

CU-01

THE 52-WEEK CURRICULUM

Four terms, fifty-two weeks — every book in the school, assigned.

Curriculum & Assessment · Team Alpha Trading

The 52-Week Alpha Curriculum

Welcome to the full Alpha Academy school year. This document turns the library into a schedule: what to read, what to practice, and what evidence proves you are ready to move on. A **term** is a 13-week block of study. A **pass mark** is the standard you must meet before the next week counts. It is evidence — a score, a completed calculation, or a clean journal entry — not a feeling that the material seemed familiar.

You will use only the Academy library: Level 1 (**AA**), the Practice Pack (**PP**), Level 2 (**AA2**), Level 3 (**AA3**), and Worked Examples (**EX**). Keep **AA-24** open whenever a word is new in Term 1, and keep **AA-25** beside your practice work. From Term 2 onward, use **AA2-20** as the expanded dictionary.

> **NOTE**
> This is an education plan, not financial advice. Complete the year in a paper account — an account that simulates trades without real money. Passing a week never means a real trade is safe or likely to make money.

How Each Week Works

Plan on about **five to seven hours per week**. If your schedule is smaller, split a curriculum week across two calendar weeks; do not skip the pass mark.

- **Three study blocks (45–60 minutes each):** Read the assigned material once for the story, then again for the numbers. Write down every term you cannot define out loud and look it up before the block ends. Finish each module's **Check Yourself** questions without looking at the answers.
- **Two practice blocks (60–90 minutes each):** Do the assigned workbook, example, or paper-trading work. Show calculations step by step. For an **EX** document, cover **What Happened** and **The Lesson** until you have calculated the result yourself.
- **One review block (30–45 minutes):** Mark every error, write why it happened, and redo the missed item. Record the week's score and unfinished items in **PP-07**. Use the review pages in **PP-08** at the end of each week.

A module is not complete when the last page is read. It is complete when you can explain the idea, do its math, and recognize the common mistake without help. If you miss a pass mark, repeat the practice — not necessarily the whole week — and test again.

Your Study Kit and Curriculum Record

Before Week 1, set up four simple records. They can be paper pages, printed Practice Pack pages, or digital copies, but keep them together so your evidence is easy to inspect.

- **Reading log:** Write the date, document code, pages or sections finished, and three ideas you can now explain. A check mark alone is not a useful record; the three explanations show whether reading turned into understanding.
- **Calculation sheet:** Keep the work for every premium, breakeven, position-size, futures-dollar, payoff, and expectancy problem. Write the formula first, substitute the numbers second, and label the answer in dollars, points, ticks, shares, or contracts. Most “math mistakes” are really unit mistakes.
- **Error log:** Record the question or trade, what you did, what should have happened, and the document code that teaches the correction. Review this log at the start of each review block. A repeated error

becomes the next week's first assignment.

- **Evidence folder:** Save completed workbook pages, challenge logs, score sheets, plan versions, and Board Week journals. At graduation, this folder — not your memory of having read the library — is what demonstrates completion.

Use the same order every time you study: read, close the document, explain, calculate, check, and record the miss. This feels slower than highlighting pages, but it is the difference between recognizing an answer when you see it and producing the answer when a decision depends on it.

When Life Interrupts the Calendar

Missing days does not break the curriculum. Missing evidence does. If you stop for a week, return to the last week whose pass mark was fully met; do not restart the whole term unless your records show that the earlier work was never tested. If you have forgotten vocabulary but still pass the calculations, review **PP-12** or **AA-24** for two short blocks and retest. If you can define the words but cannot do the work, repeat the practice block instead.

Never compress three curriculum weeks into one weekend to “catch up.” The spacing is part of the design: it gives you time to forget a little, retrieve the idea, correct the error, and discover whether the skill stayed with you. A slower year with complete records is worth more than a fast pass through every PDF.

Term 1 — Foundations (Weeks 1–13)

Term 1 builds the language of the whole market. You will move from what a stock is to orders, charts, analysis, options, futures, other markets, risk, psychology, planning, accounts, and safety. The Practice Pack workbooks are not optional extras: they are where reading becomes skill.

