

BRIERCREST

First Year Course Tips and Recommendations

Updated March 2019

Preparing for Briercrest College Academics	2
Understanding Class Schedule	3
Other Course Formats	4
Choosing Courses	5
Registering for Courses	6
Understanding Program Sheets	7
Program-specific Advising for Year One	8
Athletes and Music Students	9
Signing up for Music Ensembles/lessons	9
Transitioning to College	10
Learning Accommodations	10
Good Academic Standing	11

Preparing for Briercrest College Academics

College at Briercrest is different than high school, homeschool, and in some cases other post-secondary education experiences. A word of advice: **focus on learning and growing**, and **ask when you are stuck**. A few other things to note:

High school	College
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School days are more structured. 	⇒ College has a more flexible schedule. Note: with greater freedom comes greater responsibility.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers often give you class time to work on assignments. 	⇒ You are responsible to prepare for class and complete assignments outside of class time.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take-home assignments can be completed the night before. 	⇒ Start early. College assignments often take more time than you think.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assignments can be handed in late with minimal to no penalty. 	⇒ Late policies exist that can affect your grade. Check the syllabus.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It might not matter how many classes you miss. 	⇒ Attendance matters. Missing more than the allowable absences can lead to a fail. Check the syllabus.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents/guardians can be your advocate in discussing academic concerns. 	⇒ Time to practice ownership for your own learning. You are responsible to communicate with your instructors.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A pass is 50%. 	⇒ 50% will get you course credit, however a minimum of 63% average is needed to maintain good academic standing.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passing doesn't take that much effort. It's not too hard to catch up after slacking. 	⇒ Be prepared for a grade drop, and be persistent in your effort. Slacking can cause major issues and stress.

Fancy college terms to know

Syllabus	Each course has a syllabus that outlines what the professor is committed to teaching and what you will be responsible for doing. Late assignment, attendance, and other information is also included in the syllabus.
Credit hour	The number of credits a course is worth is typically based on weekly instructional hours (i.e., hours of teaching you get from the instructors).
Add/Drop Day	The last day to add or drop a course without any financial or grade penalty.

Understanding Class Schedule

If this is your first time to college, you may be surprised to find out how different the schedule is from high-school or homeschool. Here is a visual guide to help you be familiar with the general class schedule.

Classes are typically 75 minutes long and occur 2x/week (e.g., Mon & Wed or Tues & Thurs).

We gather together for chapel 4x/week.

Be sure to plan time for lunch!

There is typically a 10-minute break between classes.

You may have long gaps in your day. **Tip:** Set a routine to make the most of your time---plan homework time, workout, etc.

Some classes are 3 hours long but only occur once a week.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.	Example: ENG 100		Example: ENG 100		
9:50 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Chapel	Chapel	Chapel	Chapel	
10:40 a.m. - 11:55 a.m.	Example: CM 101		Example: CM 101		
12:25 p.m. - 1:40 p.m.					
1:50 p.m. - 3:05 p.m.		Example: THEO 112		Example: THEO 112	
3:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.					
4:40 p.m. - 6:10 p.m.					
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Example: YM 100				

Friday morning classes usually run from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (Not advised if you anticipate travel on weekends as part of a team or ensemble.)

Other classes or tutorials may occur in the evenings (e.g., dance class, English tutorials).

Other Course Formats

In addition to the weekly in-class courses, you can also sign up for modular courses and/or online courses. The course work is the same, but the delivery is different.

	October 1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Modular Class (optional)

Modular courses ("mod")

These are classes that typically run for four to five days. They are offered in October, February, March, and April. These classes often require pre- and post-course work.

Be sure to check out the assignments on the syllabus and start preparing early to avoid the stress of cramming!

Students not taking a mod will have this week off from regular classes.

