



LATIN PROFICIENCY POLICY

DETERMINING LATIN PROFICIENCY

Suitable knowledge of Latin is an admissions requirement for all applicants/students in the Faculty of Theology who are seeking one of the ecclesiastical academic degrees: the Baccalaureate (S.T.B.) or its equivalent, the Licentiate (S.T.L.), or Doctorate (S.T.D.). In order to receive their respective degree, students are required to have provided the Dean's Office with appropriate, verifiable, and acceptable evidence of having achieved satisfactory proficiency in the Latin language, according to the prescripts of the Apostolic Constitution, *Veritatis Gaudium*.¹ "**Latin proficiency**" means that the student has learned the basic and yet complete Latin grammar and vocabulary for reading and understanding Latin. This level of proficiency affords students the competence (with the aid of a Latin dictionary) to translate liturgical/magisterial, philosophical, and theological texts. This proficiency, according to the European Curriculum Framework for Latin, is equivalent to reaching the A2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).² Amidst the variety of credits and credit hours found at other schools, universities, and institutes, the achievement of basic, yet complete Latin grammar normally demands a *minimum* (plus *typical*) range of credits and credit hours according to the following distribution:

	Credits ³	Credit Hours (in-classroom contact hours + outside-of-class homework/assignments)
U.S. High School / Secondary School⁴	2 – 4	240 – 480
Italian Liceo (Scientifico / Classico)⁵	---	600 – 1000
College / University (U.S. credits)⁶	6 – 8	270 – 360
College / University (ECTS)	8 – 16	200 – 400

Although it is the responsibility of the Dean's Office to evaluate and confirm Latin proficiency for every student entering our theology degree programs, ***the actual achievement of Latin proficiency remains the sole responsibility of the student***, given that the ancient languages and philosophical

¹ Proficiency in the Latin language must be proven, according to the prescripts of *VG*, Norms of Application, Part One: General Norms, Section IV, Article 26, §3, such that all Theology students must be able to "understand and use the sources of [the sacred] sciences, as well as the documents of the Church," which are written in the Latin language.

² The European Curriculum for Latin, as established by the European *Euroclassica* Association, has set forth the morphological and syntactical benchmarks for the A2 level of proficiency in the Latin language. The Association provides Latin (and Greek) proficiency exams (ELEX and EGEX) that are recognized across the European nations. For a detailed summary of these benchmarks, see

https://www.euroclassica.eu/fileadmin/DAM/Gegenstandsportale/Latein/Dateien/Euroclassica_documents/ECCL_Latin_Janua_end.pdf. For a summary of the levels of the CEFR, see <https://www.coe.int/en/web/common-european-framework-reference-languages/table-1-cefr-3.3-common-reference-levels-global-scale>.

³ Based on commonly found courses within the respective demographic.

⁴ Based on the standard 4-year U.S. High School model where **1 credit (or .5 credit/per semester) = 120 hours** (at a minimum).

⁵ Based on the standard 5-year Italian Liceo model from the Ministry of Education and Merit. **N.B.:** The Ministry does not provide detailed credit hour information, and so the credit hours indicated here are the calculated minimums, without considering out-of-classroom work.

⁶ Based on the standard Carnegie unit model where **1 credit = 45 hours**.

formation are understood as propaedeutic toward becoming an Ordinary¹ student in any of the ecclesiastical academic degree programs.

Latin proficiency may be proven in a number of ways; namely, by any one of the following possibilities:

(1) having successfully completed, *at a minimum*, the first four semesters of PUST's sequence of Latin courses (**Latin I-IV**); or

(2) **an official transcript (or formal letter)** from a university, high school, or private institute (religious or lay), which clearly demonstrates the above-stated level of proficiency. It should be noted that further documentation may be required in order to properly account for and demonstrate this proficiency (e.g., course descriptions, syllabi, and/or school authority attestations); or

(3) passing a **Proficiency Exam** administered or approved by the Faculty of Theology. For students electing to take a Proficiency Exam, arrangements must be made by and through the Dean's Office. Latin Proficiency Exams will generally be held four times per academic year, with exact dates posted at the beginning of each academic year:

- First Semester: September and January
- Second Semester: June and September

Should there be any doubt as to the student's actual proficiency in the Latin language, it belongs to the competence of the Dean of the Faculty of Theology to require further efforts on the part of the student to achieve basic Latin proficiency.

Regardless of the way in which it is demonstrated, if a student does not demonstrate Latin proficiency by the end of their program of studies, they will not be admitted to their *ad gradus* exam, and thus will not be able to complete their degree program.

¹ An "Ordinary" student is one who is eligible (qualified) to earn an academic degree.