ONLINE EDUCATION POLICY

This policy is the responsibility of the Director of Online Education. This policy was approved by the Academic Planning Committee on September 27, 2019 and by the Seminary Team on December 11, 2020.

POLICY OVERVIEW

This policy outlines the policies which govern the functioning of Online Education at Briercrest College and Seminary.

PRINCIPLES

The principles of natural justice, clarity, and transparency undergird this policy.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in an online course or program at Briercrest.

POLICY STATEMENT

To ensure quality, Briercrest commits to the following standards for all Online Education programs and courses. These standards are based on ABHE (Association of Biblical Higher Education) and ATS (Association of Theological School) Standards and Guidelines.

1. Online Education aligns with Briercrest's mission and purposes.
   a. Briercrest's online programs and courses align with stated institutional goals for the student experience. Course descriptions and outcomes are governed by the same policies that govern all courses at Briercrest.
   b. Any plans for expanding online education take into account Briercrest's capacity to assure an appropriate level of quality.

2. Online Education is incorporated into Briercrest's systems of governance and academic oversight.
   a. Briercrest faculty have a primary role in the design and implementation of its distance education offerings.
   b. Approval of online education programs and courses follows standard processes used in the school/college or university.

    c.   The Director of Online Education is a voting member of the Academic Planning Committee, and the Seminary Team.

3. Briercrest evaluates the effectiveness of its online courses.
   a. Online Education courses are subject to the same evaluation standards as all other courses at Briercrest.
   b. Evaluation of online course content will occur at the discretion of the Director of Online Education.

4. Faculty responsible for delivering online education and evaluating students' success in achieving the goals are appropriately qualified and effectively supported.
   a. Briercrest provides training for any faculty teaching in online education including best practices in online education pedagogy, applicable technology tools, the use of Briercrest's Learning Management System (LMS), and course design.
   b. The Online Education Department is tasked with ensuring that any faculty teaching in an online environment is appropriately prepared.
   c. Ongoing technical support is available for faculty members throughout the duration of the course or program.

5. Briercrest supports students enrolled in distance education programs and courses.
   a. Students enrolling in an online program or course at Briercrest use the same admissions and registration process as all other Briercrest programs or courses.
   b. All online courses are delivered using Briercrest's (LMS), which is used through the institution.
   c. Students in online education courses and programs have access to effective tech support.
   d. Students using online education have effective access to Briercrest's library resources.

6. Briercrest assures the academic integrity of its online education offerings.
   a. Briercrest's online courses are delivered through a secure LMS with a unique username and password in order to ensure that the student who registers in an online education program or course is the same student who participates in and completes the course or program and receives the academic credit.
   b. Students in an online program or course are governed by Briercrest policies on academic integrity.

PROCEDURES

Students in an online course are expected to maintain academic standards as outlined in the Academic Calendar.

APPENDIX A

Related Forms/Policies	College Academic Calendar https://www.mybriercrest.ca/college/calendar/ Seminary Academic Calendar https://www.briercrestseminary.ca/academics/calendar/ Faculty Handbook Workload Policy (found in the Faculty Handbook)
Contact Information	Director of Online Education