

Belmont University

BELL Core Handbook 2020-2021

BELMONT
EXPERIENCE
LEARNING
LIFE

Welcome to Belmont University!

The BELL Core (shorthand for **The Belmont Experience: Learning for Life**) is Belmont University's general education program, the common liberal arts core that constitutes over a third of a Belmont degree. While you will learn about the liberal arts tradition underpinning the program in First-Year Seminar, and you will learn all the details of your degree requirements from your advisor, a couple of points here quickly give the general picture.

The BELL Core is rooted in an over two-thousand year old tradition of liberal education; to understand the BELL Core is to understand liberal education. One way to summarize a liberal education is by its *content*: liberal education is a broad-based education in which students have at least a basic familiarity with the most important discoveries, ideas, and contributions of the various academic disciplines. It is a general education, with elements across the arts and sciences. Another way to summarize a liberal education is in terms of the *impact* it has on students: liberally educated people are curious, deliberative, well-informed, open-minded, and rational. They know how to integrate new information, forming sound judgments regarding its significance. Liberally educated people read well (and a lot); they communicate effectively in both speech and writing - even across cultural boundaries.

Just as there is more to life than a professional career, there is more to an education than professional preparation. The BELL Core plays a central role in Belmont's commitment to educate the whole person. You will be a better neighbor, especially in an increasingly diverse society, if you are familiar with cultural practices and ways of life different than your own. You will be a better media consumer if you know how to sort ideological ranting from reasoned analysis. You will be a better citizen if you understand the science, history, and religion needed to take an informed position. You will be a better parent if you understand the psychology of human development. You will be a better spouse if you learn how to engage passionate and civil disagreement, giving good reasons for the statements you make, adjusting your position in light of cogent points made on the other side. The knowledge and skills learned in the BELL Core will positively impact every aspect of your life.

We are profoundly curious creatures. There is a need, deep in our souls, to understand how the world works, and what our place in the world is and ought to be. The bedrock of our civilizations can be thought of as an unfolding conversation, encompassing the best of what has been thought and said, that began in various ancient locations and continues - primarily among a precious few places in our culture - in the halls of today's universities. The BELL Core is your ticket into the conversation, a means to claim your intellectual heritage, to listen to the great voices and ideas across time, and even to make your own contribution to the conversation.

Liberal learning is hard work, but it is also deeply joyous. Study hard, but have fun. Wonder. Wander. Explore. Learn cool stuff. Be fascinated. Get your mind blown. And you will be able to use the BELL Core to reveal more of the beauty, awe, tragedy, and complexity of the world we all share. And while the world is becoming more interesting to you, you will also be accomplishing something far greater: you will become both more interesting and more useful to the world as well.

Sincerely,
BELL Core Director

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I. The BELL Core: Vision, Values, & Goals

I.A. Vision:

The diverse educational communities of a comprehensive university have a common interest in liberal learning. Liberal learning nurtures each student's capability for transforming human culture and complements professional and vocational pathways. Liberal education involves acquiring fundamental intellectual skills; becoming conversant with a variety of human ideas, cultural perspectives, and conceptual frameworks; and developing habits of ethical reflecting and acting in an interdependent world. This vision of general education enables Belmont University to achieve its vision to be a premier teaching university, bringing together the best of liberal arts and professional education in a Christian community of learning and service.

The following values will be infused throughout the courses in the general education curriculum and pursued through a wide variety of active learning experience:

- life-long intellectual growth and development;
- moral values and personal commitments;
- application of classroom learning outside academic contexts;
- extending learning beyond the classroom.

I.B. Learning Goals:

- **Connecting Disciplines**

The BELL Core engages students in a range of individual disciplines including humanities, social sciences, sciences, arts, quantitative reasoning, religion, and wellness. Students learn how to recognize the connections among disciplines and they develop an integrated, contextualized understanding of the world around them.

- **Communication**

The BELL Core seeks to develop the writing, speaking, listening, and presenting skills of our students. Students learn how to effectively communicate complex and interesting ideas in ways that are compelling, substantive, and persuasive.

- **Collaboration**

The BELL Core encourages students to learn, grow, and support each other as a team members. Students learn how to solve problems through collaboration, bringing contributions of diverse peers together toward a solution.

- **Critical Thinking**

BELL Core students will pose meaningful questions and seek imaginative answers using evidence-based reasoning to solve complex problems and contribute new knowledge to the world. Students learn how to critically evaluate knowledge claims, and competing sets of evidence, toward forming their own reasoned conclusions.

