

MEDICAL UNIVERSITY – PLOVDIV
FACULTY OF PHARMACY

SYLLABUS
IN
MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY

Approved by the Department Council on June 18th, 2026/Protocol №4

Confirmed by the Faculty Council on July 15th 2026/Protocol № 7

Syllabus

Discipline	Final exam/ semester	According to the Faculty of Pharmacy curriculum of MU-Plovdiv Academic hours				ECTS	Academic hours in semester			
		Aauditorium	Lectures	Seminars	Non-auditorium		I semester		II semester	
							L	S	L	S
Medical terminology	II	30	-	30	30	2.0	-	2	-	2
		30	-	30	30	2.0				

DISCIPLINE:

Medical Terminology

TYPE OF DISCIPLINE ACCORDING TO THE UNIFORM STATE REQUIREMENTS:

Compulsory.

LEVEL OF QUALIFICATION:

Master of Pharmacy /MPharm/.

FORMS OF TRAINING:

Seminars, homework assignments.

YEAR OF TRAINING:

First year.

DURATION OF TRAINING:

Two semesters.

ACADEMIC HOURS:

60 academic hours of seminars.

TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT APPLIED IN THE TRAINING:

Interactive white board, language laboratory, electronic learning platform.

FORMS OF EVALUATION:

Homework assignments, tests (current and semester tests), oral examinations, final written exam.

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

1. **Assessment of the final written exam** – 50 % of the final assessment;
2. Continuous assessment and individual assignments; - average of 2 written examinations (tests) for year (one for each semester) form together 40 % of the assessment (20 % the first semester test and 20 % the second semester test);
3. Assessment of oral examinations at seminars, ongoing inspections and presentation – complementary to the final assessment – 10 %.

ASPECTS OF EVALUATION CRITERIA:

Testing, active participation at seminars, individual assignments.

SEMESTER EXAM:

Exam in the second semester.

STATE EXAM:

None.

LECTURER:

Master's and/or PhD degree.

DEPARTMENT:

Department of Languages and Specialised Training, Foreign Languages Section.

ANNOTATION

The subject *Medical Terminology*, which is part of the pharmacy students' curriculum at the Medical University of Plovdiv, introduces students to specialized terminology. It provides the necessary knowledge of Latin grammar, as well as terms in the field of pharmacology, pharmacognosy, pharmaceutical botany, chemistry, technology of medicinal products, etc. The syllabus includes terms from anatomy, clinic, pathology as a stand-alone use and in the context of medicinal product names. The course examines the legal framework for prescribing drugs as a general content and with an emphasis on parts of the prescription in Latin. Students get acquainted with the current content of the European Pharmacopoeia.

The terminology training builds in students the ability to translate prescriptions from Latin into English and vice versa, to know the Latin names of plants according to their scientific classification in botany, to use correctly the names of medicinal products, to understand the names of chemical elements and compounds, to learn the term elements of Greek origin so that they can independently translate compound terms and construct them.

BASIC AIMS OF THE DISCIPLINE

- Acquisition of knowledge concerning nouns, adjectives and participles in Latin and their use in terminology.
- Acquisition of knowledge concerning the verb in Latin and the use of verbal forms in prescriptions.
- Acquisition of terms in the field of anatomy, pharmacology, pharmacognosy, pharmaceutical botany and pathology.
- Acquisition of skills in translating terminological word combinations and short sentences from Latin into English and *vice versa*.
- Knowledge of the word formation elements of Greek origin, acquisition of skills in constructing compound terms based on them, as well as explaining them.
- Acquisition of skills in reading and writing prescriptions.
- Acquisition of skills in understanding drug names.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The course in *Medical Terminology* provides students with a grammatical and lexical minimum helping them later to study specialised disciplines in the senior years of their studies, as well as use fluently the terms associated with their special subject. At the end of the course of studies, they should have acquired the following skills:

- knowledge of the basics of Latin grammar, translation and construction of terms.
- knowledge of the lexis needed in studying pharmacology, pharmacognosy, pharmaceutical technology, technology of drug products, etc.
- knowledge of the requirements in writing prescriptions; parts of the prescription.
- reading and understanding prescriptions.
- writing prescriptions.
- knowledge of the basics of European Pharmacopoeia and the current Bulgarian legislation in the field of medications.
- knowledge of the Latin and Ancient Greek prefixes, suffixes and roots.
- independent construction of compound terms based on Latin and Ancient Greek elements of medical terms.

