

**Advanced Standing Agreement Between  
Columbia Bible College and ACTS Seminaries  
April 2, 2019**

**Introduction**

This agreement facilitates advanced standing for graduates of Columbia Bible College (CBC) entering Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary at ACTS Seminaries by reducing unnecessary duplication in requirements for biblical and theological studies courses.

CBC is a major feeder school for MB Seminary and a sister school within the denomination. Many CBC graduates have enrolled in the programs offered through the ACTS consortium.

This agreement outlines specific details for advanced standing and transfer credit that will help undergraduate students with course planning and will streamline prior learning assessment by the admissions staff within the ACTS consortium.

**NOTE:** ATS Educational Standards (ES.7.4.3) limit accredited institutions to granting a maximum of one-fourth of the total credits required for a degree by advanced standing. This allows for 22 semester hours of advanced standing to be applied to the Master of Divinity (MDiv) program, 13 hours to be applied to the Master of Arts (Christian Studies) (MACS) and Master of Arts Linguistics and Translation (MALT) programs, and 18 semester hours to be applied to the Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy program (MAMFT). ACTS Seminaries policy currently allows up to 14 semester hours of advanced standing to be applied to the MDiv and up to 12 semester hours to the MACS, MALT and MAMFT programs.

This agreement divides assessment into three categories:

1. Advanced Standing with credit towards introductory seminary courses;
2. At-par advanced standing with credit for selected biblical studies courses,
3. At-par advanced standing with credit for biblical language courses.

Of these categories, the first represents an amendment of current policy, the second represents a new policy, and the third is unchanged from current transfer credit policy.

**1. Advanced Standing with Credit Towards Introductory Seminary Courses**

Seminary Course	Hours	Undergraduate Requirement	Hours	Notes (i.e., studies normally comprised of):
BIB 520 OT Foundations	3	9 Hours of RELS courses in Biblical Studies	9	RELS 102 OT Survey RELS 1xx or 2xx Elective RELS 3xx or 4xx Elective <sup>1</sup>
BIB 540 NT Foundations	3	9 Hours of RELS courses in Biblical Studies	9	RELS 101 NT Survey RELS 1xx or 2xx Elective RELS 3xx or 4xx Elective <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Graduates of Columbia who are entering ACTS programs that do not require BIB 620 Old Testament Theology can use RELS 301 Old Testament Theology here.

<sup>2</sup> Graduates of Columbia who are entering ACTS programs that do not require BIB 640 New Testament Theology can use RELS 302 New Testament Theology here.

BIB 505 Biblical Hermeneutics	3	6 Hours of studies in Biblical Hermeneutics	6	RELS 211 Biblical Hermeneutics RELS 311 Issues in Hermeneutics
THS 571 Theology I	3	9 hours of undergraduate courses in theological studies	9	RELS 160 Introduction to Christian Theology HIST 221 Anabaptist History and Thought RELS 460 Theological Confessions

**NOTES:**

- The inclusion of first- and second-year undergraduate courses towards BIB 520, BIB 540, BIB 505, and THS 571 acknowledges the overlap in course content between undergraduate and graduate level courses in these areas. The increase in the number of hours required for advanced standing compensates for this through a greater quantity of study at the undergraduate level.
- The student must have received a grade of B or higher for each of the undergraduate course(s) to be considered for advanced standing.

**2. At-Par Advanced Standing with Credit for Selected Biblical Studies Courses**

Seminary Course	Hours	Undergraduate Course	Hours	Notes:
BOT Old Testament Elective	3	RELS 300/400 Elective	3	At-Par Advanced Standing with Credit based on completion of syllabus approved by MB Seminary. <sup>3</sup>
BNT New Testament Elective	3	RELS 300/400 Elective	3	At-Par Advanced Standing with Credit based on completion of syllabus approved by MB Seminary.
BIB 620 Old Testament Theology	3	RELS 301 Old Testament Theology	3	At-Par Advanced Standing with Credit based on completion of syllabus approved by MB Seminary.
BIB 640 New Testament Theology	3	RELS 302 New Testament Theology	3	At-Par Advanced Standing with Credit based on completion of syllabus approved by MB Seminary.

**NOTES:**

- Selected Bible courses may be substituted only for the ACTS consortium MDiv program course requirements identified above and would be offered by CBC using syllabi developed in consultation with MB Seminary.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Syllabus approval will take place once for each course; subsequent consultation will take place only in the case of a change of instructor or substantive change to the course content. In the case of either of the above, Columbia will notify MB Biblical seminary of the change and invite feedback.

<sup>4</sup> A limited number of CBC courses with MB Seminary approved syllabi will be accepted for at-par advanced standing based on ATS accreditation of programs allowing completion of a BA and MDiv degree in 5 years, which are designed to reduce some of the redundancy between Bible college and seminary programs.

### 3. At-Par Advanced Standing with Credit for Biblical Language Courses

<b>Seminary Course</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Undergraduate Course</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Notes:</b>
BNT 501 Introductory New Testament Greek I	3	RELS Biblical Language course	3	Undergraduate language courses can be transferred into seminary programs on a 1-for-1 basis
BNT 502 Introductory New Testament Greek II	3	RELS Biblical Language course	3	Undergraduate language courses can be transferred into seminary programs on a 1-for-1 basis
BOT 501 Elementary Hebrew I	3	RELS Biblical Language course	3	Undergraduate language courses can be transferred into seminary programs on a 1-for-1 basis
BOT 502 Elementary Hebrew II	3	RELS Biblical Language course	3	Undergraduate language courses can be transferred into seminary programs on a 1-for-1 basis