- **Citizenship**

The BELL Core encourages students to act as ethical citizens by increasing their cultural knowledge and social understanding. Students learn how to consider various points of views, think deeply about public values, and engage in civil discourse across even passionate disagreement.

I.C. BELL Core At-a-Glance

Your BELL Core requirements are in the three parts listed below.

Please note that a course taken and applied to one of the three parts below will not “share” another part. For example a course counting in the Foundations will not also count in the Cognates.

Signature Courses (16 hours).

These put Belmont’s unique signature on a liberal arts education by providing vertical structure and establishing two particular areas of strength.

- First-Year Seminar (3 hours)
- Interdisciplinary Learning Communities (hours count elsewhere)
- Junior Cornerstone (hours count elsewhere)
- Senior Capstone (1 hour)
- Writing, First and Third Year (6 hours)
- Religion, First and Third Year (6 hours)

Foundations Courses (22 hours).

These are the proper foundation of every liberal education, representing a spectrum of learning that is roughly akin to the traditional liberal arts.

- Oral Communication (3 hours)
- Social Science (3 hours)
- Humanities (3 hours)
- Fine Arts (3 hours)
- Quantitative Reasoning (3 hours)
- Lab Science (4 hours)
- Wellness (3 hours)

Degree Cognates (0-15 hours).

These distinguish the various degrees from one another, indicating the extension of liberal learning that is appropriate to each distinct degree. You are only required to take the hours listed under the particular degree you are pursuing. Degree Cognate requirements are above and beyond the Foundations requirements. A course may count only toward one or the other, not both.

In Social Science and Humanities, courses taken for the Degree Cognate must be from a different prefix than those used to fill the Foundations Courses requirement. For example, if a B.A. student takes a PHI (Philosophy) course to fill their humanities requirement in Foundations, a humanities approved course other than a PHI course must be taken to fill the humanities requirement in the Degree Cognates. There may be exceptions related to licensure for certain professional degrees.

Bachelor of Arts (BA): 15 hours

- 3 additional hours in Social Science
- 3 additional hours in Humanities
- 6 hours in Foreign Language
- 3 additional hours in Science

Bachelor of Science (BS): 15 hours

- 6 additional hours in Social Science

- 3 additional hours in Humanities
- 3 additional hours in Math
- 3 additional hours in Science

- Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA):** 12 hours
- ECO 2210: Principles of Macroeconomics (3 hours)
 - ECO 2220: Principles of Microeconomics (3 hours)
 - MTH 1150: Elementary Statistics (3 hours)
 - 3 additional hours in Humanities

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN):** 10 hours
- MTH 1151, Elementary Statistics for the Sciences
 - PSY 1100: General Psychology (3 hours) **OR**
 - PSY1200: Introduction to Psychological Science (4 hours)
 - CEM 1020, General, Organic, and Biochemistry (4 hours)

- Bachelor of Social Work (BSW):** 12 hours
- 6 additional hours in Social Science
 - MTH 1550: Elementary Statistics
 - PSY 1100: General Psychology (3 hours) **OR**
 - PSY1200: Introduction to Psychological Science (4 hours)

- Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH):** 13 Hours
- BIO 1120: Principles of Biology II (4 Hours)
 - MTH 1151: Elementary Statistics for the Sciences (3 Hours)
 - PSC 1300: U.S. and World Affairs (3 Hours)
 - ECO 2220: Principles of Microeconomics (3 Hours)

- Bachelor of Architecture (BArch):** 6 Hours
- HIS 1010: World History to 1500 (3 Hours)
 - HIS 1020: World History since 1500 (3 Hours)

Bachelor of Music (BM): no Degree Cognates

Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA): no Degree Cognates

II. Signature Courses

II.A. First-Year Seminar (FYS; BEL 1015)

Partly as introduction and transition to college life, all first time college students entering Belmont are required to take BEL 1015: First-Year Seminar. The theme of the course is “ways of knowing” and you will explore the nature of knowledge, how it differs from mere belief, and the various ways in which human beings construct and evaluate knowledge claims. Through this discussion, students will be introduced to the liberal arts tradition that underpins the BELL Core, as well as the range of contemporary liberal arts. Individual faculty members choose sub-themes for their own sections, with a variety of topics for example: Japanese culture, dreams, finding common ground, and voodoo. No matter the sub-theme, you will improve and develop your reading and critical thinking skills.

