

SEMINARY ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

This policy is the responsibility of the Faculty Senate and was approved by the Board. The policy was revised by the Seminary Team on March 16, 2018, on January 24, 2020, on February 10, 2023, on March 14, 2025, and on May 2, 2025.

POLICY OVERVIEW

This policy outlines the standards by which admissions applications of potential Seminary students are measured.

PRINCIPLES

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

SCOPE

This policy applies to all applicants to Briercrest Seminary.

POLICY STATEMENT

Personal Character and Commitment

Our Seminary is committed to equipping individuals with the skills and convictions necessary for Christian life and ministry. Applicants must genuinely testify to their personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and further demonstrate this commitment to him. Admission to Briercrest Seminary depends upon the following factors: theological development, Christian experience, spiritual growth, call to service and gifts for ministry.*

*The Seminary reserves the right to draw a conclusion regarding the evangelical, Christian profession of faith of all applicants based on the candidate's application and statement of Christian faith. The Seminary also reserves the right to admit or deny admission to any non-Christian or non-evangelical individual or any individual from an organization which has a theological stance which is not in accord with the seminary's belief statement.

Educational Background

As a Christ-centred graduate educational institution which is fully accredited by the Association for Theological Schools, we aim to ensure that all people admitted to our degree programs are successful. To this end, we have designed our admission requirements to welcome all who demonstrate their

ability to engage in graduate-level studies at Briercrest Seminary. There are three ways to gain admission into our Master's degree programs:

- **Undergraduate degree:** Students who have completed an accredited undergraduate degree with a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or higher are eligible to enter any Seminary degree program.
- **Degree equivalency:** If a student has earned 90 credit hours of accredited undergraduate course work, with a 2.5 cumulative GPA, they may be granted degree equivalency. This student would then be eligible to enter any Seminary degree program.
- **Certificate of the Seminary:** Individuals who don't have an accredited undergraduate degree or its equivalent, as well as individuals with an undergraduate cumulative GPA below 2.5, may still be able to gain admission into our Master's degree programs. Individuals who are aged 28 or older can start working toward a Master's degree by first completing Briercrest's Certificate of the Seminary. This provides an opportunity for the student and Briercrest Seminary to discern the student's readiness for graduate-level studies. Once a student completes the program requirements for the Certificate of the Seminary with a 2.7 cumulative GPA, they can apply to enter the Master's degree program of their choice.*

No more than 15 per cent of the total number of students in each program can be accepted without an accredited undergraduate degree or its equivalent. Because of this, students who complete the Certificate of the Seminary may be placed on a waiting list for entry into their desired master's degree program.

* Entry into the MA (Theological Studies) and MA Biblical Languages and Exegesis degree programs requires that a student has earned an accredited undergraduate degree or equivalent (with a 2.5 cumulative GPA). Students desiring to enter these programs should speak with the Admissions Office if they have not met this prerequisite.

* Entry into the MA in Clinical Counselling (Christian Spirituality) and MA in Couple and Family Therapy (Christian Spirituality) requires that students go through the counselling admission process. Those conditionally accepted without an undergraduate degree are required to first complete the Certificate of the Seminary (Counselling Specialty) with a cumulative GPA of 3.3.

* Entry into the Master of Divinity – Chaplaincy concentration requires that students go through the chaplaincy admission process. Those conditionally accepted without an undergraduate degree are required to first complete the Certificate of the Seminary with a cumulative GPA of 3.3.

* Entry into the MCM – Chaplaincy concentration requires that a student has earned an accredited undergraduate or graduate degree with a major in Bible, Theology, or Christian Ministry and a 2.5 cumulative GPA. Additionally, students applying for the MCM – Chaplaincy concentration will go through the chaplaincy admission process.

Admission to a Program

Students who meet the admission requirements are welcome to explore education at Briercrest Seminary and can do so by completing two courses prior to the application process. After two courses, students must apply to a program before being allowed to register for a third course.

Undergraduate or Prerequisite Requirement Courses

All students who have prerequisite courses and/or undergraduate course deficiencies are responsible to notify the registrar when these are completed. The student is also responsible to forward transcripts of these completed courses. Note that this also pertains to students who have completed these courses through Briercrest College.

Academic Achievement

Students must submit official copies of transcripts from all previously attended colleges, universities, and/or seminaries.

Note: Where transcripts are in an original language other than French or English, certified English translations of the transcripts must also be provided.

PROCEDURES

Application

Applicants must complete the appropriate application portfolio found on our website. Early application is encouraged, especially if family accommodation is required (six to eight months in advance of commencement of studies is recommended). There is a non-refundable \$50.00 application fee for all programs (\$250.00 fee for international students).

Applicants who have been denied entry to the Seminary, as well as students who have been withdrawn from the Seminary, can re-apply to the Seminary by completing the [application portfolio](#) and paying the \$50 application fee. Applicants who are denied entry to a program can re-apply for that program one year after the first rejection and five years after the second rejection.

International Students

Those who are neither citizens nor permanent residents of Canada must apply for and obtain a study permit if they wish to study in Canada. The following criteria are applicable for prospective students who fit this category and are requesting admission to the Seminary.

Note: A letter of acceptance for the purpose of obtaining a study permit cannot be released until this information is provided.

International students are also required to:

- Submit official transcripts *translated into English*.
- Fulfill English language requirements for admission
- Pay for their first year's fees in full (before an acceptance letter can be issued for the purpose of obtaining a study permit). See the [Apply Online](#) webpage for details.

Foreign Credential Recognition

Briercrest requires that the academic records of applicants who have completed post-secondary education outside of Canada and/or the United States be assessed for Canadian equivalency. Briercrest requires a course-by-course or comprehensive assessment.

