

# NEW STUDENT GUIDE TO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

*Answers to  
all your  
questions  
about  
religion  
classes  
at BYU.*



The mission of Religious Education at Brigham Young University is to build the Kingdom of God by teaching and preserving the doctrine of the gospel of Jesus Christ. We spread the light of the Restoration through classroom instruction, gospel scholarship, and outreach to the larger community.

*President Gordon B. Hinckley, in his dedicatory prayer on the Joseph Smith Building on December 10, 1991, said:*

“We pray for those who [take religion classes], that their minds may be enlightened, that their understanding may be quickened, that they may learn those things which will bless their lives in the world of which they will become a part, and, in a more particular way, that they may become familiar with the truth which is eternal in its nature and everlasting in its consequences.



# GUIDE TO BYU RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## 01 WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF RELIGION CLASSES AT BYU?

The mission of Brigham Young University is “to assist individuals in their quest for perfection and eternal life.” For this reason, religion classes are an essential part of the curriculum.

## 02 WHAT TAKES PLACE IN A RELIGION CLASS?

Your religion classes will be invigorating both intellectually and spiritually. You will have an opportunity to increase your understanding of the gospel through study and faith. Your instructor will expect you to participate in class discussions, take notes in class, complete challenging assignments and pass difficult exams. While a religion class at BYU is certainly a quality spiritual experience, it is also as academically demanding as your other university classes.

## 03 HOW DOES AN EXPERIENCE IN A BYU RELIGION CLASS DIFFER FROM A CHURCH CLASS OR AN INSTITUTE OF RELIGION COURSE?

The Church provides us with many opportunities for gospel learning. However, Church and Institute courses are not courses for university credit and do not have to meet the high academic standards required by a university. Because they are university courses, BYU religion classes must be rigorous, university-level experiences in learning the gospel. You can expect your class workload and grading standards to be similar to other university classes.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Students who graduate from BYU report that their religion classes were one of the best things about their college education. Responses to the annual BYU senior and alumni surveys give religion classes the highest possible ratings.

## 04 WHY ARE RELIGION CLASSES GRADED?

Because BYU is a nationally accredited institution, all of its courses, including religion, must meet a high academic standard. Therefore, your religion courses must be as challenging as your other courses. BYU expects you to study, discuss, do assignments, and be evaluated in your religion courses, just as you would be in your chemistry or psychology courses. You will find that your religion courses will be as academically challenging as they are spiritually stimulating.

## 05 ISN'T THE GROWTH OF TESTIMONY MOST IMPORTANT IN A BYU RELIGION COURSE?

While it is essential for your religion course to promote faith and testimony, it is equally important that you leave with an understanding of your faith. Learning by study and by faith enables both your mind and your heart to witness the reality of the gospel. Examinations and grades encourage you to challenge yourself to grow in your understanding of the scriptures, history and doctrine of the Church. If you fully apply yourself to learning through study and faith, you will experience exciting growth in your personal testimony.

## 06 WHAT DOES A POOR GRADE IN A RELIGION COURSE SIGNIFY?

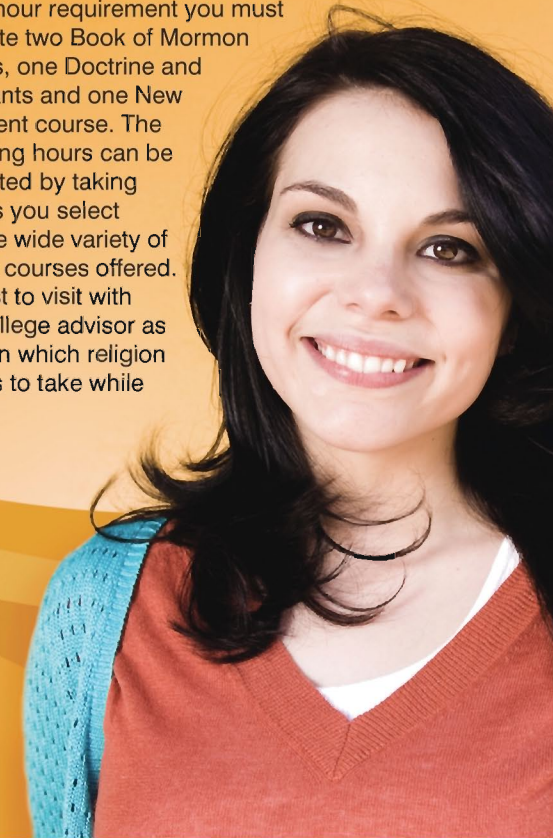
Your testimony of the gospel will not be evaluated in your religion course. While we sincerely hope that spiritual growth is a result of your religion class, grades will generally signify the degree to which you have mastered the content covered in class, completed your assigned work and successfully passed the exams.

## 07 WHO TEACHES THE RELIGION CLASSES?

The religion faculty at BYU includes men and women who have completed graduate degrees and have had experience in areas related to the courses they teach. They are qualified university professors who are subject experts. You will find them knowledgeable, friendly and interested in helping you succeed in their course.

## 08 DO INSTITUTE OF RELIGION CLASSES COUNT AT BYU?

BYU accepts Institute classes as general nongraded elective credits. They do not count as BYU religion credits. To graduate from BYU you must complete 14 credit hours of religion (less for transfer students). Classes taken at other BYU schools or an Institute of Religion do not fulfill this requirement. As part of the 14-hour requirement you must complete two Book of Mormon courses, one Doctrine and Covenants and one New Testament course. The remaining hours can be completed by taking courses you select from the wide variety of religion courses offered. It is best to visit with your college advisor as you plan which religion courses to take while at BYU.





## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

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