FYS is taken in the fall semester of freshman year.

Transfer Policy: Very rarely is a course taken at another university able to substitute for FYS. It needs to be an interdisciplinary course that explores the foundations of the liberal arts in the context of an introduction to general education.

Waiver: Students who transfer to Belmont after spending a full academic year, two academic semesters, as a full-time college student after graduating from high school are eligible for an FYS waiver. Credits earned during high school, including AP, IB, and dual enrollment credits do not count toward an FYS waiver.

II.B. Interdisciplinary Learning Communities (ILC)

Interdisciplinary Learning Communities (ILC) are one of the critical ways the BELL Core helps you see that all the various academic disciplines are interconnected. In your Learning Community Courses, students enrolled in two different courses that each have the same group of students. The instructors in the two courses work deliberately to explore a connection between the two disciplines. For instance, your link might be between a political science class and a chemistry class. In both classes, from two different points of view, you might examine the relationship that does or should exist between science and public policy. Or you might link a computer science course and a literature course focusing on science fiction, and examine the relationship between humans and machines.

Note that the classes you link are not requirements above and beyond the other requirements. The ILC requirement should be met simultaneously while meeting other BELL Core requirements. Presumably, both of the courses you link will also help meet other graduation requirements. In the first example above, the student would also receive science credit for the chemistry course, and social science credit for the political science class.

ILC courses should be taken in the spring semester of freshman year.

Transfer Policy: The ILC requirement cannot be met by transfer

Waiver: Students who transfer thirty (30) or more credit hours are eligible for an ILC waiver.

Required Repeat: If a student fails one of the linked courses, but passes the other, then the student will get credit for the course passed, but will need to retake a different set of ILC courses in order to meet the requirement. Merely retaking the course that was failed, in a non-ILC format, will not meet the ILC requirement.

II.C: Junior Cornerstone (JCS; XXX 3015)

Junior Cornerstone (JCS) ensures that Belmont students have an encounter with collaborative learning, learning through teamwork, as part of their liberal education. Junior Cornerstone is not a class above and beyond the other BELL Core requirements, but a particular way of meeting one of those requirements. You might meet your humanities requirement by taking a Philosophy or English Junior Cornerstone. You might meet your Third-Year Religion requirement by taking it as a Junior Cornerstone. No matter which class you take as your Junior Cornerstone, you will learn to work better with others, engaging together to solve problems, complete projects, and even present your work. A substantial portion of your grade will be determined by how well you collaborated, not merely the quality of the final product.

Junior Cornerstone should, perhaps obviously, be taken during junior year.

Junior Cornerstone courses should not be in a student's major or minor.

Transfer Policy: The Junior Cornerstone requirement cannot be met by transfer, AP, or dual enrollment.

Please note: Only courses numbered 3015 can count toward JCS credit. For instance, even if a section of REL 3050 has the same course title as a section of REL 3015, the 3015 course counts for JCS credit, and the 3050 course does not. The difference between them is exactly the use of collaborative pedagogy that is at the heart of JCS.

Waiver: Junior Cornerstone will not be waived.

II.D: Senior Capstone Seminar (BEL 4015)

Taken during your last year at Belmont, the Senior Capstone is the culminating event of the BELL Core program. The emphasis in the course is on reflection. You will explore how the various components of the BELL Core mesh with the experiences of your major to shed light on the nature and source of meaningful living. You will review and reflect on the challenges and growth you have experienced at Belmont, and how those experiences will inform and guide your future.

Many academic areas and programs integrate the BELL Core Senior Capstone with a culminating experience specific to the major or course of study; for other programs of study, the Senior Capstone is independent of study in the major. Your academic advisor will direct you to the right class, which must be a 4015 number to fulfill this requirement.

Senior Capstone should be taken during the final year at Belmont.

Transfer/ Waiver Policy: Senior Capstone cannot be met by transfer, and will not be waived.

II.E: First-Year Writing/ Third-Year Writing (ENG 1010/ 3010)

Effective written communication is essential for all academic disciplines, and it is a skill that is central to a liberal education. Unlike many institutions, Belmont requires both a first and third year writing course. In First-Year Writing (ENG 1010), you will learn that writing is a process of discovery as you hone your skills in personal, expository, and (especially) argumentative writing. Third-Year (ENG 3010) writing focuses on more advanced skills of academic writing, with particular emphasis on integrating academic research into argumentative essays, usually in your own academic field.

