

Petition for Early Completion of Degree Requirements Under Exceptional Circumstances **(Rev., Sept., 2019)**

Brown University's enrollment requirement and advanced standing policy, as set by the Corporation, stipulate that all undergraduates must enroll for eight semesters of full-time study or the equivalent in order to receive a degree from the University¹, and students may not graduate with more than one semester of advanced standing or the equivalent² without obtaining prior approval for an exception from the Committee on Academic Standing. Students who wish to graduate with seven semesters of full-time study or the equivalent may use one of the three available, regular pathways in place of one semester of required enrollment by applying to the Advanced Standing Dean, no later than the fifth semester of enrollment. These three pathways are:

- (i) One semester of effective standing based on successful completion of four Brown summer and/or Brown Wintersession courses; or
- (ii) One semester of advanced standing based on a minimum of three qualifying Advanced Placement (AP) exams, international exams, or transfer credits for (non Brown) pre-matriculation college courses taken during regular fall/spring terms; or
- (iii) One semester advancement from approved domestic (or home country) study away at another institution during a regular fall/spring term post-matriculation (not Brown abroad) full-time (or the equivalent).³

Students who already have successfully applied for a semester of advanced standing from one of these pathways, however, should note that they may not obtain a second semester of advanced standing or the equivalent to graduate with fewer than seven semesters of enrollment without petitioning and receiving approval from the Committee on Academic Standing for exceptional circumstances.

Students (including transfer and RUE students) who wish to advance their standing or complete requirements early and who do not meet the Advanced Standing criteria, or who miss the fifth semester application deadline, or who wish to request a second semester of advanced standing or the equivalent may petition for an exception from the Committee on

¹ This requirement is expressed as 32 enrollment units, accrued at four units per full-time semester. These enrollment unit requirements are independent of academic course credits.

² On May 24, 2019, the Corporation voted on and approved amendments to the Faculty Rules and Regulations (voted on and approved by the Faculty at its meeting on April 2, 2019) to clarify Brown's advanced standing and enrollment unit requirement. The approved policy limits undergraduates not admitted as transfer or Resumed Undergraduate Education (RUE) students to a maximum of one semester of advanced standing or the equivalent from one of three distinct categories: i) one semester of effective standing based on four Brown summer and/or Wintersession courses; or (ii) one semester of advanced standing based on qualifying or transcribed Advanced Placement (AP) test credits, international exam credits, and/or transfer credits for pre-matriculation college courses; or (iii) one semester of standing for full-time, approved domestic (or home country) study away at another institution. These can not be combined to substitute for more than one semester of standing/enrollment without CAS approval. Guidelines also stipulate that students must apply no later than the last day of their 5th semester of standing.

³ Semester advancement from study abroad in the fall or spring through the Office of International Programs does not count against the one semester of advanced standing limit.

Academic Standing. Petitions will only be approved under exceptional circumstances, and it is anticipated that most petitions will not be approved. The Committee on Academic Standing may consider an exception to Brown's standing/enrollment requirements⁴ when:

- A student faces an extraordinary personal or family circumstance, emergency, or call to duty to which they must attend, and the emergency would unreasonably delay the student's ability to meet the ordinary enrollment unit requirement; or
- There is a significant, rare, and time-sensitive opportunity for the student and delaying graduation would have significant negative consequences for taking up the opportunity;

In all cases, the student would have to meet all other graduation requirements except the enrollment unit requirement *and* be actively enrolled. Petitioning students also must be without existing or pending academic or behavioral code of conduct violations. In no case will an approval of exception provide for graduation with less than 4 semesters of full-time enrollment at Brown. (Brown study abroad semesters do not count toward the required four semesters.)

Student letters of petition should delineate:

- 1) how a student has or will have completed all other requirements for graduation;
- 2) what exceptional circumstances the student faces, and documentation that the circumstance requires immediate attention.

Students should seek prior approval to submit a petition from the Deputy Dean of the College [Gilda Mossadegh@brown.edu](mailto:Gilda_Mossadegh@brown.edu) or the Advanced Standing Dean [Maitrayee Bhattacharyya@brown.edu](mailto:Maitrayee_Bhattacharyya@brown.edu).

⁴ Students who receive an exception from CAS do not pay tuition charges for the semester(s) waived.