

School of Philosophy  
The Catholic University of America  
Guidelines for Foreign Language Requirements

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1. Reading knowledge of foreign languages is indispensable for sound scholarship. The level of mastery should be such as to enable the student to read primary or secondary sources in those languages, particularly—although not exclusively—in view of his or her thesis or dissertation. Completing the foreign language requirements is a necessary, but not a sufficient condition for Ph.D. candidacy.

2. All students in the School of Philosophy's Ph.D. program must demonstrate reading proficiency in two foreign languages relevant to their dissertation research— normally, any two of French, German, Latin and Ancient Greek. With advance approval from the faculty, other languages may be counted toward this requirement.

Students who pursue the Ph.D. with a view to obtaining an ecclesiastical doctorate should consult the current Graduate Announcements in the sections that outline the language requirements for the Ph.B., Ph.L., and ecclesiastical Ph.D. They may also wish to consult the relevant sections of the Apostolic Constitution *Veritatis gaudium*.

3. There are several ways of proving competency in these languages:

- a) Passing an exam administered by the School of Philosophy;
- b) Successfully completing courses as approved by the Language Committee;
- c) Receiving a certification approved by the Language Committee (Goethe Institute, Institute Français etc., with a score of C1 or higher);
- d) In exceptional cases, providing other clear proof of proficiency, as approved by the student's Dissertation Committee in consultation with the Language Committee;

Passing the Translation Exams set by our Foreign Language Committee in the School of Philosophy remains the standard way for proving proficiency in German, French (and possibly other modern languages), yet in the case of Greek and Latin the recommended path is that Ph.D. students demonstrate proficiency by taking the classes listed below and offered by the Department of Greek and Latin at CUA. Each class must be passed with a B+ or higher to count towards fulfilling the Foreign Language requirement. Exceptions will be made for students who come into the program already having mastery of Greek or Latin, in which case the student's Dissertation Committee in consultation with the Language Committee will have to certify that the language proficiency has been demonstrated in some other way listed above.

Elementary level (2 courses):

- GR 505 + GR 506 (= GR 101 + GR 102, taken during the regular academic year)  
Or GR 509 (intensive, live online, taken during the summer)

Intermediate level (1 course):

- GR 507 (= GR 103, taken during the regular academic year, offered fall semester only)  
Or GR 516 (intensive, live online, taken during the summer)

Elementary level (2 courses):

- LAT 501 + LAT 502 (= LAT 101 + LAT 102, taken during the regular academic year)  
Or LAT 509 (intensive, live online, taken during the summer)

Intermediate level (1 course):

- LAT 507 (= LAT 103, taken during the regular academic year, offered fall semester only)  
Or LAT 516 (intensive, live online, taken during the summer)

In short, reading competency in Greek or Latin can be established by taking and completing GR507 (=GR 103)/GR 516 or LAT 507 (=LAT103)/LAT 516 offered by the university's Department of Greek and Latin with a grade of B+ or better, *or* by passing a translation exam set by the same Department to establish competency at that level.

Students who have taken Greek or Latin courses elsewhere should consult with the Language Committee. In every case, however, it is finally up to the student's proposed Dissertation Committee to decide what counts as a sufficient competence in Greek or Latin to complete the dissertation project proposed by the student.

4. Ph.D. students will have to prove proficiency in one language by the end of coursework, and in a second language by the time of submitting their PhD dissertation proposal to be approved by the Faculty.

5. Students are normally allowed up to three attempts at the School of Philosophy examination in a given language. Students who have signed up for an exam may withdraw without consequence at any time prior to it. If the student arrives at the place of the examination, looks at the exam, and then leaves without completing it, this will count as a failed attempt.