The difference between First-Year Writing and Third-Year Writing is that students bring a developing interest and expertise in their major to bear on their writing projects. Hence, in Third-Year Writing students have the opportunity to research and develop an idea that relates both to the theme of the course and to their chosen field of study. Since investigation and information literacy is so important to developing new knowledge in any field, the research paper is highlighted in this course, and students learn the advanced and sophisticated skills required to write research papers in their fields.

First-Year Writing should be taken in the fall of freshman year.

Third-Year Writing should be taken in the spring of junior year, though students sometimes take it earlier as part of a study abroad program.

Transfer Policy: Students can transfer in any appropriate first year college writing course for ENG 1010, or receive credit for it by getting a 4 or 5 on the AP English Language and Composition exam. To be considered appropriate, a composition course must primarily focus on writing instruction, and include substantial research based writing. ENG 3010 cannot be met by any transfer course. Composition II courses taken at another university may count toward BELL Core humanities requirements in either Foundations or Degree Cognates.

Waiver: BELL Core writing course requirements will not be waived.

II.F: Religion

Religion is an abiding feature of human life, offering a wellspring of meaning and purpose across human civilizations. The BELL Core religion requirement does not advocate a specific doctrine, but it seeks to provide opportunities for students to reflect deeply on the role of religion in human life, understand the variety of religious experiences, and have an intellectually sophisticated encounter with the Bible. These are key areas of learning that are important for a liberal arts education regardless of your religious perspective. In line with Belmont's Christian tradition, we have made this a signature feature of the BELL Core, insuring that Belmont

graduates have a sophisticated understanding of religion and the Bible.

To meet the requirement, you will take two religion courses, one in your first year and one in your third year. There are two different paths to complete this requirement. Path A is Introduction to the Old Testament (REL 1020) in the first year, and Introduction to the New Testament (REL 3050) in the third year. Path B is Understanding the Bible (REL 1010) in the first year, and one of eight topical courses such as Spirituality in World Religions (REL 3090) or Questions that Matter (REL 3080) in the third year. The two path structure ensures that students have an encounter with the whole biblical text.

Transfer Policy: Religion courses transferred in from accredited institutions will only substitute for REL 1010 if they cover the entire biblical text. Transfer courses can only substitute for REL 1020 if they are focused on the old testament. Any college religion course (1000-4000 level) can count for the third year religion (i.e., for REL 3020, 3080, 3090).

Please Note: Once matriculated to Belmont, students may not take a lower-level Religion course at another institution and transfer this course in as Belmont's 3000-level Religion requirement after having acquired 45 credit hours toward their degree.

Waiver: The BELL Core religion requirement will not be waived.

III: Foundations

III. A: Oral Communication (COM 1100)

Effective oral communication, including public speaking, is essential in nearly all academic and professional contexts. Belmont's oral communication requirement is met by taking Fundamentals of Speech Communication (COM 1100), a public speaking course that will challenge you to refine your ability to put together and deliver effective messages. Teaching difficult concepts, organizing your thoughts, having a point, and persuading others are just some of invaluable skills you'll have the opportunity to assess and improve in the course.

COM 1100 is designed for students in their second, third, or fourth semester (prior to 60 hours).

Transfer Policy: Any 3-hour transfer course in speech/communication that includes significant public speaking (3 or more individual speeches, at least 2 of which require research), as well as instruction in public speaking can be used to meet this requirement.

Please Note: Courses that are "hybrid" communication survey courses, covering multiple areas of communication: interpersonal, small group, public speaking, etc. These courses can count if they include significant public speaking (3 or more individual speeches, at least 2 of which require research) as well as instruction in public speaking

Please Note: "High Anxiety" sections are available for students who experience extreme anxiety while giving oral presentations.

III.B: Social Science

The social sciences explore the interrelationships of individuals and groups in society, including social institutions and cultural history. They are a fundamental component of a modern liberal education. Depending on your specific course of study, you will be required to take between one and four social science classes in the BELL Core. In these courses, you will develop a deeper awareness of human behavior, institutions, culture, and society through critical thinking and ethical reflection. You will also enhance a broad range of analytic and reading skills, as well improve your capacity for civil discourse regarding matters of public interest. The academic areas offering BELL Core social science credit are:

- Sociology
- Political Science
- History
- Economics
- Communication Studies (not a speech course)
- Public Relations
- Media Studies
- Asian Studies

Transfer Policy: Courses from those and related areas that are transferred from accredited institutions will generally count toward the social science requirement. Anthropology and Geography courses may count for either science or social science credit, depending on which is more appropriate given the specific content of the course.