Week	Read	Practice	Pass Mark
1	AA-00, AA-01, AA-02	PP-01, AA-01 and AA-02 sections; set up a paper-trading section in PP-07	Explain what a market, exchange, index, and share are without notes; score at least 4/5 on each module's Check Yourself after review
2	AA-03, AA-06	PP-01, AA-03 and AA-06 sections	Define ticker, market cap, dividend, split, bid, ask, and spread out loud; complete the workbook calculations and correct every miss
3	AA-04, AA-05	PP-01, AA-04 and AA-05 sections; use PP-13 while labeling candle parts	Choose the right order type in each workbook scenario; label open, high, low, close, body, and wicks without help

Week	Read	Practice	Pass Mark
4	AA-07, AA-08	PP-02, AA-07 and AA-08 sections; use PP-14 as the pattern reference	Identify trend, support, resistance, breakout, and failed breakout in the workbook cases; explain why a pattern is not a guarantee
5	AA-09, AA-10	PP-02, AA-09 and AA-10 sections	Read the workbook's company figures, identify what an earnings report can change, and connect an interest-rate, inflation, jobs, or earnings event to a market scenario
6	AA-11, AA-12	PP-03, AA-11 and AA-12 sections	For practice contracts, calculate premium cost, breakeven, and maximum loss; state how delta, theta, and implied volatility would help or hurt each position
7	AA-13, AA-14	PP-03, AA-13 and AA-14 sections; use PP-15 while checking each structure	Build payoff tables for the assigned strategies; state maximum gain, maximum loss, and breakeven before checking the answers
8	AA-15, AA-16	PP-04, AA-15 and AA-16 sections	Convert points and ticks into dollars for ES, MES, NQ, MNQ, GC, and CL; explain margin and contract rollover; distinguish an ETF from a mutual fund
9	AA-17, AA-18	PP-04, AA-17 and AA-18 sections	Complete the currency, bond-yield, rate, and commodity scenarios; name one specific danger in each market before checking the key

Week	Read	Practice	Pass Mark
10	AA-19, AA-20	PP-05, AA-19 and AA-20 sections; post PP-16 where you study	Use the position-size formula correctly on every drill; identify the emotion or bias in each psychology scenario and write the planned response
11	AA-21, AA-22	PP-05, AA-21 and AA-22 sections; draft your plan in PP-06 and start PP-07	Produce a one-page paper-trading plan with market, hours, maximum risk, stop rule, and review time; explain margin, settlement, pattern-day-trader, and wash-sale basics in your own words
12	AA-23	PP-05, AA-23 section; finish PP-06; set daily and weekly checklists from PP-08	Spot every planted scam or safety failure in the workbook scenarios; your plan and journal are ready to use, with no blank risk fields
13	AA-24, AA-25	Redo only the missed sections from PP-01 through PP-05; complete a full weekly review in PP-08	Find and define 25 assigned glossary terms without a search shortcut; every workbook miss has been corrected and explained; score at least 4/5 on a self-selected Check Yourself set from five different modules

Term 2 — The Market Underneath (Weeks 14–26)

Term 2 asks what is happening behind the price: displayed orders, completed trades, market-wide participation, volatility, advanced structures, account-wide exposure, systems, long-term investing, retirement accounts, taxes, and history. The flashcards in **PP-12** become a weekly habit. Notice that **PP-12 has no X section**; the schedule follows the sections that exist. The Level 1 Final Exam is deliberately placed at the end of this term, after spaced review has had time to work.

Week	Read	Practice	Pass Mark
14	AA2-00, AA2-01, AA2-02	PP-12, Part 1 and Part 2, letters A–B; annotate three paper-session charts in PP-07	Explain the difference between a displayed order and a completed trade; define at least 90% of the A–B terms on the second attempt
15	AA2-03, AA2-04	PP-12, letters C–D; build a one-page market dashboard in PP-07 from the gauges taught this week	Interpret aggressive buying or selling, breadth, TICK, and put/call evidence without treating any one gauge as proof
16	AA2-05, AA2-06	PP-12, letters E–F; work EX-02, Examples 1–5, calculating each result before reading the lesson	Calculate an expected move from implied volatility; explain IV crush and why being right about direction can still lose money
17	AA2-07, AA2-08	PP-12, letters G–H; make payoff tables for one calendar, one diagonal, and one butterfly from the modules	State each structure's maximum loss from its terms; identify the undefined-risk danger described in AA2-08 without notes
18	AA2-09, AA2-10	PP-12, letters I–J; work EX-04, Examples 1–4	Add a small practice portfolio's directional exposure on paper; convert every futures result in EX-04 by both points and ticks, with no dollar errors
19	AA2-11, AA2-12	PP-12, letters K–L; work EX-03, Examples 1–3	Write an opening plan and a swing plan that include invalidation, overnight risk, and a reason to take no trade
20	AA2-13	PP-12, letters M–N; create a simple rules log in PP-07 and test the module's expectancy examples by hand	Calculate expectancy from a win rate, average win, and average loss; explain overfitting and why a pretty test result is not proof

