

## Guidelines for Latin Placement

Rather than administering a placement exam, the Macalester Classics department prefers to place students into our Latin program on the basis on either the number of years they have studied Latin previously, or their performance on an Advanced Placement Latin exam. The guidelines for these are listed below. Recognizing that successful placement in the Latin program depends on several factors that are not perfectly determined in this way, however, we also invite students with experience in Latin who may be interested in pursuing the language further while at Macalester to meet with a professor during the first week of classes. If there are further questions, please contact Professor Severy-Hoven at 651-696-6721 or [severy@macalester.edu](mailto:severy@macalester.edu).

Latin Program Primer: Every fall, we offer the first semester of elementary (Classics 111) and the first semester of intermediate (Classics 231: Prose). Every spring, we offer the second semester of elementary (Classics 212) and the second semester of intermediate (Classics 332: Poetry). Every other year we offer advanced Latin (Classics 483). Contact the department for further information on these advanced options.

### Placement Based on Course Experience

For those who have not taken an AP exam, students with **two years of high school Latin or less** are strongly encouraged to begin again with the first semester of elementary. Some material will be review, but review is good, and is far superior to feeling lost. Students with **three years of high school Latin** may consider entering at the second semester of elementary, which usually begins with participles and the subjunctive mood. (Note, however, that the first semester is offered only in the fall, the second only in the spring; therefore, if you discover that the second semester is too hard, you'll have to wait until the following fall to take up Latin.) Students with **more than three years** experience may enroll in the first semester of intermediate to find out if this level is appropriate, but many may find that they prefer to drop back into the second semester of elementary in the spring.

### Placement Based on Advanced Placement Exam

College credit is obtainable only through one of the two Latin AP exams. For a score of **4 or 5**, a student earns credit for a course equivalent to the first semester of intermediate Latin. In order to fulfill the college language requirement, students need to take the second semester of intermediate in the spring. If they would like some grammatical review and have not read much prose, however, students are strongly encouraged to enroll in the first semester of intermediate in the fall.

Students who earn a **3** receive credit for a course equivalent to the second semester of elementary Latin. They should enroll in the first semester of intermediate (Latin 231: Prose). They will be able to complete the college language requirement by taking one year of intermediate Latin.

Students who earn **below a 3** should begin again with Classics 111.

We look forward to seeing you around the Classics department!