

Loyola University Chicago
Department of Theology
Guidelines for Fulfilling Ph.D. Language Requirements

For Ph.D. students specializing in Integrative Studies in Ethics and Theology:

Before you matriculate as a Ph.D. student, you must have a reading proficiency in one of the following modern languages: French, German, Italian or Spanish. By the end of the summer following your second year at Loyola you must have a reading proficiency in one of the other modern languages: French, German, Italian or Spanish. Example: if you know German before you begin your Ph.D. courses, you must learn to read French, Italian or Spanish by the end of the summer following your second year at Loyola. (In some cases the Graduate Program Director may approve the substitution of another language for one of the four listed above, if the area of one's proposed dissertation necessitates this.) For recognized ways by which to verify your reading competency, see the general statement below.

For Ph.D. students specializing in New Testament and Early Christianity:

Before you matriculate as a Ph.D. student, you must have a reading proficiency in classical (Attic or Koine) Greek and one of the following modern languages: French, German, Italian, or Spanish. By the end of the summer following your second year at Loyola, you must achieve reading competency in German (if not already done) or in one of the other modern languages: French, Italian or Spanish. Of the two modern languages you learn, one of them must be German. By the end of that same summer, you must also demonstrate your reading proficiency in either biblical Hebrew or Latin. For recognized ways by which to verify your reading competency, see the general statement below.

General Statement regarding Language Proficiency for all Ph.D. students:

Before you matriculate, you must verify your reading proficiency in accordance with the requirements of your area of specialization. (See above.)

For French, German, Spanish, and Italian provide documentation showing that you have done ONE of the following: (1) taken for credit one semester of a reading course for graduate students at Loyola (such as Loyola's French course 369 or German 369) or at another university within five years prior to your acceptance into our Ph.D. program and received a grade of at least a "B;" or (2) taken four semesters (or their equivalent under a quarter system) of the language at the undergraduate level within (5) years prior to your acceptance into our Ph.D. program and received a grade of "B" or better, each semester; or (3) passed a written exam administered by Loyola that involves a translation (with a dictionary) of a theological text. Prior to taking your comprehensive exams, you must prove your reading proficiency in a second modern language through one of the three options listed in this paragraph. (NB: For Italian, option (1) is unavailable at Loyola.)

For classical Greek submit documentation showing that you have either: (1) taken four semesters of classical (Koine or Attic) Greek at Loyola or at another university within five (5) years prior to acceptance into our Ph.D. program and passed each semester with a grade of at least “B” or better; or (2) passed a written examination offered and graded by the Theology Department. Regardless of how students document their reading knowledge of Greek, the New Testament and Early Christianity section will administer to all incoming doctoral students (usually by mid-August) a diagnostic exam of their Koine and/or Attic Greek to be used for advising, not admission purposes.

For Latin submit documentation showing that you have either: (1) taken two semesters of Latin at Loyola (such as Loyola courses #131 and #132) within five years prior to your acceptance into our Ph.D. program; or (2) passed a written examination offered and graded by the Theology Department; or (3) taken two semesters (or their equivalent under a quarter system) of Latin at the undergraduate level at another university within five years prior to your acceptance into our Ph.D. program and received a grade of “B” or better each semester.

For biblical Hebrew, you may prove your reading competency by submitting documentation showing that you have either: (1) taken the equivalent of two semesters of biblical Hebrew at Loyola (such as Loyola’s courses #308/406 and #309/407) within five years prior to your acceptance into our Ph.D. program and received a grade of “B” or better for each semester; or (2) passed a written examination offered and graded by the Theology Department.

Modern Language Exams:

If an incoming student has a reading proficiency in one of the required modern languages, and wishes to document that proficiency via testing, (s)he may do so in one of three ways. (1) (S)he may sit for the Graduate School sponsored exam administered by Loyola’s Modern Languages Department in the semester prior to his/her matriculation. Please see the Graduate School calendar in the university’s Schedule of Classes for scheduling information about these exams. Generally, the Modern Languages Department of Loyola University Chicago offers French, German, Italian and Spanish reading exams in the fall (November) and spring (March) semesters but not in the summer sessions. (2) (S)he may ask the Graduate Program Director if the Theology Department can administer the exam in early August. A fee of \$50.00 must be paid by the student prior to sitting for this exam to the department for this testing service. (3) (S)he may petition the G.P.D. for permission to enroll, begin coursework and then sit for the appropriate modern language exam as scheduled by Loyola’s Modern Languages Department during his/her first semester. Please see the Graduate School calendar in the university’s Schedule of Classes for scheduling information about these exams. Should the student fail to pass that exam, the student may not be allowed to register for further course work until his/her proficiency in at least one of the required modern language has been properly documented.

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