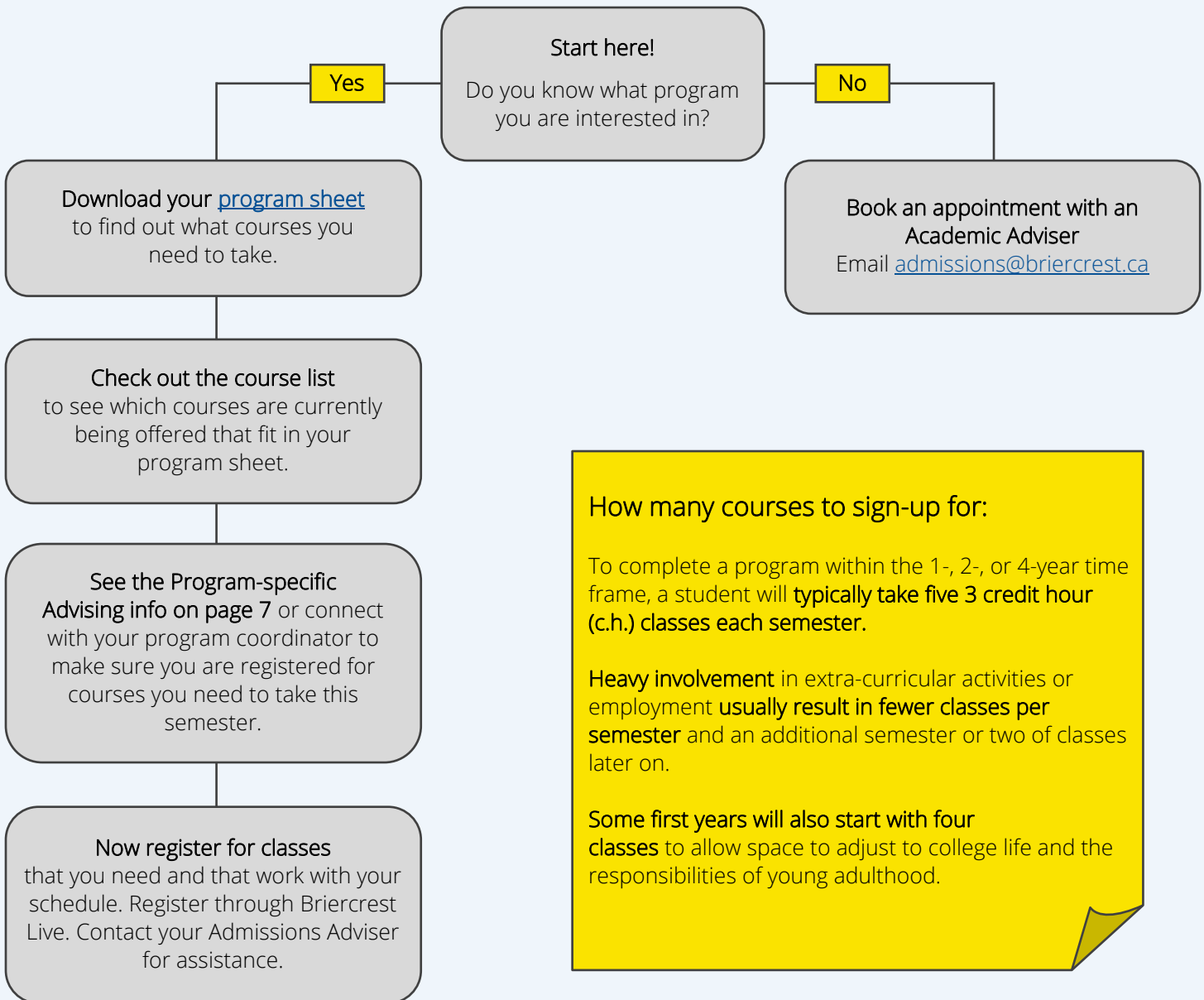
Online courses

These are semester-long courses delivered through an online platform. Options are limited, and first years are generally encouraged to stick with in-class courses. Talk to your academic adviser.

Know that successful progress in **online courses require significant self-discipline and strong time management skills.**

US students, please note that taking an online course will disqualify you from ever receiving US student loans.