Week	Read	Practice	Pass Mark
21	AA2-14, AA2-15	PP-12, letters O–P; mark a practice chart with the environment, flip, and wall concepts from the readings	Explain positive and negative gamma environments in plain English; state what a level cannot tell you and what other evidence you would require
22	AA2-16, AA2-17	PP-12, letters Q–R; add a long-term section to PP-06 that is separate from the trading plan	Build a sample allocation, state the job of each holding, and explain account-type and employer-match basics without inventing a current contribution limit
23	AA2-18, AA2-19	PP-12, letters S–T; make a timeline of the three case studies and list the risk failure in each	Distinguish the tax topics at the education level taught; name the shared lesson across 2008, 2020, and the GameStop episode without blaming one cause for everything
24	AA2-20; review AA2-02, AA2-03, AA2-04	PP-12, letters U–V; work EX-01, Examples 1–5 before reading each lesson	Define at least 90% of U–V terms on the second attempt; calculate every EX-01 position size and loss correctly
25	AA2-20; review AA2-05 through AA2-15 weak spots	PP-12, letters W, Y, and Z; work EX-06, Examples 1–3; complete a term review in PP-08	Show the same trade under the disaster rules and Academy rules; every number matches the answer you calculated before reading the lesson
26	AA-24, AA-25 for final Level 1 review	Take PP-10 closed-book; grade only afterward with PP-11; redo the Level 1 workbook section named for every miss	Score at least 80% on PP-10; write the module to re-study beside every wrong answer; no uncorrected errors remain in PP-07

Term 3 — Choose Your Arena (Weeks 27–39)

Choose **one** Level 3 track and stay with it. **Track A** is 0DTE options: **AA3-01 through AA3-05**, matched with **EX-03**. **Track B** is futures day trading: **AA3-06 through AA3-10**, matched with **EX-04**. **Track C** is swing and position trading: **AA3-11 through AA3-15**, matched with **EX-05**. In the table, "Track Module 1" means AA3-01, AA3-06, or AA3-11, according to your track; the same pattern applies to Modules 2–5. Everyone also works **EX-06**, because risk disasters are not arena-specific.

The **PP-09** 30-Trade Paper Challenge begins after you study your track's risk module. A trade counts only when it follows the setup and plan you wrote in advance. Never invent a trade just to reach a number. If too few valid chances appear, carry the remaining count forward; a blank or "no trade" journal entry is better practice than a forced trade.

Week	Read	Practice	Pass Mark
27	AA3-00; Track Module 1: AA3-01, AA3-06, or AA3-11	Work EX-06, Example 1; write your arena choice and its main risk in PP-06	Name one arena only; explain its defining risk and why the other two tracks are parked until this one is finished
28	Track Module 2: AA3-02, AA3-07, or AA3-12	Work the first matched example: EX-03 Example 1, EX-04 Examples 1–2, or EX-05 Example 1; begin PP-09, Step 1	Reproduce the structure, opening-range, or position-building math without the document open; your draft challenge setup has entry, exit, invalidation, and maximum risk fields completed
29	Track Module 3: AA3-03, AA3-08, or AA3-13	Work EX-03 Example 2, EX-04 Example 3, or EX-05 Example 2; finish PP-09, Step 1	Explain the timing, day-type, or options-structure choice in the example; your challenge plan states when you will not trade
30	Track Module 4: AA3-04, AA3-09, or AA3-14	Work EX-03 Example 3, EX-04 Example 4, or EX-05 Example 3; read all of PP-09's Rules, R, and Plan Grade sections	Calculate risk before outcome for every assigned example; write a daily or per-trade loss limit and the exact action you will take when it is reached
31	Track Module 5: AA3-05, AA3-10, or AA3-15	Start PP-09, Trades 1–10; target Trades 1–3 only if valid setups occur; log each trade or no-trade decision in PP-07	Every taken trade has a prewritten plan, size calculation, stop or invalidation, exit, and Plan Grade; no trade is justified after the fact

