

**MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF PLOVDIV
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND SPECIALISED
TRAINING**

SYLLABUS

in

Latin Language

FOR

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS,
PREPARATORY COURSE,
MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMME**

Approved by the Department Board with Protocol No.4/28.02.25

Training course	Examinations	Auditorium			Sem. I	Sem. II
		Total	L	S		
Latin language	Sem.II	60 hrs	46 hrs	14 hrs	✓	✓

1. Name of the discipline

Latin Language

2. Type of discipline

A theoretical discipline aimed at developing initial linguistic and terminological competence required for subsequent training in the specialties Medicine, Dental Medicine, and Pharmacy.

3. Aim of the course

The course in *Latin Language* aims to introduce trainees to the foundations of Latin and to the principles of medical terminology by developing basic knowledge and skills for the recognition, understanding, and correct use of Latin and Latinized terms in an academic and professional context. Such an aim corresponds to the requirement that the discipline should support the subsequent educational process and be aligned with its place in the training of the learners.

4. Main objectives

The course has the following main objectives:

- to acquaint trainees with the Latin alphabet, pronunciation, stress, and the main grammatical categories;
- to introduce the basic grammatical minimum required for understanding elementary Latin word combinations and medical terms;
- to develop skills for recognizing frequently used Latin, Greek, and hybrid termino-elements;
- to develop initial skills for reading, interpreting, and forming anatomical, clinical, and general medical terms;
- to prepare trainees for subsequent study of specialized medical terminology;
- to demonstrate the place of Latin as the foundation of modern medical nomenclature.

5. Expected learning outcomes

At the end of the course, trainees should:

- know the Latin alphabet and the basic rules of pronunciation, quantity, and stress;
- recognize the main grammatical categories: gender, number, and case;
- know the basic declensional patterns of nouns and adjectives;
- be able to read and translate elementary anatomical and general medical word combinations;
- understand the structure of basic terms formed with Latin and Greek elements;
- use confidently the most common word-forming elements in medical terminology;

- be able to form complex clinical terms and infer the meaning of unfamiliar words from their structure;
- show initial orientation in the Latin terminology used in medical literature. These outcomes are consistent with the model syllabus, which emphasizes the grammatical minimum, the creation and decoding of terms, and the connection with other medical disciplines.

6. Prerequisites

No prior study of Latin is required. General language culture, willingness for systematic study of terminology, and an interest in medical vocabulary are necessary.

7. Forms of instruction

The course is implemented through:

- lectures;
- practical exercises;
- independent study;
- ongoing assessment.

This is consistent with the academic standard model, according to which the content should be arranged chronologically and the practical sessions should build on the material already studied.

ANOTATION

The course in **Latin Language** is intended for trainees enrolled in the Preparatory Course at the Department of Languages and Specialised Training, Medical University – Plovdiv. It is designed to provide students with fundamental knowledge of Latin phonetics, grammar, and basic lexical structures, with a particular emphasis on the role of Latin in medical and academic terminology. The course serves as an introductory linguistic foundation for future studies in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and other biomedical fields.

The teaching content is focused on the acquisition of essential grammatical categories and language patterns necessary for understanding and interpreting simple Latin forms and expressions used in medical terminology. Special attention is given to the structure of anatomical, clinical, and pharmaceutical terms, as well as to the most common Latin and Greek term-forming elements that appear in contemporary medical vocabulary. Through this approach, trainees develop the ability to recognize, analyze, interpret, and correctly use specialized terminology in an academic context.

The course also aims to familiarize students with the historical and contemporary significance of Latin as the traditional language of medicine and as a unifying basis of international scientific nomenclature. By combining theoretical instruction with practical exercise, the discipline supports the development of terminological competence, analytical thinking, and language awareness, which are essential for successful further education in the medical sciences.

8. COURSE CONTENT

A. LECTURE PROGRAMME - 45 academic hours

Lecture 1 - 2 h.

Introduction to Latin and its place in medicine.

Latin as the language of science and the medical tradition. Latin and Greek as the basis of medical terminology.

Lecture 2 - 2 h.

Latin alphabet. Pronunciation. Quantity and stress.

Basic phonetic rules. Classical and traditional pronunciation.

Lecture 3 - 2 h.

Grammatical categories of the noun.

Gender, number, case. General information about declensions.

Lecture 4 - 2 h.

First declension of nouns. First Greek declension.

Basic patterns. Medical terms from the first declension.

Lecture 5 - 2 h.

Second declension of nouns. Second Greek declension.

Masculine and neuter gender. Terms from anatomical nomenclature.

Lecture 6 - 2 h.

Adjectives of the first and second declensions.

Principles of agreement. Agreed and non-agreed attribute.

Lecture 7 - 6 h.

Third declension of nouns.