Choosing Courses



Recommended courses to take in your first year

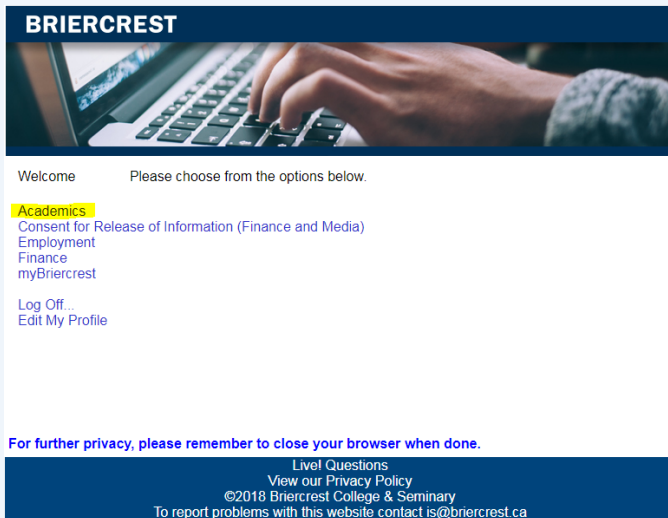
These courses are often needed before taking upper-level courses in the same discipline. They can also help you develop foundational skills and knowledge needed for success in later courses (e.g., essay writing, Bible knowledge, terminology).

- BLST 109 Introduction to the New Testament
- BLST 111 Introduction to the Old Testament
- ENG 100 Literature and Composition I
- ENG 101 Literature and Composition II
- THEO 112 Introduction to Spiritual Theology
- THEO 115 Introduction to Christian Theology

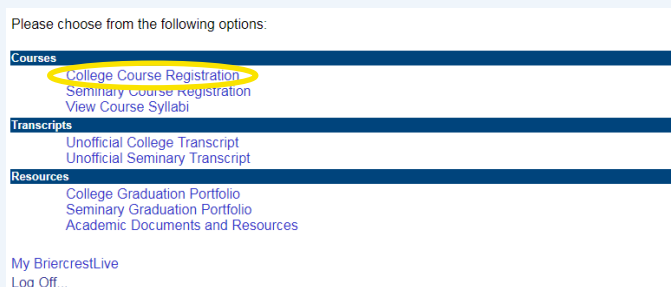
Note: Freshmen with no prior college education are limited to 100 and 200 level courses only.

Registering for Courses

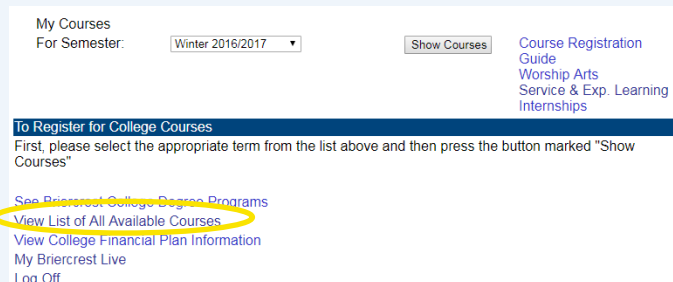
1. Sign-in to your Briercrest Live account
2. Select "Academics"



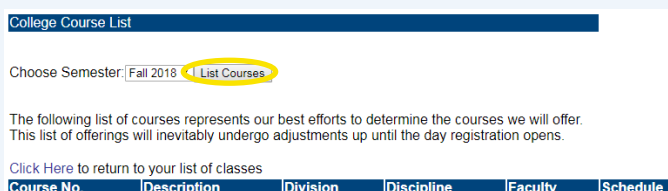
3. Select "College Course Registration"



4. Click "View List of All Available Courses"



5. Choose the upcoming semester and click "List Courses"



6. Select the course code to register.

Need help navigating Briercrest Live?
Contact your Admissions Adviser

My desired course is full. What can I do?

If the course you want is full, keep trying through Briercrest Live to see if someone has dropped the course.

If you are planning to drop a class, please do so as soon as possible to allow others who need the course to have your seat.

What is a prerequisite?

A prerequisite is a requirement you need to meet before you can take certain courses. Be sure to plan ahead.

How to tell if a prerequisite needed:

1. A pop-up note will appear when you are registering for courses with prerequisites.
2. Check the [College Calendar](#) under "Course Descriptions"
3. Ask your program coordinator.

Note: Be sure to check out Program Info Sessions during Week of Welcome

Understanding the Program Sheet

Program sheets outline which courses you need to take in order to complete your program of study. You can find them on mybriercrest.ca/college/sheets. It can seem a bit daunting at first, so here's a simple overview. (For more questions, ask your program coordinator or academic adviser.)