SEMINARS

SEMINAR SYLLABUS

№	Topic	Hours	Date
1.	Introduction to the course in Latin and Pharmaceutical Terminology. History of pharmaceutical and medical terminology. Alphabet and pronunciation.	2 ч.	
2.	Review of the phonetic, orthographic, and pronunciation features of Latin. Use of terms of Ancient Greek origin in Latin	2 ч.	
3.	Verb. Present Indicative Active and Passive (Indicativus praesentis activi et passivi) of the verbs from the four conjugations.	2 ч.	
4.	Present Imperative Active (Imperativus praesentis activi). Use of the verb in prescription writing. Use of adverbs in prescription writing.	2 ч.	
5.	Nouns and adjectives. Categories of nouns and adjectives in Latin: gender, number, and case. Use of cases and case endings. Declensions of nouns and adjectives. First Latin declension of nouns. First-declension adjectives. Use of adjectives as specific names of plants (<i>Mentha piperita</i>) and as modifiers of pharmaceutical dosage forms (<i>capsula gelatinosa</i> , <i>tinctura composita</i>). Agreement of adjectives with nouns in gender, number, and case. First Greek declension of nouns. Use of prepositions with the Accusative and Ablative in prescriptions and diagnoses.	2 ч.	
6.	Pharmacognostic and botanical terms of the first declension. Terms of Ancient Greek origin in Latin pharmaceutical and medical terminology. Methods of formation. Transliteration from Ancient Greek into Latin. Ancient Greek terms corresponding to first-declension Latin nouns.	2 ч.	
7.	Second Latin declension of nouns. Second Greek declension of nouns. Second-declension adjectives.	2 ч.	

	Ancient Greek terms corresponding to second-declension Latin nouns. Names of drugs, plants, and oxides in the second declension.		
8.	First- and second-declension adjectives. Past Passive Participle. Future Passive Participle. Concordant and non-concordant attributes. Names of drug groups according to their mode of action.	2ч.	
9	Written test on verbs, first- and second-declension nouns and adjectives, and terms of Ancient Greek origin.	2ч.	
10	Third-declension nouns: general characteristics and classification by groups. Third consonant-declension nouns. Nouns of Ancient Greek origin (Third Greek Declension). Comparative adjectives indicating spatial position, formed with the suffixes -ior and -ius. Names of salts according to the third consonant declension..	2ч.	
11.	Exercises on third consonant-declension nouns and adjectives.	2ч.	
12.	Third vocal declension of nouns. Nouns of Ancient Greek origin (Third Greek Declension).	2ч.	
13.	Third mixed declension of nouns. Ancient Greek terms corresponding to third mixed-declension Latin nouns.	2ч.	
14.	Third-declension adjectives. Present Active Participle. Use of the Present Active Participle in the names of drug groups and in the specific names of plants.	2ч.	

15.	Review of first-, second-, and third-declension nouns and adjectives. Practice exercises.	2ч.	
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TOTAL: 30 ч.

Seminar syllabus

Year I, semester II

№	TOPIC	HOURS	DATE
16.	Review of verbs, nouns, adjectives, and participles. Degrees of comparison of adjectives. Use of the comparative and superlative degrees in the specific names of plants, in pharmacology, and in clinical terminology.	2 ч.	
17.	Fourth declension nouns. Ancient Greek terms corresponding to fourth-declension nouns in Latin.	2ч.	
18	Fifth declension nouns. Ancient Greek terms corresponding to fifth-declension nouns in Latin.	2 ч.	
19	Numerals. Latin and Greek combining forms with numerical meanings and their use in the names of plants and chemical compounds. Review of all declensions.	2 ч.	

20	Test on third-declension nouns, adjectives, and participles.	2 ч.	
21	Prescription Writing (Medical Prescriptions) Prescription writing. Definition of a prescription. Parts of a prescription. Types of prescriptions. Specific features of the electronic prescription (e-prescription) in Bulgaria. International codes and Latin equivalents of digital prescription elements. Current legislation in the Republic of Bulgaria concerning medicinal products and the rules for prescribing them. European Pharmacopoeia: structure, contents, and the procedure for the implementation of new editions in the Republic of Bulgaria. Medicinal Products in Human Medicine Act. Ordinance No. 4 of 2009 of the Ministry of Health. 1. Prescription Components • Latin and Bulgarian names of the parts of a prescription • Order and contents of the prescription sections • Introduction to the legal framework established by Ordinance No. 4 of 2009 of the Ministry of Health	2 ч.	
22	Names of medicinal products. Definition of a medicinal product. Types of medicinal product names. Classification of drugs according to their mechanism of action.	2 ч.	
23	Chemical nomenclature (names of chemical elements and compounds).	2 ч.	