III.C: Humanities

The humanities are those academic disciplines through which human beings engage and describe the human experience, and they are an essential component of a liberal education. Depending on your course of study, you will be required to take between one and four humanities classes as part of the BELL Core. Through these courses, you will encounter great literature and philosophy that sheds light on the human condition and the variety of human experiences. As a result, you will strengthen your skills of reading, writing, and conversation - as well as your capacity to empathize with those whose experiences radically differ from your own. The academic areas offering BELL Core humanities credit are:

- English
- Philosophy
- Asian Studies
- Classics
- European Studies
- Foreign Language (XXX 1020 or above)

Transfer Policy: Courses from those and related areas that are transferred from accredited institutions will generally count toward the humanities requirement.

Please Note: Second semester foreign language courses, typically titled Elementary II and numbered 1020, count for the humanities requirement. First semester language courses (typically numbered 1010) do not count toward any BELL Core requirement.

III.D: Fine Art

An understanding of the arts in history, appreciation and role in human life is an indispensable feature of liberal education. To meet Belmont's fine arts requirement, you will take a class in Art, Music, Theatre, Film or Dance. In this class, you will learn about the nature, variety, and history of the fine art. As a result, you will have a richer appreciation for the human experience of creating beauty, and hopefully a greater capacity to understand, evaluate, and enjoy such artwork.

Transfer Policy: Students may transfer in any 3-hour course in Art, Music, Theatre, Film or Dance that is primarily an arts history/culture course. A combination course such as an allied arts course is also acceptable, but a strictly skill or performance based course is not. The course may focus on the arts of the classical tradition, commercial/American popular tradition, or a specific world tradition or era.

III.E: Quantitative Reasoning

Beyond simply being able to do sophisticated math, a liberal education involves understanding how math relates to the world. Therefore, Belmont's featured general education math class, Quantitate Literacy & Reasoning (MTH 1010), focuses on quantitative reasoning, showing the structure of mathematical and deductive reasoning, while highlighting applications to a variety of contexts. You will develop advanced problem-solving skills, as well as improve your ability to apply mathematical reasoning across a range of circumstances. Alternatively, students may take Inquiry through Computer Science (CSC 1020) or Introduction to Data Science (DSC 1020). Students preferring a more traditional approach may choose to take Calculus I (MTH 1210) to meet the requirement (including AP Calculus).

Pre-requisites: There is no pre-requisite for Quantitate Literacy & Reasoning (MTH 1010). Inquiry through Computer Science (CSC 1020) has a pre-requisite of an ACT math score of 22 or greater. Introduction to Data Science also has a pre-requisite of an ACT math score of 22 or greater. Calculus I (MTH 1210) has a pre-requisite of an ACT math score of 27 or greater, or Pre-Calculus (MTH 1130), or equivalent.

Transfer Policy: Students transferring in over 30 hours may meet the requirement with any non-remedial* math course being transferred in. Students transferring to Belmont with 30 hours or less with a math class will need that math class to be equivalent to one of our offerings to count for BELL Core QR credit. Because our emphasis on quantitative reasoning is not the norm at all colleges and universities, students should not assume that their prior or future math courses will count for BELL Core QR credit and should instead consult with the Mathematics and Computer Science department to determine equivalency.

** Generally these titles are remedial and will NOT count for BELL Core credit at Belmont: General Mathematics, Business Math, Pre-Algebra Mathematics, Advanced Algebra, Basic Algebra, Intermediate Algebra, and Intermediate College Algebra.*

III.F: Lab Science

The physical and natural sciences use careful and systematic observations in order to describe and explain the natural world, yielding extraordinary insight into our environment. Providing an understanding of scientific processes and conclusions is near the center of a modern liberal education. In these classes, you will learn about scientific methodologies as well as the broad

outlines of a core scientific discipline. You will learn how to evaluate scientific claims and, through a lab experience, learn something of how to do science. The academic areas offering BELL Core science credit are:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Environmental Science
- Physics
- Psychology

All students are required to take four credit hours in a science course that must include a lab as part of their Foundations courses. Depending on your course of study, you may have additional science requirements as part of your Degree Cognates.