There are **four main components** that make up a program at Briercrest:

Core courses	<p>Core courses are a part of every degree at Briercrest</p> <p>So if you decide to change programs, at Briercrest these courses can easily be applied to your new program of study.</p> <p>Likewise, if you complete a two-year Associate of Arts degree at Briercrest, these core courses can easily transfer into any Briercrest Bachelor of Arts degree.</p>
+	
Major requirements	<p>Major requirements are courses that are specifically required for your program of study. These requirements will vary from program to program.</p>
+	
Free electives	<p>Free electives are open to any courses you would like to take. The number of free electives that you will need depends on how many credit hours remain in your program after subtracting credit hours from the Core and your Major requirements.</p>
+	
SEL (non-credit)	<p>Service and Experiential Learning (SEL) units are non-credit requirements. This is an opportunity to develop hands-on, out-of-the-classroom experience. Check the SEL webpage for more information or email SEL@briercrest.ca.</p>
+	
Optional: Minors	<p>Minors are an add-on to your program. You can earn a minor by taking specific courses in another area of study that interests you. You can use your free electives to work towards a minor. Talk to your program coordinator or academic adviser.</p> <p>Also, remember to let Academic Services know if you want to pursue a minor.</p>

Program-specific Advising for Year One

Interested in one of the following programs?

You will need to take these courses as soon as possible. So be sure to register for these courses in your first year if they are being offered. (In other words, it is okay to delay taking some other Core courses to fit these in now.)

<p>BA/BSE Education Partnership Degrees (Minot)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> BLST 109 <input type="checkbox"/> BLST 111 <input type="checkbox"/> ENG 100 and ENG 101 (1 each semester) <input type="checkbox"/> PSY 100 	<p>BA Psychology with/without partnership degrees with Minot</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> BIOL 115 <input type="checkbox"/> ENG 100 <input type="checkbox"/> PSY 100 	<p>Pre-Health: Nursing for uSask</p> <p>Speak with an Academic Adviser. Email admissions@briercrest.ca</p>
<p>AA/BA Humanities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> ENG 100 and ENG 101 (1 each semester) <input type="checkbox"/> FIN 110 	<p>BA Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> BU 100/201/211 <input type="checkbox"/> ECON 100 and ECON 101 (1 each semester) <input type="checkbox"/> MATH 110 	<p>AA Social Sciences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> PSY 100 <input type="checkbox"/> Social Science electives
<p>BA English</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> ENG 100 and ENG 101 (1 each semester) 	<p>BA Christian Ministry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> CM 101 	<p>BA Youth Ministry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> YM 100
<p>AA/BA Music or BA Worship Arts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Choose four 3 c.h. courses + one large ensemble (College Singers) + private music lessons for credit <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Piano Proficiency during Week of Welcome <input type="checkbox"/> Register for MUS 110 (if you have limited/no music theory) or MUS 115 (if you have some formal theory training) 		<p>BA Applied Linguistics: TESOL</p> <p>The TESOL major is a three-year sequence which can be started in the first or second year. Students tend to track with a designated cohort (group of classmates).</p> <p>Dr. David Catterick will advise the student whether to take Core courses the first year or begin the TESOL sequence the second year.</p> <p>If you have been accepted into the program and are transferring in with one year's worth of transfer credits (or close to it), begin the TESOL course sequence immediately. Contact Dr. David Catterick for course advising.</p>

For future course recommendations, contact your program coordinator or refer to your program sheet. If you are uncertain about what program to declare, contact your Academic Adviser.

Athletes and Music Students

Briercrest Athletes

are advised to sign up for only four 3 c.h. courses (**12 credit hours total**) **per semester**. Be sure to choose courses that will not clash with your practice times and travel times.

Check with your coach to find out when your practice times will be (typically they are scheduled for afternoons or evenings Monday to Thursday).

Friday classes are not recommended as your team may be travelling for weekend games.

Due to heavy team commitments, most athletes take an extra semester (AA) or year (BA) to complete their degrees.

If desired, it is still possible to complete your program within 2 or 4 years by taking online classes (in the summer only) or taking “mod” classes in the off-season.

It is **incredibly important** to practice time-management and self-discipline as a student-athlete or music student.

Tip: use a paper calendar to keep track of due dates, game days, performance days, etc. and ask someone to be your accountability partner to help keep you on schedule.