English Language Requirements

All applicants for whom English is not their first language must show that they are able to perform at a high academic level in English. This must be demonstrated by completing one of the following:

- Completed a four-year undergraduate degree in English from Canada or one of the countries listed on the English Language Proficiency Test Exemption List GPA of 2.5.
- Completed one of the following standardized tests, and submitting test results to the Admissions Office (scores are valid for a maximum of two years):
 - Graduate Degree Program (MDiv, MCM, MABLE, MALM) Requirements...

Test name	Score Required	Test Contact
TOEFL iBT (Internet-based test) *Briercrest Institution Code: 9644.	Minimum total score of 90 with minimum of 20 in each test category.	www.toefl.org/index.html
CAEL	Minimum score 60	www.cael.ca
IELTS (academic)	Band score, 6.5 with a minimum 6.0 in each band	www.ielts.org
MELAB	Minimum score, 85	www.lsa.umich.edu/eli/
ELLT	Minimum score 7 with a minimum of 6 in each band	https://oxfordellt.com/

o Counselling Program (MAMFT, MC) Requirements...

Test name	Score Required	Test Contact
TOEFL iBT (Internet-based test) *Briercrest Institution Code: 9644.	Minimum total score 101 with a minimum of 22 in writing and reading, and 25 in listening and speaking.	www.toefl.org/index.html
CAEL	Minimum score 60	www.cael.ca
IELTS (academic)	Band score, 6.5 with a minimum 6.0 in each band	www.ielts.org
MELAB	Minimum score, 85	www.lsa.umich.edu/eli/
ELLT	Minimum score 9 with a minimum 8 in writing and reading, and 9 in listening and speaking	https://oxfordelt.com/

o Certificate of the Seminary Requirements...

Test name	Score Required	Test Contact
TOEFL iBT (Internet-based test) *Briercrest Institution Code: 9644.	Minimum total score of 83 with minimum of 20 in each test category.	www.toefl.org/index.html
CAEL	Minimum score 60	www.cael.ca
IELTS (academic)	Band score, 6.5 with a minimum 6.0 in each band	www.ielts.org
MELAB	Minimum score, 78-85	www.lsa.umich.edu/eli/
ELLT	Minimum score 7 with a minimum of 6 in each band	https://oxfordelt.com/

Exemptions to the English Language Proficiency Requirements: The applicant may not be required to provide an English testing result when applying from one of the following countries: American Samoa, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Botswana, Brunei, British Virgin Islands, Cameroon (with proof of instruction in English), Cayman Islands, Dominica, England, Falkland Islands, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Gibraltar, Grenada, Guam, Guyana, Ireland, Jamaica, Kenya, Liberia, Lesotho, Malta, Mauritius, Montserrat, New Zealand, Nigeria, Northern Ireland, Pacific Island Trust Territory, Puerto Rico, Rwanda, Ryukyus Island, Scotland, Seychelles, Singapore, South Africa, St. Helena, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, Uganda, United States, Virgin Islands, Wales, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Students enrolled in the English for Academic Purposes (EAP) Pathway program may transition through the program upon meeting the requirements below...

Intermediate level (1 semester) → High Intermediate Level (1 semester) → EAP Pathway (1 semester) → Enrolled in full time studies (Certificate of the Seminary)

Complete the High Intermediate level with an 85% average in each course. Students are required to have an 90% in writing class. Students who meet this requirement will be enrolled in two regular credit courses alongside EAP writing and EAP reading 600 level courses for one semester. Upon completion of the EAP classes with an 80%, students can then be enrolled in full time credit courses.

Track	IELTS	TOEFL iBT	CAEL
Intermediate	5.5 (minimum 5.0 in all areas)	70 (15 or higher in all components)	40
High Intermediate	6.0 (minimum 5.5 in all areas)	75 (17 or higher in all components)	50
EAP Pathway	6.5 (minimum 5.5 in all areas)	79 (18 or higher in all components)	60 (50 or higher in all components)
Direct Entry (Certificate of the Seminary)	6.5 (minimum 6.0 in all areas)	83 (19 or higher in all components)	60

Financial Requirements (not applicable to U.S. students)

International students requiring a study permit to attend Briercrest College and Seminary will be considered for admission only if they can meet the requirements of a financial guarantee for themselves and all dependents that will be accompanying them to Canada. This will be done by depositing sufficient funds with Briercrest College and Seminary to cover tuition, living expenses, and other school fees for the student and family for the first year of studies in the applicant's Briercrest College and Seminary student account. This information is required for the study permit application.

Note: These amounts will be held on deposit at the school until they are needed for their intended purpose. Payment should be made in Canadian funds and is payable only by wire transfer, certified cheque, MasterCard, or VISA.

Start Date

International Seminary students have three dates they may begin studies each academic year. These entry points are the last week of August, the first week of January and the last week of April. Students wishing to begin studies in April should work with their academic advisor to ensure course availability to fulfill the nine credit hours requirements. If there are not sufficient courses, students should defer enrolment to August.

Note: We recommend that prospective international students submit their applications at least six months prior to commencing studies. The application package must be completed (including transcripts, financial guarantees, etc.) at least 60 days before the planned date of arrival to allow time for the student to receive visa application papers. Our seminary does not currently offer English language instruction.

APPENDIX A

Related Forms/Policies	
Where is this policy published	Seminary Academic Calendar (https://briercrestseminary.ca/academics/calendar/) Seminary Admissions Website (https://briercrestseminary.ca/admissions/)
Contact Information	Registrar