1. Consonant declension. Specific features. - 2 h.

2. Vowel declension. Specific features. - 2 h.

3. Mixed declension. Specific features. - 2 h.

Lecture 8 - 2 h.

Adjectives of the third declension.

Lecture 9 - 2 h.

Degrees of comparison.

Lecture 10 - 2 h.

Fourth declension.

Basic commonly used terms.

Lecture 11 - 2 h.

Fifth declension.

Basic commonly used terms.

Lecture 12 - 4 h.

Word formation. Greek termino-elements in medical terminology.

1. Ways of forming complex clinical terms. Greek roots, suffixes, and prefixes. Termino-elements corresponding to nouns of the first and second Latin declensions. - 2 h.

2. Termino-elements corresponding to nouns of the third, fourth, and fifth Latin declensions. - 2 h.

Lecture 13 - 2 h.

Use of prepositions in medical terminology.

Lecture 14 - 2 h.

Anatomical terminology.

Names of organs, systems, body parts, and spatial and orientational adjectives.

Lecture 15 - 2 h.

Clinical terminology.

Basic patterns for naming diseases, symptoms, pathological conditions, and procedures.

Lecture 16 - 4 h.

General information about the prescription. Basic concepts and structure of the prescription.

Chemical and botanical nomenclature.

Lecture 17 - 4 h.

Terminologia Anatomica.

History and development. The role of terminological standardization. The international character of medical vocabulary.

Lecture 22 - 2 h.

Summary and systematization.

Review of the main grammatical and terminological core topics.

Lecture 23 - 1 h.

Preparation for the final examination.

Guidelines and sample models for the analysis and translation of terms.

B. PRACTICAL EXERCISE PROGRAMME - 15 academic hours**Exercise 1 - 2 h.**

Alphabet, pronunciation, stress. Reading Latin words and terms.

Exercise 2 - 2 h.

First and second declension. Exercises with basic anatomical terms.

Exercise 3 - 4 h.

Third declension. Work with frequently used medical terms.

Exercise 4 - 2 h.

Adjectives and agreement. Forming anatomical word combinations.

Exercise 5 - 2 h.

Greek and Latin termino-elements. Analysis and interpretation of complex terms.

Exercise 7 - 2 h.

Anatomical and clinical terminology. Practice in translation and term formation.

Exercise 8 - 1 h.

Summary, solving sample tasks, and preparation for the final test.

9. Teaching methods

- lecture-based presentation;
- multimedia presentations;
- morphological and word-formation analysis;
- translation exercises;
- test tasks;
- individual and team assignments.

10. Material resources

- equipped classroom;
- multimedia projector/screen;
- presentations and teaching materials;
- electronic platform for learning resources;
- terminological dictionaries and charts;
- prepared tests and exercises.

11. Tests and ongoing assessment

Ongoing assessment is carried out at least twice during the course in accordance with the general requirements of the academic standard. The following may be included:

- a first ongoing test on first- and second-declension nouns and adjectives and the related clinical terminology;
- a second ongoing test on third-declension nouns and adjectives and the related clinical terminology;
- an ongoing grade based on practical exercises, individual assignments, and class participation. The academic standard requires at least two assessments during the semester and their inclusion in the final grade.

12. Independent study

Independent study includes:

- learning the required terminological minimum;
- independent work;
- translation of simple terms and word combinations;
- analysis of termino-elements;
- preparation for the ongoing tests;

- work with recommended learning materials and online resources.

13. Cooperation between trainees and the instructor

This includes consultations, individual feedback, guidance toward self-study resources, and support for trainees experiencing difficulties in mastering the grammatical and terminological minimum.

14. Form of assessment

Final written examination, which may include:

- recognition and explanation of termino-elements;
- declension of basic forms;
- agreement between noun and adjective;
- translation of anatomical terms from Latin into Bulgarian;
- translation and formation of complex clinical terms from Bulgarian into Latin;

15. Formation of the final grade

Final grade = 0.20 from ongoing assessment + 0.80 from the final written examination

where:

- 0.20 includes the results from ongoing tests, practical exercises, and independent assignments;
- 0.80 is the grade from the final written examination.

16. Recommended bibliography

Oprova, Ya., Mirchev, D. *Liber de medicis*. A Latin language textbook for students of medicine and dental medicine.

Milanov, R., Mirchev, D. *Latin Language*. A textbook for medical specialties.

Ikonomova, I. *Latin Language and Medical Terminology for Students of Medicine and Dental Medicine*.

Amudzhieva, N. *Terminologia Latina medicinalis*.

Oprova, Y. *Repetitorium Latinum*.

Charts, dictionaries, and exercises prepared by the instructor.

17. Sample electronic resources

Perseus Latin Grammar;

Online dictionaries and medical terminological exercises;

resources uploaded to the university platform.