

Placing Your Student in Latin & Latin Sequence Overview
Wittenberg Academy
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Introduction

One of the most frequently asked questions we receive at Wittenberg Academy is: *My child has had X number of lessons in this or that Latin book. What Latin class should he start with at Wittenberg Academy?*

First of all, here is the overall plan for Latin at Wittenberg Academy.

For interested elementary aged students (2nd grade reading level and up) we offer **Elementary Latin I and Elementary Latin II**.

Students in the middle school years and up should begin with **Latin I** and proceed through **Latin II-IV** and on into **Latin Readings** according to ability and interest on their own time table.

All of our courses are delivered through online video lessons which follow textbooks that have proven very effective for our students. We also offer live chat sessions and individual instruction as needed through chat, phone, and email. Each course is one trimester (12 weeks) in length. One of the excellent features of Wittenberg Academy's Latin program is that students are welcome to spread one course over two trimesters for a small "continuation fee" - this especially allows for younger students to start on high school level Latin (**Latin I-IV**) earlier and move through the courses in a comfortable manner.

Elementary Latin Courses

These courses are designed as a gentle, enjoyable introduction to Latin for elementary students. Most of our students in these courses are in 2nd, 3rd or 4th grade, though many have been younger. Students of average to above average ability in the 5th grade and above should skip Elementary Latin and move into the normal Latin I-IV sequence, keeping in mind the option to spread a class over two terms.

Latin I-IV Sequence

Our courses labeled **Latin I-IV** cover the basic grammar and vocabulary of the classical Latin language – all the material covered in the standard college textbook *Wheelock's Latin*, which is meant for two semesters of intensive work. The textbook we use for our courses, *First Year Latin*, is actually a textbook for young high school students from the turn of the 20th century and was meant to be studied intensively over the course of one academic year. We spread this year of intensive work over 4 trimesters to take the pace down from "intensive" to "normal." The lessons are short and therefore more manageable than more recent texts like *Wheelock* or *Henle*. It also includes much more vocabulary than the various offerings from Memoria Press.

High school aged students and high achievers in the middle school and junior high years should have no problem moving through each of these classes in the course of one 12-week term. However I advise younger students, or those who simply wish to move more slowly, to spread each course over two 12-week terms in accordance with Wittenberg Academy's "continuation fee" policy.

Latin Readings

At the successful conclusion of Latin IV students are ready to begin reading unabridged classical Latin. The first offering in Latin Readings is Book I of Caesar's *De Bello Gallico*. From there, students can arrange readings courses according to their interest: Virgil, Lucretius, Cicero, Augustus, Livy, Christian literature, etc.

So where does my experienced student belong?

If you are coming into Wittenberg Academy with some Latin work already accomplished with *Henle*, *Wheelock*, or Memoria Press I would advise you to take a mathematical approach: what percentage of the whole course has your student finished? There are 40 chapters, for example, in *Wheelock* – if your student has finished 20 of them, he may be ready for Latin III. But then again, since every book takes its own order, maybe you should start him in Latin II.

And here is where the wonderful flexibility of Wittenberg Academy again benefits our students: there is no need to

fear being overcharged. Simply start your student in Latin II, or even Latin I, and let him begin taking tests. If he is breezing through the quizzes in Latin I, we'll just switch him into Latin II midterm without any extra cost, and then on to Latin III if he finds those quizzes too easy, etc. During that first term, we just want students to find their level without worry.

Sample Courses of Study for Students without Previous Latin Experience

Since our whole philosophy is based on flexibility and meeting individual student needs, your student's course of study is up to you. But here are a few examples of how studying Latin at Wittenberg Academy might look for students beginning at different ages.

For the average elementary student:

3rd Grade: Elementary Latin I spread over the Christmas and Easter terms

4th Grade: Elementary Latin II spread over the Michaelmas and Christmas terms. Self-review during Easter term.

5th Grade: Latin I spread over 3 terms.

6th Grade: Latin II spread over Michaelmas and Christmas terms along with National Latin Exam Prep Course; Latin III begun in Easter term.

7th Grade: Latin III continued in Michaelmas term; Latin IV spread over Christmas and Easter terms plus National Latin Exam Prep Courses.

8th Grade: Begin Latin Readings and continue National Latin Prep Courses.

For the average middle school student:

Begin at 5th grade level above.

For average high school student:

Freshman Year: Latin I and II (use three terms for these two courses plus National Latin Exam Prep Course)

Sophomore Year: Latin III and IV (use three terms for these two courses plus National Latin Exam Prep Course)

Junior & Senior Years: Different Latin Readings course each trimester concurrent with National Latin Exam Prep Courses.

For students of exceptional ability, simply accelerate the time table or start at a younger age.

National Latin Exam

We also offer special test preparation courses for the National Latin Exam at each level of accomplishment. See nle.org for more information. The first of these test preparation courses is meant to be taken concurrently with Latin II or between Latin I and Latin II.