Visit the Student Success Centre for more resources.

Music Students

are required to take a number of **one-credit hour** ensembles and private music lessons for credit **in addition to their 3 credit hour academic courses**.

It is recommended that freshmen music students **start with four courses** rather than five 3 c.h. in their first semester.

See Program-specific Advising for Year One on page 7 for further instructions.

Signing up for Music Lessons

For **Ensembles**, you will audition during Week of Welcome in September. Be sure to check the Week of Welcome schedule to know when these auditions will be held.

For **Private Music lessons** (Voice, Piano, or other instruments,):

1. Go to your Briercrest Live account (as you would to register for any other course).
2. Register for the course PL – Voice or Piano or Instrument.
3. A box will pop up that has a link to the application form you must complete and submit. You need one registration for each type of lesson.
4. A confirmation that your application was received will come up.
5. Click on “My Briercrest Live” and select PL again, and add it to your registration.
6. You will then be registered for a Private Lesson. If you have any questions contact performingarts@briercrest.ca

For **private dance lessons**, visit the Performing and Worship Arts office.

Transitioning to College

College jitters? Feeling overwhelmed?

Need some help organizing and planning your time?

Or help getting started with assignments? Or encouragement to keep going?

Connect with our Student Success Centre for support and resources. You can also email studentsuccesscentre@briercrest.ca. Or check out one of these services:

WRITING CENTRE

Free

Peer-to-peer support for writers of any skill level at any stage of writing

Located in the Archibald Library

ACADEMIC COACHING

At cost

One-on-one academic support tailored to individual goals to develop your skills and potential

Visit the Student Success Centre

COUNSELLING CENTRE

At cost

Set up an appointment to meet with one of our counsellors

Visit the Counseling Centre

Learning Accommodations

Is it helpful to have more time when writing exams? Or to write an exam in a quiet space?

Learning accommodations will not modify course expectations. Instead, they may adjust the format of how materials and examinations are delivered to you.

Before you arrive, be sure to connect with our Student Success Centre (studentsuccesscentre@briercrest.ca) and then stop by in person once on campus.

*Professional documentation of diagnosed disabilities that impact learning will be required to access learning accommodations. Be sure to have a copy on hand.

Good Academic Standing

In college, you will be required to maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 in order to be on track for graduation. It is important to know that a 50% is below a 2.0.

Note: Financial awards require at least a 2.0 GPA. Scholarships require a minimum of a 3.0 GPA.

Undergraduate Grade Scale and Grade Point Average

Briercrest College and Seminary has adopted the following grade scale for undergraduate course work:

Grade	Per cent	Grade Point	Level of Work
A+	90-100%	4.0	Exceptional Achievement
A	85-89%	4.0	Excellent Achievement
A-	80-84%	3.7	Superior Work
B+	77-79%	3.3	Very Good Work
B	73-76%	3.0	Good Work
B-	70-72%	2.7	Moderately Good Work
C+	67-69%	2.3	Solid Average Achievement
C	63-66%	2.0	Average Achievement
C-	60-62%	1.7	Marginally Acceptable Work
D+	55-59%	1.3	Below Average Work
D	50-54%	1.0	Poor Work
F	0-49%	0.0	Failure
P	N/A	N/A	Pass
AU	N/A	N/A	Audit
RP	N/A	N/A	Course Repeated
W	N/A	N/A	Withdrawal
WF	0%	0.0	Withdraw Fail
EX	N/A	N/A	Course Extended

Grade Point Average (GPA) for each semester is calculated as follows:

- multiplying the credit hours for each course by the grade points earned, resulting in a sum of quality points
- adding up all the quality points earned in one semester
- dividing the sum by the total number of attempted credits for that semester

The same calculation can be applied to the total number of credits and quality points a student has earned during her/his time at the college.

For more information on academic policies and course descriptions, see the [College Calendar](#).

The transition to college has its challenges, both expected and unexpected. If you are feeling overwhelmed, don't worry. We're here to come alongside you. You can talk with your Admissions Adviser, your RA, your RD, your professors, our Counselling Centre staff, our Student Success Centre staff, our Academic Services and Student Finance staff, and a number of others.

We're looking forward to seeing you on campus!