Transfer Policy: All transfer requests for a lab science will be reviewed for content and hour equivalency to Belmont courses. Courses that include a lab, but are outside the range of Belmont's science offerings, can also meet this requirement (Archeology and Astronomy are examples) after appropriate review. On-line courses that lack a substantial in-person laboratory component will not count for the lab science.

Please note: Many majors have one or more BELL Core approved lab courses as technical requirements. That means that a specific BELL Core lab approved science course might be required for your particular major. Be sure to check with your advisor to ensure that you are in appropriate courses to meet these requirements.

III.G: Wellness

The Indian Yoga traditions, as well as the ancient Greeks, recognized that a truly well-rounded education includes pursuit of excellence in both mind and body. The goal of the BELL Core wellness requirement is to provide you with an understanding of health and fitness, as well as the skills necessary to apply that knowledge and maintain a healthy lifestyle for years to come. With three different paths through the requirement, you will learn some basic nutrition science, as well as develop and implement a fitness program involving an activity such as jogging, ice-skating, racquetball, or weight training.

Transfer: Similar courses taken at accredited institutions will be accepted for transfer credit, but the wellness requirement is not met unless both aspects have been satisfied - the physical activity as well as the wellness knowledge content. Courses transferring for the well knowledge content must explore one more of the following concepts: healthy lifestyles, risk factors, disease prevention, nutrition, and health-related fitness.

Please note: Whatever path is chosen it must have two credit hours of Wellness concepts and one credit hour of activity.

III.H: Foreign Language (B.A.)

Knowledge of a foreign language unlocks the literary and philosophical works of a culture, as well as opening the possibility of conversation and direct interaction with people who would otherwise remain strangers. The equivalent of two semesters at intermediate level language study is required for students pursuing the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree, and such students should begin work on their foreign language requirement as soon as they can. In these courses, you learn to read, write, and speak the language while also learning various aspects of the culture. Belmont offers courses in French, German, Italian, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese,

Greek, Hebrew and Latin.

The B.A. foreign language requirement is for six (6) credit hours at the Intermediate language level or above (2000 or above).

Transfer Policy: Intermediate language courses that are transferred from accredited institutions will generally count toward the foreign language requirement.

Please Note: Intermediate languages (typically 2000 level or above) other than those offered at Belmont can meet this requirement when appropriately transferred.

Please Note: American Sign Language (ASL) is treated the same as any other language. First semester ASL courses do not count toward the BELL Core at all. Second semester courses can meet the Humanities requirement under the Foundations category. Third semester courses and beyond can count toward the Foreign Language requirement under the B.A. Degree Cognates.

Please Note: Students with previous background in a language should consult with faculty teaching language courses to determine their proper placement. A very rough guide is that each year of language instruction in high school is equivalent to a semester in college. Students who are already fluent in a language that is foreign from Belmont's point of view are not exempt from the B.A. language requirement. They should meet the six hour requirement taking more advanced culture and literature classes. Proper placement is ultimately the student's responsibility.

IV. Transferable Credits

IV.A: Transfer Credit Earned After High School

-By policy all course with grades are transferred into Belmont (except for courses excluded in the official transfer policy in the catalog) to determine a GPA from all institutions. In order for transfer courses to apply to the BELL Core the course must bear a clear resemblance to ours to be granted as a course transfer equivalency, and only if awarded a grade of C- or above in the class being transferred to Belmont University.

-The burden of proof to ensure the appropriateness of the transfer equivalency falls to the student. The information on a transcript may not be adequate; catalog course descriptions and/or syllabi may be needed to verify the course's appropriateness.

-Courses that focus on methods of teaching are not acceptable for BELL Core credit. Courses in teaching history cannot meet the social science requirement, for instance. Courses in teaching English cannot meet the humanities requirement.

-Information about transfer credit from the registrar's office including links to TN community college approved transfer courses can be found at:
<http://www.belmont.edu/registrar/transfer/current.html>

The general transfer policy may be found at:
<http://catalog.belmont.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=184#transfer-credit>

IV.B: Study Abroad and Study Away

Students studying abroad, or on domestic study away experiences, routinely earn BELL Core credit as part of their study abroad/ study away experience. The BELL Core Office considers study abroad/ study away to be a particularly powerful tool for delivering BELL Core learning objectives.