24	Botanical nomenclature (plant taxonomy and scientific names). Terms used in pharmacognosy. Names of medicinal plants and herbal medicinal products in the European Pharmacopoeia.	2ч.	
25	Solid dosage forms I. Powders, tablets, dragees. II. Capsules, granules, pills, herbal mixtures. Sample prescriptions.	2ч.	
26	Liquid dosage forms for oral and external use Solutions, mixtures, emulsions, suspensions. Liquid dosage forms prepared as hot aqueous extracts of herbal drugs (infusions/decoctions). Sample prescriptions.	2ч.	
27	Injectable dosage forms Preparations for parenteral administration. Sample prescriptions.	2ч.	
28	Semi-solid dosage forms. Gaseous dosage forms. Sample prescriptions.	2ч.	
29	Review of verbs, nouns, adjectives, and participles as grammatical categories. Review of prescription writing, drug nomenclature, and terminology from botany and pharmacognosy. Review of terms of Ancient Greek origin.	2ч.	

30	Preparation for the final written examination. Exercise types: explanation of tasks and practical examples.	2ч.	
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SEMINAR № 1 – 2 hrs

Introduction into the course. History of pharmaceutical and medicine terminology. Alphabet and pronunciation.

1. Latin Language and Pharmacy.
2. History and development of pharmaceutical and medical terminology.
3. Alphabet and pronunciation.

SEMINAR № 2 – 2 hrs

Summary of the phonetic, orthographic and orthoepic peculiarities of the Latin language.

1. Classification of sounds:
 - a) vowels and diphthongs;
 - b) consonants;
 - c) letter combinations and digraphs.
2. Vowel quantity and accent.
3. Exercises.

SEMINAR № 3 – 2 hrs

The verb. Indicative mood, active and passive voice – *Indicativus praesentis activi et passivi* of the verbs from the four conjugations.

1. Grammatical categories
2. Personal endings of verbs.
3. Exercises. Translation of verbs from Latin into English and vice versa. Conjugation of verbs. Formation of forms according to the person and the number of the verb.

SEMINAR № 4 – 2 hrs

Imperative mood, active voice – *Imperativus praesentis activi*. Use of verbs in prescription. Use of adverbs in prescription.

1. Grammatical categories
2. Personal verb-endings.
3. Exercises. Translation of verbs from Latin into English and from English into Latin. Conjugation of verbs. Formation of forms according to the person and the number of the verb.

SEMINAR № 5 – 2 hrs

Nouns. Categories of nouns: gender, number, case. Use of cases, case endings. Declension of

nouns. First Latin declension of nouns. First Greek declension of nouns. Use of preposition with Accusative and Ablative

1. Definition and endings.
2. Suffixes of the first declension.
3. Prepositions.
4. Translation exercises.

Exercises for translation from Latin to English and from English to Latin. Exercises on the declension of nouns, the formation of forms for different cases, the determination of the case and the number of nouns.

SEMINAR № 6 – 2 hrs

Terms of the First declension in botany and pharmacognosy. Terms from the ancient Greek language in pharmaceutical and medical terminology in Latin. Word formation. Transcription from ancient Greek into Latin. Terms from the ancient Greek language corresponding to the First Latin declension nouns.

1. Scientific names of plants in botany. Binominal principle.
2. Translation exercises of botany and pharmacognosy terms.
3. Exercises on compound terms of ancient Greek origin: explanation of the content of terms, construction of compound terms.

SEMINAR № 7 – 2 hrs

Second Latin declension of nouns. Second Greek declension of nouns. Word formation – Greek elements corresponding to the second Latin declension nouns.

1. Definition and endings.
2. Second declension suffixes.
3. Formation of compound terms from ancient Greek corresponding to the second Latin declension nouns.
4. Translation of names of drugs, plants, oxides, etc. from Latin to English and from English to Latin.

SEMINAR № 8 – 2 hrs

First and second declension adjectives. Past participle. Future passive participle. Agreed and non-agreed attribute. Names of drugs according to their action.

1. Definition and case endings.
2. First and second declension suffixes of adjectives.
3. Particularities and use of agreed and non-agreed attribute. Translation exercises on agreed and non-agreed attribute.
4. Translation exercises on past and future passive participle.
5. Use of adjectives in the names of groups of drugs. Translation exercises.

