

# ADVANCED STANDING POLICY (SEMINARY)

This policy is the responsibility of the Registrar and was approved by Faculty Senate. This policy was revised on March 29, 2010, updated January 30, 2014, revised on January 24, 2020, and is reviewed annually.

## POLICY OVERVIEW

This policy outlines the process involved for advanced standing for graduate students.

## PRINCIPLES

This policy is guided by the principles of integrity and transparency.

## SCOPE

The policy applies to all graduate students.

## POLICY STATEMENT

Briercrest Seminary permits eligible students to apply for and gain advanced standing (the awarding of course credit or the exemption of a requirement based on work from another institution) toward a program, up to a maximum of one-quarter of a program (for the MATS and MABLE programs, students are eligible for up to 21 credit hours).

An eligible student is defined as one who either who has gained full acceptance to Briercrest Seminary, or who meets all entrance requirements, including a four year baccalaureate (or equivalent) degree from an accredited institution.

## PROCEDURES

All requests for advanced standing must be completed in writing to the Registrar's Office no later than 6 months after official acceptance to Briercrest Seminary.

Advanced standing may be awarded in one of two ways: 1) "with credit" or 2) "without credit."

1) *Advanced standing with credit:*

Students may apply to have credit applied to a program requirement on the basis of course work completed from an accredited undergraduate institution. This includes credit toward program "Open

Elective” requirements, if undergraduate course work is assessed as being in alignment with program objectives.

Advanced standing with credit on the basis of accredited undergraduate course work is awarded under one of two conditions:

- The student provides evidence of transcript, syllabus, and submitted course work for courses successfully completed at an accredited undergraduate institution with a minimum “B+” grade. Typically only courses completed at a senior undergraduate level (i.e., 400+) will be considered for advanced standing, though some exceptions to this rule (e.g., biblical languages) may be granted on a case-by-case basis.
- In lieu of an available transcript, syllabus and submitted course work, complete a written or oral challenge examination on a course by course basis administered by a Briercrest College and Seminary faculty member. A minimum “B+” on the exam is necessary to gain advanced standing and this exam can only be written once and must be approved by the Dean of the Seminary.

## 2) *Advanced standing without credit*

Advanced standing without credit allows a student to waive a curricular requirement on the basis of having sufficient breadth in the field of study and allows the student to substitute an advanced course in the same field. In such instances, the student will be assessed through the use of transcripts and/or an oral interview with the Program Coordinator, who, together with the Registrar, will either approve or disallow advanced standing without credit of a curricular requirement.

### *Notes:*

- Advanced standing credit may not be applied toward the Certificate of the Seminary.
- Undergraduate internships and previous ministry experience alone will not be considered in any advanced standing requests.
- Students may not receive advanced standing credit for courses they have audited either in an undergraduate, graduate or professional context.
- The ruling of the Registrar’s Office shall be considered final on all matters of advanced standing.

## APPENDIX A

Related Forms/Policies	<a href="#">Transfer Information</a> (in process of adding this to the seminary website for clarity)
Where is this policy published	Seminary Academic Calendar ( <a href="http://www.briercrest.ca/seminary/academics/seminary-calendar/">http://www.briercrest.ca/seminary/academics/seminary-calendar/</a> )
Contact Information	Registrar