Petition for Exception to Brown’s Tuition and Advanced Standing Policies
To Graduate with Fewer than Eight Semesters of Enrollment (Rev. July, 2019)

Brown University’s tuition policy, as set by the Corporation, stipulates that all undergraduates must enroll for eight semesters of full-time study or the equivalent in order to receive a degree from the University, and students may not graduate with more than one semester of advanced standing or the equivalent 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 available pathways in place of one semester of required enrollment by applying to the Advanced Standing Dean, no later than the fifth semester of enrollment. Students who already have successfully applied for a semester of advanced standing or the equivalent from one of these pathways, however, should note that they may not obtain a second semester of advanced standing or the equivalent or graduate with less than seven semesters of enrollment without petition and approval for an exception from the Committee on Academic Standing.

Any student (including transfer and RUE students) who does not meet the Advanced Standing criteria but wishes to be waived for one or two semesters of required standing and enrollment units, must petition and obtain approval for an exception from the Committee on Academic Standing. The Committee on Academic Standing may consider a one or two semester exception to Brown’s standing/enrollment requirements 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/or time-sensitive opportunity for the student and delaying graduation would have significant negative consequences for taking up the opportunity; or
- a student requires approval for study away for more than one semester, e.g., when warranted by academic standing issues such as academic suspension or refused registration during which time students are typically encouraged to take courses in transfer while separated from Brown; or
- the student has an extenuating circumstance for missing the fifth semester deadline for ordinary Advanced Standing.

In the first two cases, the student would have to meet all other graduation requirements except the enrollment unit requirement and be actively enrolled. In all cases, students 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 in residence at Brown.

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.
Petitions must be received no later than the first Monday of the month for consideration by the Committee on Academic Standing’s monthly meeting. Petitions should be addressed to the Secretary of the Committee on Academic Standing. Students should seek prior approval to submit a petition from the Deputy Dean of the College (Christopher_Dennis@brown.edu).