SEMINAR № 9 – 2 hrs

Written examination (test) of the verb, nouns and adjectives of the first and second declension, terms of ancient Greek origin.

SEMINAR № 10 – 2 hrs

Third declension nouns – general characteristic and particularities by groups. Third consonant

declension nouns. Nouns of ancient Greek origin (III Greek declension). Location adjectives, formed with suffixes -ior and -ius. Names of salts of third consonant declension formed with suffixes -as, -atis; -is, itis.

1. Definition and case endings.
2. Stems of third consonant declension nouns. Exercises to determine the stem, to form Nominative plural or other case. Writing in Latin the complete declension of third consonant declension nouns. Agreement of third consonant declension nouns with first and second declension adjectives.
3. Use of the names of the salts of the third consonant declension, formed with the suffixes -as, -atis; -is, itis in prescriptions. Translation exercises.
4. Translation exercises of location adjectives, formed with suffixes -ior and -ius.

SEMINAR № 11 – 2 hrs

Exercises on third consonant declension nouns and adjectives.

SEMINAR № 12 – 2 hrs

Third vocal declension nouns. Nouns of ancient Greek origin (III Greek declension).

1. Definition and case endings.
2. Translation exercises of word combinations with feminine and neuter nouns of third vocal declension.
3. Word formation. Translation exercises of Greek terms.

SEMINAR № 13 – 2 hrs

Third mixed declension nouns. Terms of ancient Greek language corresponding to third mixed declension nouns in Latin.

1. Definition and case endings.
2. Suffixes of third mixed declension.
3. Translation exercises of word combinations with masculine, feminine and neuter nouns of third mixed declension.
4. Translation exercises of Greek terms corresponding to third mixed declension nouns.
5. Exercises on botany terms of third declension.

SEMINAR № 14 – 2 hrs

Third declension adjectives. Present Participle.

Use of present participle in the names of group of drugs and in species names of plants.

1. Definition, case endings and suffixes of third declension adjectives.
2. Translation exercises of word combinations including third declension adjectives.
3. Use of third declension adjectives in species names of plants – meaning according to the suffixes they are formed with. Exercises on species names of plants.
4. Exercises on formation of the Present Participle.
5. Translation exercises on names of group of drugs including the Present Participle.

SEMINAR № 15 – 2 hrs

Revision of first, second and third declension nouns and adjectives. Exercises.

SEMINAR № 16 – 2 hrs

Revision of verb, nouns, adjectives, participles. Degrees of comparison of adjectives.
Use of degrees of comparison in species names of plants, in pharmacology and clinic.

1. Translation exercises of word combinations.
2. Suffixes forming comparatives and superlatives.
3. Irregular degrees of comparison.
4. Degrees formed by prepositions.
5. Exercises on degrees of comparison in species names of plants.
6. Translation exercises on comparatives and superlatives in pharmacology and clinic.

SEMINAR № 17 – 2 hrs

Written examination (test) on first, second and third declension nouns, adjectives, participles.

SEMINAR № 18 – 2 hrs

Fourth declension nouns. Terms of ancient Greek language corresponding to fourth declension nouns in Latin.

1. Definition and case endings of fourth declension nouns.
2. Translation exercises on names of drugs.
3. Fourth declension plant names. Exercises on their use in prescriptions.
4. Exercises on explanation and word formation of Greek terms corresponding to fourth declension nouns.

SEMINAR № 19 – 2 hrs

Fifth declension nouns. Terms of ancient Greek language corresponding to fifth declension nouns in Latin. Revision of declensions.

1. Definition and endings.
2. Use of the noun *species* in singular and plural – differences in meaning.
3. Exercises on explanation and word formation of Greek terms corresponding to fifth declension nouns.

SEMINAR № 20 – 2 hrs

Numerals.

1. Cardinal numerals.
2. Ordinal numerals.
3. Numeral adverbs.
4. Latin and Greek prefixes with numeral meaning and their use in terminology.
5. Exercises on numerals and prefixes with numeral meaning.

SEMINAR № 21 – 2 hrs

Types of prescriptions. Current legislation in the Republic of Bulgaria regarding medicinal products and the methods for their prescription. European pharmacopoeia.

1. Content of the parts of prescription.
2. Sentences and expressions in Latin used in prescriptions. (with abbreviations and as a whole sentence).
3. Characteristics of magistral formula and officinal formula.
4. Questions about prescription.