Week	Read	Practice	Pass Mark
32	Re-read Track Modules 1–2	Work EX-06, Example 2; target PP-09 Trades 4–7; complete PP-09, Week 1 Check-In if the first log block is under way	Your journal shows the same process on winning and losing trades; identify one repeated execution error and the correction you will test next
33	Re-read Track Module 3	Work EX-06, Example 3; target PP-09 Trades 8–10 and finish the Trades 1–10 log block	Recalculate each futures, options, or share position from entry to exit; no unexplained dollar amount appears in the log
34	Re-read Track Module 4	Start PP-09, Trades 11–20; target Trades 11–14; complete PP-09, Week 2 Check-In	Risk stayed inside the written cap on every trade; any rule break is marked as a rule break, even if the trade made simulated money
35	Re-read Track Module 5	Target PP-09 Trades 15–17; redo the matched EX document's hardest example without reading its lesson first	Your routine can be followed from the page by another student; your recalculated example matches the document's result
36	Review your two weakest track modules, chosen from your journal evidence	Target PP-09 Trades 18–20 and finish the Trades 11–20 log block; complete a weekly review in PP-08	Name the weakness with journal evidence, not mood; show the re-study questions answered at 4/5 or better
37	Review AA-19 and AA-20	Start PP-09, Trades 21–30; target Trades 21–24; complete PP-09, Week 3 Check-In	Your maximum planned risk, actual simulated loss, and R result agree across PP-07 and PP-09; emotional triggers are recorded before they repeat
38	Review AA2-13 and your track's risk module	Target PP-09 Trades 25–27; audit a sample of five journal entries against PP-06	Compute the challenge expectancy so far from wins, losses, and R; state whether the sample is too small to prove an edge — it is

Week	Read	Practice	Pass Mark
39	Review your track's playbook or routine module: AA3-05, AA3-10, or AA3-15	Target PP-09 Trades 28–30; complete PP-09, Week 4 Check-In and Final Scorecard, or carry the exact remaining count into Week 40	Present 30 fully logged trades or an exact carry-forward list; the scorecard grades rule-following separately from simulated profit and loss

Term 4 — Mastery and the Board (Weeks 40–52)

Term 4 gives you two honest choices. Take the **Depth Route** if you want to master the arena you chose in Term 3. Take the **Second-Track Route** if your first track is complete and you deliberately want a second arena. Do not drift between them. “Next Track Module” below means the next unfinished module in a track you have not completed: AA3-01 through AA3-05, AA3-06 through AA3-10, or AA3-11 through AA3-15. On the Depth Route, replace it with a closed-book re-study of the same-numbered module from your first track.

The **Board** is Alpha Academy's final review process. It is not a license, a job qualification, or proof that real-money trading will be profitable. It tests whether your plan, calculations, journal, and behavior agree with one another under review.

Week	Read	Practice	Pass Mark
40	AA3-00; Next Track Module 1 or Depth Review 1	Finish any PP-09 trades carried from Week 39; complete a full plan audit in PP-08	Choose Depth or Second Track in writing; every carried trade is completed or formally closed as unfilled in the journal
41	Next Track Module 2 or Depth Review 2	Work the newly matched EX example set: EX-03, EX-04, or EX-05; finish PP-09 Final Scorecard if it is still open	Explain the new or repeated arena's core structure and calculate its example results without notes
42	Next Track Module 3 or Depth Review 3	Redo the matched EX document from Week 41, this time writing your answer before each lesson	At least 90% of calculations match on the first attempt; every remaining miss is traced to the module that teaches it

Week	Read	Practice	Pass Mark
43	Next Track Module 4 or Depth Review 4	Take the five Check Yourself questions from each track module studied so far, closed-book; audit total open risk on a practice portfolio	Score at least 90% across the self-test; state the action required when planned risk exceeds your written cap
44	Next Track Module 5 or Depth Review 5	Produce the final version of your plan in PP-06; set PP-07 and PP-08 for Board Weeks	Another student could follow the plan without asking what a term means, when to stop, or how much risk is allowed
45	AA2-02, AA2-03, AA2-04	Answer all Check Yourself questions from AA2-02 through AA2-04; work EX-01 again, calculations first	Score at least 90%; explain why displayed size, order flow, and breadth can inform a decision but cannot make it for you
46	AA-12, AA-13, AA2-05, AA2-06, AA2-07, AA2-08, AA2-09	Answer the Check Yourself questions from AA2-05 through AA2-09; work EX-02 again, payoff tables first	Build every assigned payoff table correctly; distinguish a defined-risk structure from an undefined-risk structure at a glance
47	AA-15, AA2-10, AA2-11	Answer all Check Yourself questions from AA2-10 and AA2-11; work EX-04 again, points and ticks both shown	No futures dollar conversion errors; explain day margin as a broker-set deposit and why low margin does not mean low risk
48	AA2-12, AA2-16, AA2-17	Answer all Check Yourself questions from AA2-12, AA2-16, and AA2-17; work EX-05 again	Separate trading capital from long-term money in PP-06; identify gap risk and correlation risk in every swing example
49	AA2-13, AA2-18, AA2-19	Answer all Check Yourself questions from AA2-13, AA2-18, and AA2-19; work EX-06 again	Explain expectancy, overfitting, and the three case-study lessons; state which tax questions require a qualified professional

