

SERVICE LEARNING POLICY

This policy is the responsibility of the Teaching and Learning Committee and was approved by the Faculty Senate on October 18, 2019.

POLICY OVERVIEW

Briercrest Mission Statement:

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Briercrest College and Seminary is a community of learning that calls students to seek the kingdom of God, to be shaped profoundly by the Scriptures, and to be formed spiritually and intellectually for lives of service.

At Briercrest College, Service Learning (SL) shares in this mission by nurturing habits of service and by inviting reflection on the nature of appropriate service and its impact on all persons involved (i.e., on those both giving and receiving service).

PRINCIPLES

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

SCOPE

This policy applies to all program students of Briercrest College.

POLICY STATEMENT

Through supervised, purposeful, and transformational service, Briercrest students become consistent community contributors. In requiring service learning of all graduates, we hope to nurture habits of service through inviting reflection on the nature of appropriate service and its impact on all persons involved (i.e., on those both giving and receiving service).

Service is defined as unpaid, supervised, volunteer service on behalf of the church and other communities. Service learning does not include service in which the student's family members are the primary recipients. Further, service learning does not include performance-based service (i.e., playing sports, singing/playing at a single event, etc.), service for which the student receives academic credit, or service in lieu of receiving pay for actual work experience. Supervisors cannot be other college students.

To encourage meaningful connection with the student's church community, Briercrest requires that one-third of SL is to be completed in connection with a church that a student attends regularly, whether that be the student's home church or the church attended while at Briercrest. As students plan for completion of SL requirements, the following requirements should be kept in mind:

- One-third of required credits must be completed in a church context;
- No more than half of SL credits can be accumulated through volunteer service to Briercrest.
- Individual programs at Briercrest can only mandate 50% of SL for students in the program (i.e. SL for non-credit internships/practicums, specific volunteer requirements as part of a course, etc.).
- For students required to complete four or more SL credits, at least one SL credit must be completed in a community other than a local church or Briercrest.
- Students cannot accumulate more than 60 hours of service (3 SL credits) in a given semester.

It is the students' responsibility to ensure that the SL activities they participate in will meet graduation requirements.

Service Learning requirements are based on the number of credit hours a student has completed at Briercrest.

| Number of credit hours completed at Briercrest | Number of SL credits required for graduation |
|--|--|
| 100-120+ | 6 SL credits |
| 61-99 | 4 SL credits |
| 30-60 | 2 SL credits |

Each SL credit represents approximately 20 hours of service. The required hours can be completed in the following formats:

| Hours counted | Description |
|---------------|--|
| 5 hours | One day of service (at least 5+ hours in a day) |
| 10 hours | Two-day or weekend service project (at least 5 hours each day), or a total of 10+ hours served |

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| | either weekly for part of the semester or bi-weekly for the full semester |
| 20 hours | A semester of weekly involvement (generally 1-2 hours per week totaling 15-30 hours of service in a semester) |
| 30 hours | Intensive weeklong or summer-long service, or increased commitment and responsibility roughly equivalent to 40+ hours |

PROCEDURES

Students apply for Service Learning credit through the Service Learning Coordinator. To receive credit for service, the service must be unpaid (no stipend, scholarship, or other remuneration), be supervised, and not be primarily for the benefit of the student’s family. Exceptions to these criteria can be requested through the SL Office. Work which is paid either through wages, stipend, or scholarship at 50% less than Saskatchewan’s minimum wage may be eligible for a maximum of 30 hours in a single semester. Documentation of the hours worked and the rate of compensation must be provided. Hours counted will be based on the ratio of “paid” versus “unpaid” work.

The SL application form and reflection must be completed in full before credit is awarded on a Complete/Incomplete basis. The Service Learning Coordinator will evaluate the number of hours and the student’s reflection of service according to criteria agreed upon by the Faculty Senate. SL credit will appear on a student’s transcript. Current forms and instructions for completion will be available to students on the website (<https://www.mybriercrest.ca/college/servicelearning/>).

APPENDIX A

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| Related Forms/Policies | |
| Where is this policy published | College Academic Calendar (http://www.briercrest.ca/college/academics/college-calendar/) Briercrest Website (https://www.mybriercrest.ca/college/servicelearning/) |



Contact Information

Dean of the College, Service Learning Coordinator

