

# DEGREE EQUIVALENCY FOR MASTER'S DEGREE ADMISSION

This policy is the responsibility of the Seminary Team, was approved by the Seminary Team on January 25, 2019, and was revised by the Seminary Team on June 9, 2023.

## POLICY OVERVIEW

This policy outlines the process by which Seminary applications will be evaluated to determine bachelor's degree equivalency for admission into Master's degree programs.

## PRINCIPLES

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

## SCOPE

This policy applies to all applicants to Briercrest Seminary.

## POLICY STATEMENT

To gain admission into Briercrest Seminary's degree programs, an applicant must possess an educational background which demonstrates the capacity to succeed in graduate-level study. Briercrest Seminary's admission policy outlines three ways applicants can do this: completion of an accredited undergraduate degree with a minimum 2.5 GPA; undergraduate degree equivalency; or completion of Briercrest's Certificate of the Seminary by mature students.

This policy will expand on the process and rationale for determining whether a Seminary applicant has met degree equivalency. This process is especially pertinent for judging admission to Briercrest Seminary's "academic discipline" degrees, as defined by ATS Degree Program Standards (ie. MA [Theological Studies] and MA Biblical Languages and Exegesis). Admission to these "academic discipline" degrees requires that a student possess an undergraduate degree or degree equivalency. Mature students cannot complete the Certificate of the Seminary in order to enter directly into the MATS or MABLE.

The Seminary Admissions Office will consider bachelor's equivalency according to the following general scenarios...

1. The Seminary applicant has completed 90 or more credit hours of credible, accredited undergraduate course work with a 2.5 cumulative grade point average (GPA).
  - The applicant will be granted bachelor's degree equivalency.
  
2. The Seminary applicant has earned an unaccredited degree with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or above.
  - The Dean of the Seminary and the Registrar will evaluate the school and decide how to proceed.
  - Achieve "degree equivalency" (for MATS/MABLE entry) by completing Briercrest's Certificate of the Seminary with a 2.5 cumulative GPA. The 21 c.h. completed for the Certificate will not be counted toward completion of any Briercrest Seminary "academic discipline" degrees.
  
3. The Seminary applicant has earned an accredited degree with a cumulative GPA between 2.0 and 2.5.
  - The applicant can achieve "degree equivalency" by first completing Briercrest's Certificate of the Seminary with a 3.0 cumulative GPA. The 21 credit hours completed for the Certificate can be counted toward completion of any Briercrest Seminary Master's degree.
  
4. The Seminary applicant has completed 60 – 89 credit hours of credible, accredited undergraduate course work with a 2.5 cumulative grade point average (GPA).
  - The applicant can achieve "degree equivalency" by first completing Briercrest's Certificate of the Seminary with a 2.5 cumulative GPA. The 21 credit hours completed for the Certificate will not be counted toward completion of any Briercrest Seminary Master's degrees.
  
5. The Seminary applicant has earned an unaccredited degree with a cumulative GPA below 2.5, OR the applicant has not earned a degree but they are aged 28 or older.

The applicant can start working toward a Master's degree by first completing Briercrest's Certificate of the Seminary. Once a student completes the program requirements for the Certificate of the Seminary with a 2.7 cumulative GPA, the student can apply to enter any Master's degree program of their choice, except for the "academic discipline" degrees. The 21 credit hours completed for the Certificate can be

counted toward completion of any Briercrest Seminary Master’s degree (except the “academic discipline” degrees).

- If a student in this situation wishes to complete one of Briercrest Seminary’s “academic discipline” degrees, they must first complete a graduate-level degree (such as Briercrest’s Master of Christian Ministry) with at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA. Course work completed in the first graduate-level degree could then count toward the “academic discipline” degree as per normal transfer and second degree policies.

## APPENDIX A

Related Forms/Policies	Seminary Admissions Requirements
Where is this policy published	Seminary Academic Calendar <a href="https://briercrestseminary.ca/academics/calendar/">(https://briercrestseminary.ca/academics/calendar/)</a> Seminary Admissions Website <a href="https://briercrestseminary.ca/admissions/">(https://briercrestseminary.ca/admissions/)</a>
Contact Information	Registrar