Week	Read	Practice	Pass Mark
50	AA3-00 and your first track's five modules	Take all 25 Check Yourself questions from your first track, closed-book; complete the Board checklist in PP-08	Score at least 23/25; correct every miss in writing and name the exact section you re-studied
51	Your final PP-06 plan; AA-25 for reference only	Complete five separate paper sessions on five different days in PP-07; a session may end as a documented no-trade decision	All five sessions have a pre-session plan, risk limit, contemporaneous notes, and post-session review; zero trades are added or edited afterward
52	Your first track's risk module and playbook or routine module	Complete the final review in PP-08; compare the first and final versions of PP-06; assemble your scores, challenge record, and journal evidence	Meet the Graduation Standard below in full; any unmet item becomes a written repeat assignment, not a reason to lower the standard

Common Beginner Mistakes

- **Treating the calendar as a race.** The 52 weeks are a minimum structure, not a deadline. Repeating a week is part of the curriculum.
- **Reading every document and practicing none of it.** If there is no calculation, journal entry, or test score, the week did not happen.
- **Changing the plan after seeing the result.** A losing trade can follow the plan; a winning trade can break it. Grade the decision you made with the information you had.
- **Forcing challenge trades.** PP-09 measures whether valid setups were handled correctly. It does not reward activity for its own sake.
- **Using profit as the pass mark.** Simulated profit in a small sample can come from luck. Accurate math, controlled risk, complete records, and repeatable behavior are the evidence this curriculum trusts.
- **Opening a second arena too early.** A second track is a Term 4 choice after the first track is complete — not a way to escape a difficult week.

Chapter Summary

- The year has four 13-week terms: Foundations, the Market Underneath, one chosen arena, and Mastery and the Board.
- Every week has assigned reading, assigned practice, and a pass mark based on evidence.
- Term 1 covers AA-01 through AA-23 and all five workbooks, then teaches you to use AA-24 and AA-25 as working references.

- Term 2 covers AA2-00 through AA2-20, completes PP-12, revisits the Worked Examples, and ends with the Level 1 Final Exam in PP-10.
- Term 3 is deliberately narrow: one AA3 track, its matching EX document, EX-06, and the PP-09 paper challenge.
- Term 4 offers depth in the same arena or one second track, followed by cumulative self-tests and a five-session Board review.
- The curriculum never requires real money, a winning week, or a forced trade.

Check Yourself

1. What are the three kinds of work in every curriculum week?
2. What should you do if you miss a week's pass mark?
3. Which Practice Pack documents contain the Level 1 Final Exam and its answer key?
4. Why does Term 3 allow only one Level 3 track at a time?
5. Why is simulated profit by itself not the graduation standard?

Answers: 1) Study blocks, practice blocks, and a review block. 2) Repeat the missed practice and test again; split the week across more calendar time if needed. 3) PP-10 is the exam and PP-11 is the key, which you open only after finishing. 4) The track is meant to build depth; splitting attention prevents the student from mastering any arena's structures, risks, and routine. 5) A small simulated sample can be lucky, while the Board is looking for accurate math, controlled risk, complete journals, and behavior that matches a written plan.

The Graduation Standard

You graduate from the 52-Week Alpha Curriculum when **all** of the following are true:

- You scored at least **80% on PP-10**, graded with PP-11, and corrected every missed question back to its source module.
- You completed **PP-09 with 30 fully logged paper trades**, or completed a formally approved carry-forward and then finished all 30 before the Board; every trade has a plan, size, invalidation, exit, result in R, and Plan Grade.
- You scored at least **90% on the cumulative Level 2 review questions assigned in Weeks 45–49** and at least **23/25 on your first track's Check Yourself questions in Week 50**, with all misses corrected.
- Your final **PP-06** plan is complete, specific, and consistent with the trades in **PP-07**. It names the arena, schedule, setup conditions, position-size method, maximum loss rules, no-trade conditions, and review process.
- Your five Board Week sessions show **zero undocumented trades, zero edited-after-the-fact entries, and zero breaches of your own maximum-risk rule**.
- You can explain, without notes, what you still do **not** know and what you will practice next.

Graduation means you have built a disciplined learning record. It does not mean the market owes you a result, that a strategy has been proven, or that real-money trading is appropriate for your finances. If real-money trading is ever considered, it is a separate personal and financial decision outside this curriculum.

> **RULE**
> Do not advance on exposure; advance on evidence.