

## Advanced Standing and Transfer Credit

### 1. Definitions

**Advanced Standing:** Students who previously have completed a masters degree in a related field either at Garrett-Evangelical, another ATS accredited seminary, or another accredited institution, and who are now seeking to enroll in a second masters degree may petition the academic dean for advanced standing in that second program. Advanced standing may be granted (1) without credit (see also Waived courses below) by exempting students from some courses but not reducing the total number of academic credits required for the degree, or (2) with credit by reducing the number of hours required for the degree. Advanced standing with credit cannot be automatically granted on the basis of ministerial or life experience.

Students seeking advanced standing must demonstrate, by appropriate written assessment (either a written exam or paradigmatic assignment), to the faculty responsible for the specific courses, that they have the knowledge, competence, or skills that would normally be provided by those courses for which they have been admitted with advanced standing.

If advanced standing is granted with credit on the basis of appropriate evaluation, not more than 1/6 of the total credits required for the degree may be granted in this way (under current requirements, no more than 8 to 9 hours for an MA (depending on the program) and no more than 13 to 15 hours for the MDiv depending on the total number of credits completed).

Transfer credit refers to credit from a degree program either at Garrett-Evangelical or another ATS accredited seminary applied towards the completion of a degree at Garrett-Evangelical. Course work must have been completed within the last 10 years to be considered for transfer credit. Per ATS guidelines, all credits used towards degree requirements must have been completed within 10 years prior to graduation.

Shared credit refers to credit earned while a student is enrolled in two degree programs at Garrett- Evangelical concurrently. Shared credit cannot exceed more than half of the smaller degree.

Maximum credit granted for related course work toward a Garrett-Evangelical degree program is as follows: MDiv 40 semester hours if transferring from another 3-year MDiv degree including ETS (Ecumenical Theological Seminary) and for the MA or MTS 24-28 semester hours \*depending on total hours required) if transferring from a 2 or 3 year degree program. For field education to be counted for advanced standing in an MA degree, it must be in an appropriate area of study.

Waived courses: Equivalent undergraduate or graduate courses or ministry experience may allow a student to waive a required course with permission of the field. This does not reduce the number of academic credits required for the degree.

## 2. Transfer Credit from Non-ATS Accredited Schools or Non-degree Programs

Some departments of religion in a university are not ATS accredited. If the graduate school is accredited by a regional accreditation association transfer credit may be considered on a case-by-case basis in the range of 15 semester hours. We do not currently accept transfer credits from schools that do not have either ATS or regional accreditation.

## 3. Receiving Transfer/Advanced Standing Credit

Students make an appointment with the director of academic studies to finalize transfer or advanced standing credit. The director of academic studies in consultation with the academic dean evaluates transcripts in order to determine the total number of transfer semester hours and Garrett-Evangelical course equivalencies. Acceptance of field education credit in transfer requires the approval of the director of field education. The grade for any course transferred or waived should be B- or better. Transfer credit is added to the Garrett-Evangelical academic record following review by the director of academic studies/registrar and acceptance of transfer credit by the student. Because of the different purpose of introductory courses in a theological seminary and in undergraduate schools, students may not waive Introduction to OT or Introduction to NT on the basis of undergraduate course work.

MTS: Transfer credit under the time limit of 10 years may be granted (maximum of \*28 semester hours) to those who have another masters degree in religion or theology from an accredited seminary. *\*Because of the rigor of the program and preparation necessary for thesis writing, the advanced standing and transfer credit may be restricted to 9-12 semester hours.*

## 4. International Students

Because of the residency requirements for a study visa, transfer credit may be limited for international students. International students entering the MDiv program may be considered for up to 21 hours of transfer credit and those entering the MA or MTS programs may be considered for up to 12 hours of credit.

## 5. Course of Study School Transfer Credit

Transfer credit for Course of Study course work may be awarded toward the MDiv degree. One and a half semester hours per module may be awarded up to 15 semester hours and applied to the MDiv as elective credit. A graduate of the Garrett-Evangelical Course of Study School may receive up to a total of 27 semester hours or approximately 1/3 of the total MDiv degree. In addition to the 15 semester hours of elective credit for the 5 summers, an additional 12 semester hours can be applied to the following fields with the approval of the academic dean and director of academic studies:

3 hours	Bible elective
3 hours	History elective
3 hours	PCC-501 Introduction to Pastoral Care
3 hours	Preaching or Worship

Only courses with grades of B or higher may be counted in this additional credit. Those students under the former grading system must have grades of D (distinction) or P+. Interested students need to apply for transfer credit upon admission to the Master of Divinity degree program.