

SAGE ADVICE FOR NEW STUDENTS FROM COLLEGE LATIN AND GREEK PROFESSORS:



1. Please seek help when you do not understand a concept -- do not, repeat, **do not** assume you can figure it out yourself.
2. When you study, make sure you do so in a space with minimal distractions. Do not try to listen to emotionally engaging music, watch TV, monitor Facebook, Twitter or talk on the telephone when you are studying.
3. Make a commitment from day #1 to come on time, to be prepared for each class, and to turn in assignments on time. Those who do this rarely do poorly.
4. Do not try to avoid memorization. **Embrace it.** It does get easier.
5. When you study, do not simply read the textbook. Engage in forms of study which encourage you to process information and make it your own --for example, doing translation. Find forms of study which can give you immediate feedback about how well you are learning a concept.
6. Try always to not just memorize information, but to understand why a bit of information is important and how it ties into the greater task. Try to make connections. Always synthesize as well as memorize.
7. Review/reread what was covered in class - if possible, right after class.
8. Learning a language without a good command of vocabulary is like digging a ditch without a shovel.
9. Over study rather than understudy.
10. Make repeated returns to the material, even in tiny, abbreviated forms.
11. Do more than you are asked.
12. Do not skimp on your study each day and expect to be where you should be by the end of the course.
13. If you want to stop early, go on further than your original stopping time. Be realistic about what you can achieve in a given amount of time.
14. Be realistic about how much you will retain in proportion to the time you have spent on the material.
15. Know what fluency is, how hard it is to attain, and when you are really on your way towards it.
16. Learn from your mistakes.
17. Learn from the mistakes of others. Imitate the successes of others.
18. Learn how to teach yourself.
19. Consider the time factor and try for immediacy. (Retrieving a meaning only after fifteen or thirty seconds is not fast enough.)
Fall in love with the labor. (Labor and love conquer all.) Do it until you like it.
20. Fall in love with the content.
21. Find the springs of motivation in the bigger picture (as it speaks to you and your ideals).
22. Read and re-read appropriate leveled passages. If you are using Wheelock, for example, read and re-read *several times* (not just the amount required for a translation) the extended passages that begin to appear a few chapters into the book. And start trying to read the passages in the back of that book a month or two after you start the course, even if they are not assigned.
23. Set a goal to ask or answer questions at least once in every class.
24. Short frequent bursts are much better for memorization than long sessions.
25. Try writing a story in Latin starting from week one. It's okay if it's 'emerging' Latin. You are practicing accessing what you know in a different way and building better brain bridges to a bunch of bits and bytes.
26. The very first week, lay out your ideal week calendar in 15-minute segments, seven days. Block out the times you plan to do focused study for each course you are taking. Keep that commitment like you keep the commitment to go to your job or to class.
27. REPETITIO MATER MEMORIAE
28. Use this mnemonic device: MEAT: Memorize Everything All the Time