These courses are treated like any other transfer courses, but are handled through the Study Abroad Office. Courses to be taken during a study abroad/ study away experience which might be eligible for BELL Core credit in a certain area are presented to the BELL Core Director, who approves or denies the request.

IV.C: Dual Enrollment

Credit earned through dual enrollment during high school eligible to be counted toward the BELL Core in courses that are similar to Belmont courses are transferrable with a grade of C- or better. Dual enrollment courses are, for most purposes, treated the same as transfer courses and you must have the official transcript sent to Belmont for those classes to count from the college or university where the course was taken. Once transferred, these dual enrollment classes will appear on DegreeWorks just like any other college course.

IV.D: International Baccalaureate (IB)

Belmont University recognizes the International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum as a strong pre-university program and encourages students in this program to apply to the university. Credit for individual tests will be awarded for scores of 5, 6, or 7 for tests that were taken at the “higher level” as opposed to the “standard level”. For students who have earned IB diplomas, further consideration will be given in awarding credit, based on the evaluation of their entire IB transcript. A maximum of 24 semester hours’ credit may be earned in IB, AP, and other pre-university courses. The general IB policy can be found at:

<http://catalog.belmont.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=184#transfer-credit>

IV. E: Advanced Placement (AP)

Belmont University participates in the Advanced Placement program of the College Entrance Examination Board, and gives advanced placement and appropriate hours of university credit to qualified entering students. University credit is awarded in the amount carried by the course for which the student is receiving advanced placement. For instance, you may receive 3 hours for a history course or 4 hours for a physics course that includes a lab. A maximum of 24 semester hours’ credit may be earned in IB, AP, and other pre- university courses.

Details on which AP exams Belmont offers credit for, and specifically what credit is give can be found here: <http://catalog.belmont.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=184#transfer-credit>

V. Academic Advising

V. A.: Student Best Practice Regarding Advising

Your academic advisor will be there to assist with understanding your degree requirements, including those that make up the BELL Core. Be sure to get to know your advisor early on in your career as a student. With such assistance, your education and degree progress is your responsibility. Here are some pointers, as you begin to plan your Belmont years:

1. Use DegreeWorks! It is the best place to see your outstanding requirements, track your progress toward graduation, and maintain a record of communication with your advisor. Your advisor will be using DegreeWorks for these same purposes.
2. Know your degree requirements. Also, be aware that changing your degree type (from BBA to BS, for instance) may change your BELL Core Degree Cognate requirements.
3. Develop a strong relationship with your advisor. Your academic advisor is here to help. Make sure to meet him or her as early as possible. Make a note of that phone number and email address. Our faculty take this role seriously and are motivated to answer your questions and keep you on track to complete your degree.
4. Plan ahead. As you look through the requirements for BELL Core, you will see that it pays to plan out a long-term strategy for completing them. Some courses, such as Learning Communities and Junior Cornerstones, satisfy other requirements as well. Talk with your advisor about killing two birds with one stone whenever you can!
5. Ask questions. Never hesitate to ask if you don't understand what is required. Take charge of your education. Make sure you are on the right path at all times!
6. Be sure to confirm that every student has meet requirements in major, minor, Bell Core and has minimum total earned hours for degree of 128+
7. Check in every semester with your advisor regarding convocation requirements, in addition to curricular requirements. Convocation is a graduation requirement, and students who have not completed the convocation program will not be permitted to graduate.

V.B: Requesting an Exemption or Substitution

Any student wishing to request a change to their academic record (waiving or substituting a BELL Core requirement) must work with their academic advisor to prepare and submit a course substitution form to the Office of General Education (located in Ayers 2050). Students must provide documentation supporting their request (syllabus, course description, justification).

Please note that each student is responsible for their own academic progress as laid out for them in degree works and the catalog. Students are responsible for checking degree works after registration to be sure that courses are counting appropriately.

VI. Definitions

1. **“Technical Requirements:”** Courses under this header are identified by the major as courses that must be taken and will count in the BELL Core.
2. **“Tool Courses:”** Courses under this header are a category of courses considered to be foundation by a major considered “foundational” knowledge, but do not count in the BELL Core.
3. **“Major Electives:”** Courses under this header are course counted in the major hours and are usually prescribed as a list of specific courses, or subject prefixes (occasionally with a required level, e.g. 3000 level).
4. **“General Free Electives:”** Courses under this header are any courses taken to fulfill total hours to degree (i.e. 128+) but not courses counting in the major, minor or BELL Core.