in Athens, the exegetes was an expert of sacred rites or customs such as modes of burial, expiation, and so on. They were “spiritual directors” (LSJ). In Hellenion, a Exegetes is someone who has become an expert on a carefully defined area or subject of Hellenic religious practice.

Examples of subjects that a student may pursue include:

- One of the Olympians, Chthonic deities, their cultus or worship
- Demi-immortals such as Nymphs, Satyrs, etc.
- The part certain social mores of ancient Greece played in the religious practices
- Divination
- Certain festivals
- History
- Poets or poetry
- Philosophers
- Arts
- Other

The choices are not limited to the ones listed above. The student can refine their area of study in consultation with an Education Committee member.

No matter what subject the learner chooses, the Exegetes program has certain requirements that are in line with an undergraduate final thesis. These requirements are in two parts:

Part One: Introductory Section

This section has three parts (100 points per section):

I. An outline stating what the student intends to accomplish.

II. An essay of 1,250 to 2,500 words, detailing what the student intends to study.

Both outline and essay should discuss what sections the work and research will have.

III. An annotated bibliography listing 5-10 primary sources and 6-12 secondary sources.

Annotations should describe how each source pertains to the project the student is considering.

Part Two: First Draft

The first draft should contain (100 points):

- I. A well-developed thesis statement.
- II. A properly formatted essay of approximately 3,000 to 3,750 words with correct citations.

Part Three: Final Draft

The final draft should contain (100 points):

- I. Cover page.
- II. Essay of 5,000 to 6,250 words.
- III. Annotated bibliography of all sources.

All written work should be in current MLA format, information about which is available at the Purdue OWL, [MLA Formatting and Style Guide – Purdue OWL® - Purdue University](#)

All submitted work must be in Times Roman font, 12 point, with 1.15 spacing, and pages must be numbered except Cover page and first page.

Writing should be at the post-secondary level and show clarity, correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation, and the proper use of terminology. Don't write like you talk. Don't waste words.

The Education Committee may request revisions before approving the submission.

Once the Education Committee accepts the final submission, the student may refer to themselves as Exegetes of _____ (area of study).

Evaluation of the submitted work

Students must earn at least 80 points of the 100 in each of the three parts. Failing to submit all requirements in a part will result in automatic 0.

Points will be deducted from the total available points in each part according to the following:

- **Spelling (maximum deduction 5):** One point off for each word misspelled (multiple instances of the same word only get one point off), to a **maximum of five**, using the Microsoft Word spell checker. You may use English or US spelling, but you must be consistent. This includes Greek words. Refer to LSJ or other classical Greek dictionary for spelling.
- **Grammar (maximum deduction 5):** One point for each type of grammatical error (multiple instances of the same error only get one point off), to a **maximum of five**,

using the grammar checker found in Microsoft Word. Examples of grammatical errors that will result in deductions include sentence fragments, lack of subject-verb agreement, lack of pronoun-antecedent agreement, incorrect adjective, and adverb usage, incorrect verb forms, and incorrect verb tense, mood, and voice (refer to the OWL [MLA Formatting and Style Guide – Purdue OWL® - Purdue University](#) for explanation of these if they are not familiar to you).

Weak grammar that is not actually considered as an error (i.e., passive voice) will be noted but receive no points off.

- **Format (maximum deduction 6):**
 - One point off if the submission does not include a heading with your name, the part, assignment, the subject (i.e., “Divination” or “Miasma” and the date submitted).
 - One point off if pages are not numbered (headers are optional).
 - One point off if one or more citations is missing or improperly formatted (refer to the OWL).
 - One point off if two or more references in bibliography are missing or improperly formatted (i.e., you refer to an author, web page, or book in the body of the paper but don’t include them in the references).
 - One point off if writing style is too conversational (but don’t go to the opposite extreme).
 - One point off if there are two or more mistakes in punctuation, capitalization, italicization, or sentence structure.
- **Sources (maximum deduction 20):** Sources should be (as much as possible) primary and unbiased with good logical arguments. Biased sources or those with poor logic can be used if the student demonstrates how the bias or poor logic does not affect their value as a source. Two points off for each source shown to be biased or illogical such that it affects their value as a source, or where the bias or illogic is unexplained by the student.
- **Plagiarism (maximum deduction 20):** You must acknowledge your borrowing of another writer’s ideas and language by documenting the source. Two points off for EACH instance of plagiarism—including unintentional plagiarism—to a maximum of **20 points**. Where an entire paper appears to be plagiarized, it will be rejected; a second instance of such plagiarism will result in a report to the Prutaneia and likely removal from the Exegetes program.
- **Logical Fallacies (maximum deduction 20):** Two points off for EACH instance of logical fallacy to a maximum of 20 points, including:
 - Hasty Generalization: Conclusion based on insufficient or unrepresented evidence.
 - Non Sequitur: A conclusion that does not follow logically from preceding statements or that is based on irrelevant data.
 - False Analogy: A false assumption that because two things are alike in one

- respect, they must be alike in others.
- Either/Or fallacy: the suggestion that only two alternatives exist when in fact there are more.
 - Faulty Cause-and-Effect Reasoning: false assumption that because one event follows another, the first causes the second.
 - Circular Reasoning and Begging the Question: Instead of supporting the conclusion with evidence and logic, the writer simply restates the conclusion in different language.
 - Appeals to Emotion: striving to win sympathy rather than our intelligent argument.
 - Others, as may be found on the OWL.
 - **Specific Evidence (maximum deduction 10):** Two points off for each statement of fact not supported by documentation, statistics, examples or expert opinion to a **maximum of 10 points.**
 - **Mistakes in reasoning (maximum deduction 10):** Two points off for each instance of inductive reasoning not supported by evidence or deductive reasoning not supported by a syllogism (major premise, minor premise, and conclusion) to a **maximum of 10 points.**
 - **Writing Style (maximum deduction 5)**
 - Point of View: The preferred form is third person, but the only requirement is that the point of view remains consistent throughout the paper. One point off if the point of view is not consistent.
 - Word Usage: One point off for each instance of wordy sentences, inappropriate language, or mistakes in exact word usage.
 - Paragraph construction: One point off for one or more paragraphs that lack focus.
 - One point off for one or more paragraphs that are poorly developed.
 - One point off for one or more paragraphs that lack coherence.
 - **Thoroughness (maximum deduction 10).** The final essay must cover the subject matter thoroughly. If obvious aspects of the subject matter are not covered, such as expected references or areas of knowledge about the subject that are expected, the grader may remove up to 10 points, two points for each instance.

The student will receive feedback and an evaluation score at the end of each section. If the evaluation is less than 80 points, the student may request the Prutaneia for re-evaluation after each part is evaluated.