

elevate LEARNING

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS
AND PRIESTHOOD LEADERS



THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS



SEMINARIES AND
INSTITUTES OF RELIGION

ELEVATE LEARNING

Our desire as seminary teachers and leaders is to help students deepen their conversion and prepare for lives of service and discipleship.

Previously, seminary students could be awarded a diploma by meeting the attendance requirement and receiving an endorsement from their bishop or branch president. Beginning with the Doctrine and Covenants and Church History seminary course, students who receive a seminary graduation diploma will now be asked to meet two additional requirements:

- Read the assigned scriptures for the course.
- Pass two learning assessments during each course.

For more information please visit seminary.lds.org.



“There are few things that a teacher can do that would have a **more powerful, long-range effect upon their students’ lives** than teaching them the importance of studying the scriptures.”

Elder Dallin H. Oaks

In “A Panel Discussion with Elder Dallin H. Oaks” (Seminaries and Institutes of Religion broadcast, Aug. 7, 2012); si.lds.org.



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE SEMINARY EXPERIENCE?

As students increase their efforts to fulfill the new graduation requirements, they will be blessed with a greater understanding of gospel doctrine and principles and be prepared to share what they know. These changes are meant to help them have meaningful experiences with the scriptures and increase their ability to follow the Savior. Students are invited to elevate their learning experience by accepting greater responsibility for their religious education. Teachers are committed to help each student be successful.

We will continue to place great importance on attendance, reading, doctrinal comprehension, and worthiness. In addition to these values, students and parents will notice:

- A greater emphasis on studying the scriptures outside class.
- A greater emphasis on understanding the doctrine and principles of the gospel.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR STUDENTS?

- Students who meet all four requirements will receive a certificate of completion at the end of each year and a graduation diploma at the end of their fourth year.
- Students who choose to fulfill only the attendance requirement will be given a certificate of recognition instead of a graduation diploma.
- Students will be allowed to retake the learning assessment until they receive a passing score.
- Students will have the opportunity to make up missed attendance, reading, and learning assessment requirements.



REACHING EVERY STUDENT

Regardless of whether students choose to complete the graduation requirements, they are welcome and invited to attend seminary. Teachers are expected to do all they can to help each student feel welcome and have a successful seminary experience. Some students may need special accommodations in order to meet these new requirements.

All students who desire to make up missed requirements will have that option.



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR PARENTS?

The goal to strengthen students can unite parents and teachers. As students approach a new year of learning in seminary, we can work together to help deepen their understanding of the doctrine of the gospel. Please encourage your students to elevate their learning this year by fulfilling all the requirements.

Graduating from seminary should signify that students have participated in a meaningful process. When they graduate, they will have progressed toward understanding and relying on the teachings and the Atonement of Jesus Christ; qualifying for the blessings of the temple; and preparing themselves, their families, and others for eternal life with their Father in Heaven.



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR PRIESTHOOD LEADERS?

Students will need a worthiness endorsement each year to receive credit toward graduation. Bishops and branch presidents or their counselors will interview students to determine their worthiness for seminary recognition based on the standards outlined in *For Strength of Youth*. This ecclesiastical endorsement may be completed as part of regularly scheduled interviews.

Certificates of recognition and certificates of completion will be available to be presented along with diplomas at graduation exercises each year.

RAISING OUR SIGHTS

“The youth are responsible for their own choices. But as faithful parents, teachers, leaders, and friends, we **shore up the faith** of the young people. And we must **raise our sights**. . . .

“The pure gospel of Jesus Christ must go down into the hearts of young people by the power of the Holy Ghost. It will not be enough for them to have had a spiritual witness of the truth and to want good things later. It will not be enough for them to hope for some future cleansing and strengthening. Our aim must be for them to **become truly converted to the restored gospel of Jesus Christ** while they are young.”

President Henry B. Eyring

“We Must Raise Our Sights,” *Ensign*, Sept. 2004, 14, 16.



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