5. Translation exercises of prescriptions from English into Latin.
6. Translation exercises of prescription expressions from Latin into English and vice versa.

SEMINAR № 22 – 2 hrs

Names of drugs. Definition for drug product. Types of names of the drug products. Classification of drugs into groups according to their mode of action.

1. Questions about drug names and their legal regulation.
2. Translation exercises on pharmacopoeial names from Latin into English and vice versa.
3. Translation exercises on drug names, sample prescriptions.

SEMINAR № 23 – 2 hrs

Chemical nomenclature (names of chemical elements and compounds). Acids, oxides, salts. Examples in prescriptions.

1. Translation exercises on names of chemical elements and compounds.
2. Exercises for transformation of the names of chemical elements and compounds in prescription.
3. Translation exercises on prescriptions.

SEMINAR № 24 – 2 hrs

Botanical nomenclature. Plant systematics. Generic (genus) name. Specific name (epithet). Pharmacognosy terms. Names of plants and herbal products in the European Pharmacopoeia.

1. Names of plants in scientific classification.
2. Meanings of Latin names of plants.
3. Names of plants and herbal products in the European Pharmacopoeia. Word order rules. Translation exercises

SEMINAR № 25 – 2 hrs

Solid dosage forms – I. Powders, tablets, dragées (sugar-coated pills/capsules).

II. Capsules, granules, pilules, mixtures. Prescription examples.

1. Names of solid dosage forms in Latin.
2. Translation exercises of prescription examples.

SEMINAR № 26 – 2 hrs

Liquid dosage forms for peroral and external administration. Solution, mixture, emulsion, suspension. Prescription examples.

Liquid dosage forms obtained as aqueous infusions of dried plant materials. Prescription examples.

1. Names of liquid dosage forms for peroral and external administration in Latin.
2. Translation exercises of prescription examples.

SEMINAR № 27 – 2 hrs

Injectable liquid dosage forms. Preparations for parenteral administration.

Prescription examples.

1. Names of injectable liquid dosage forms and of preparations for parenteral administration in Latin.
2. Translation exercises of prescription examples.

SEMINAR № 28 – 2 hrs

Semi-solid dosage forms. Inhalational dosage forms. Prescription examples.

1. Names of semi-solid dosage forms in Latin.
2. Translation exercises of prescription examples.

SEMINAR № 29 – 2 hrs

Revision of verbs, nouns and adjectives, participles as grammatical features. Revision of prescription, of names of drugs, of botany and pharmacognosy terms. Revision of terms of Greek origin.

SEMINAR № 30 – 2 hrs

Training for the final written exam.

Types of exercises – explanations of the tasks and practice.

Sources

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2. Bennet, Reginald R. Medical and Pharmaceutical Latin for Students of Medicine and Pharmacy. London, 194.
2. Caroli Linnaei Species plantarum. <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/20771/20771-h/20771-h.htm>
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4. Howe, George, Ph. D. Latin for Pharmasists.
https://archive.org/stream/latinforpharmaci00howeuoft/latinforpharmaci00howeuoft_djvu.txt
5. Muldoon, Hugh C. Pn.G. Lessons in Pharmaceutical Latin.
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6. Nova terminologia medica polyglotta et eponymica, P. G. Arnaudova, Sofia, 2003.

LIST OF EXAMINATION TOPICS

1. Verb. Indicativus praesentis activi et passive – Present Indicative, active and passive. Imperativus praesentis active – Present Imperative, active.
2. First declension nouns.
3. Second declension nouns.
4. First and second declension adjectives.
5. Perfect passive participle.
6. Future passive participle.
7. Third declension nouns. Consonant stems.
8. Third declension nouns. I-stems.
9. Third declension nouns. Mixed stems.
10. Third vocal declension adjectives.
11. Present active participle.
12. Degrees of comparison of the adjectives.
13. Declension of the nouns of ancient Greek origin in Latin.
14. Fourth declension nouns.
15. Fifth declension nouns.
16. Numerals.
17. Prepositions.
18. Prescription writing. Parts of the prescription. Pharmacopoeia.
19. Chemical nomenclature (chemical elements and compounds)
20. Botanical nomenclature.
21. Pharmacognosy terms.
22. Terms of ancient Greek origin in Latin and pharmaceutical and medical terminology.

Approved by:

Assoc. prof. Dimitar Mirchev, PhD

Director of DLST