

Brandeis Semesters, Advanced Placement, and Study Abroad

Brandeis Semesters and Study Abroad

To be eligible for a semester or academic year of Study Abroad, students must be a member of the junior* class or a first-semester senior and must return to Brandeis for at least one semester at an eligible rate of work in order to receive credit.

Students entering as first years are required to complete a minimum of seven full-time semesters from Brandeis fall/spring semesters, approved fall/spring Study Abroad programs or approved Justice Brandeis Semester programs. At most one of these seven semesters may be a Study Abroad Semester or a summer Justice Brandeis Semester. For students wishing to complete two semesters of study abroad, or two summer Justice Brandeis Semesters, or one semester of each, the minimum number of semesters becomes eight full-time semesters. A Justice Brandeis Semester in the fall, spring, or summer with fall extension counts in the same manner as a regular fall or spring semester at Brandeis.

Summer courses do not count as a Brandeis semester. All Brandeis students must complete 32 courses (128 credits) in order to earn a degree. Of the 32 courses (128 credits), 28 of these (112 credits) must be numeric course-credits, completed in a **minimum** of 7 semesters. *One semester of study abroad on an approved program may count as one of the required 7 semesters.*

Note: It is not possible to graduate in 7 semesters and study abroad for a full year.

**To be considered for junior standing a student must have accumulated 56 credits.*

For more information on semester requirements for graduation, please reference the [Bulletin](#).

If I only have to complete 28 courses (112 credits), where can the additional 4 courses (16 credits) come from?

The additional 4 courses (16 credits) can be earned in a variety of ways:

- Additional courses taken at Brandeis during fall or spring semesters.
- Brandeis summer school classes.
- Justice Brandeis Semester (JBS) Summer.
- Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate credit.
- A second semester of approved Study Abroad.
- Summer Study Abroad
- Exceptions for the Mid-year Class only:
 - approved courses taken the fall term prior to entering Brandeis.
 - approved courses in General Chemistry I and II plus labs (equivalent to 3 courses (12 credits) taken the summer prior to entering Brandeis.

Brandeis Semesters	Study Abroad Semesters	Summer Justice Brandeis Semester (JBS)	Additional 4 Courses
7 fall or spring semesters	1 fall or spring semester	0	0
7 fall or spring semesters	0	1 summer JBS Program	0
6 fall or spring semesters	2 fall or spring semesters	0	0
6 fall or spring semesters	1 fall or spring semester	1 summer JBS Program	0
6 fall or spring semesters	0	2 summer JBS Programs	0
6 fall or spring semesters	1 fall or spring semester	0	Equivalent of 1 semester earned from any of the ways listed above

What is the difference between “purpose” credit and “numeric course-credits”?

“Numeric course-credits” are credits that can count towards the 32 courses (128 credits) that students need for graduation.

“Purpose” credit is credit that can be used to fulfill a general university requirement (School of Humanities, Quantitative Reasoning, etc...) or to fulfill a major/minor requirement. It **can not** be used to fulfill the 32 courses (128 credits) needed for graduation. Examples of “purpose” credit are pre-approved non-Brandeis summer school courses, and AP/IB credits exceeding the maximum of 4 courses (16 credits).

Can you give me some examples?

Scenario 1: A student plans to graduate in 8 semesters. He/she is:

- at Brandeis for 7 semesters and completes 28 courses (112 credits)
- studies abroad for 1 semester (16 credits)

for a total of 32 courses (128 credits).

Scenario 2: A student plans to graduate in 8 semesters. He/she is:

- at Brandeis for 6 semesters and completes 24 courses (96 credits)
- studies abroad for 2 semesters (32 credits)

for a total of 32 courses (128 credits).

Scenario 3: A student plans to graduate in 7 semesters*. He/she is:

- at Brandeis for 6 semesters and completes 24 courses (96 credits)
- studies abroad for 1 semester (16 credits)
- applies AP, IB, Summer Study Abroad, or Brandeis Summer School credit for an additional 4 courses (16 credits)

for a total of 32 courses (128 credits).

- *Note: If a student plans to graduate in 7 semesters it is not possible to study abroad for more than 1 semester.*

How do I claim my AP or IB credit(s)?

If you plan to study abroad, you should claim your AP credit before you study abroad. If you requested your Advanced Placement scores be sent to Brandeis when you applied to the University, those scores are on file in the Registrar's office.

In order to officially "claim" the AP for numeric course-credit, you should first meet with your academic advisor to discuss how your AP credit can be used in your academic plans and check to be sure you have not taken any of the "equivalent courses" on campus, which would make you ineligible for AP credit. You will then be directed to the Office of the Registrar to fill out a form that will be used to verify your scores and apply the numeric course-credits to your permanent record.

I plan to study abroad for two semesters, and I already claimed my AP/IB credits. What does that mean for the number of Brandeis semesters I need in order to graduate?

The 32 credits you will receive from studying abroad for two semesters will count towards the overall 128 credits you need for graduation. Therefore any AP/IB credits you have claimed will be adjusted to "purpose" credit.

I'm planning to study abroad as a senior, what do I need to know?

1. You may not study abroad during your final semester. You must return to campus for a minimum of one semester.
2. It is highly recommended that you officially declare all of the majors and minors that you intend to complete before you study abroad. Once you have declared all your majors and minors you can accurately determine what courses you still need to take to fulfill each major and minor and plan your course selection accordingly.
3. You should ensure you have an accurate degree audit completed before you leave to study abroad so that you can determine exactly what university requirements you still need to complete in order to graduate.
4. Carefully plan your course selection to ensure you will complete all university requirements. It is highly recommended that you meet with your class advisor to do this. Remember that you will only have one semester when you return from study abroad in which to fulfill any outstanding requirements.

Academic Services

Usdan 130 · MS: 001 · 781-736-3469 · <http://www.brandeis.edu/acserv/>