

Advanced Standing

Advanced Standing is Western's process for evaluating a student's prior experience or knowledge on a given subject. Most students will receive Advanced Standing from baccalaureate work at an accredited undergraduate institution. Occasionally, students have significant prior knowledge and can demonstrate competency through examinations. Students who complete a Western coaching course are eligible to receive Advanced Standing credit throughout their degree program if they receive a certificate of completion for a coach training course.

Deadlines. Advanced Standing forms must be filled out by the Monday of Week 9 of the semester to be considered in a given term. Advanced Standing for credit must be completed by the end of a student's first term post-matriculation to be considered. Advanced Standing without credit may be examined at any time during a student's career. Any forms for Advanced Standing with or without credit turned in after Week 9 will be reviewed in the following term.

Advanced Standing by Transcript Evaluation. Those students who have completed undergraduate work representing an 80% parity of a Western course and received a sufficient grade in the course are potentially eligible for Advanced Standing. Students must fill out an Advanced Standing Form and attach an unofficial transcript and the syllabus for the class they took. It is the student's responsibility to ensure all the necessary paperwork is attached. Forms will only be reviewed at the point in which the transcript and syllabus are attached. The Advanced Standing Coordinator may request additional materials from previous coursework at their discretion. [Find the form here.](#)

Advanced Standing by Examination. Advanced Standing exams are intended to examine prior knowledge and general competency with a particular class. Given that a regular four-credit Western course involves 180 hours of study with a subject matter expert and deep interaction with scholarship, examination responses require a student to demonstrate a command not only with the subject matter itself but also a fluency with the significant ideas and vocabulary studied in that particular area, along with an evangelical, gospel-centered application of the subject to life and ministry. [Find the form here.](#)

The best way to prepare for advanced standing exams is to review previous course syllabi and pay careful attention to the learning outcomes. Syllabi can be found at <https://www.westernseminary.edu/syllabi>. Exams are conducted in one of two formats:

1. Exams are typically administered through Western's Moodle learning management system.
 - Once a student has been added to an exam on Moodle, they will have 14 days to complete it.

- There is typically a time limit of 60 to 80 minutes, depending on the exam; the exam must be completed in a single sitting. The time limit and other instructions will be given when the student clicks the exam link; the clock starts when the ‘attempt quiz’ link is clicked.
 - Exams are closed-note, closed-Bible, and no outside sources may be used, e.g. dictionaries, internet searches, etc.
 - The exams consist of essay-type questions. Complete answers will be detailed and will reference Scripture as appropriate; Scripture addresses or approximate quotes are fine, since these are closed-Bible exams.
 - The questions for the exams are not to be shared with others.
 - Based on the nature of these exams, neither feedback nor the identity of the faculty member(s) who evaluates the exam will be shared. Rather, the Advanced Standing Coordinator will contact you with the final results.
2. Based on the nature of some classes, the student will work with a faculty member to demonstrate competency; these evaluations may include writing papers and conversations with a professor.

Advanced Standing for Coaching Students. Students who have completed Western’s Coach Training Program courses are eligible for Advanced Standing with Credit any time during their degree program. Students must submit an Advanced Standing form and attach the class certificate to be considered for Advanced Standing. [Find the form here.](#)