

Undergraduate Education

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The Office of Undergraduate Education supervises and fosters essential university-wide elements of the baccalaureate: General Education, Honors Program, University Writing, and First-Year Experience (including Freshman Academy and New Student Orientation). These interrelated programs together promote and champion teaching and learning within an integrated *university* education. They aim to enrich the educational experience and to benefit the life of each undergraduate student.

General Education

The General Education (GE) components of the university core are overseen by an associate dean and administrative assistant. The Faculty General Education Council, consisting of faculty members from a variety of disciplines and chaired by the associate dean, regularly reviews general education courses and has final authority to decide which courses meet GE requirements. From time to time the associate dean, in consultation with the dean and the administration, initiates a broad-based, systematic evaluation of the GE program that may result in recommendations for changes.

General education requirements are set forth in the University Core section of this catalog. Beyond this and the more detailed listing in the current class schedule, the recommended source of information and advice about general education requirements is the individual college advisement center. The ten college advisement centers, together with the University Advisement Center (2500 WSC), provide assistance with registration, graduation requirements, policies and procedures, fields of study, changes of major, appeals, and many other aspects of academic life. The General Education Office, (350 MSRB) regularly consults with each advisement center on issues related to GE.

The General Education Office has responsibility for the university forum assemblies, which are designed to complement specific GE components of the university core or the idea of liberal education itself. A forum speaker may be nominated by any member of the university community—faculty, student, or staff. Nominations are evaluated by the Forum Committee, comprising faculty and student representatives, which recommends speakers to the university administration.

In an ongoing effort to strengthen the GE offerings in the university core, the General Education Office is engaged in faculty and course development—through the GE Academy on Teaching and Learning, faculty general education seminars, and grants for course development and enhancement. It also oversees faculty teaching awards for excellence in general education (including honors GE) courses: the Alcuin Fellowships and the Karl G. Maeser General Education Professorships. (For a description and list of current recipients, see the Maeser Fellowships and Alcuin Fellows section of this catalog.) General education courses are taught by faculty from throughout the university, and the General Education Office works closely with the colleges in a collaborative effort to foster a strong and engaging GE offering within the university core.

Honors Program

The Honors Program, open to all BYU students, complements the university's expansive educational agenda by providing the benefits of a small liberal arts learning community. These benefits include offering small classes with high-quality teaching and learning that challenge students to reach their highest potential; fostering a spirit of ongoing inquiry that includes undergraduate research in a mentored environment; and underscoring the importance of combining personal excellence, faithful discipleship, and meaningful service. See the Honors Program section of the catalog, which follows, for details concerning the program's requirements, offerings, benefits, administration, extra-curricular opportunities, and student-operated advisement center.

University Writing

University Writing promotes effective written, oral, and visual communication, helping students to succeed in their academic work and laying a foundation for lifelong learning. The Aims of a BYU Education states that undergraduates should acquire "language abilities that enable students to listen, speak, read, and write well; to communicate effectively with a wide range of audiences in one's area of expertise as well as on general subjects." University Writing purposes to accomplish these objectives through general education courses in First-Year Writing and Advanced Written and Oral Communication—offered both in departments and in the Honors Program—as well as by enhancing writing instruction in courses throughout the curriculum.

Through the Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) program, University Writing helps faculty members integrate writing instruction within their content courses. Twice each year WAC conducts faculty seminars focusing on how to teach writing in various disciplines. WAC also trains teaching assistants as evaluators of writing; sponsors faculty workshops, often in conjunction with bringing writing experts to campus; and publishes a newsletter, *Writing Matters*. These efforts are supported by the Writing Fellows program. Writing Fellows is a discipline-based, peer-tutoring program that encourages and supports the development of mature student writing across the disciplines. University Writing also promotes student publication by encouraging faculty members to mentor students in research and writing and by supporting student academic journals.

Students have the opportunity to take part in any or all of these programs during their time at BYU to improve their abilities to communicate effectively in their own disciplines and across the curriculum.

First-Year Experience

The First-Year Experience Office (FYE) facilitates coordination of all university efforts that have an impact on new students. This includes helping new students develop habits of the mind to deepen and enrich their BYU experience, establish personal connections, find their way around campus, develop an awareness of available campus resources, and improve their sense of purpose and motivation by increasing their understanding of BYU's heritage and history. These efforts span the time between students' first contact with BYU and the end of their first year on campus.

Before students arrive at BYU, FYE coordinates projects that provide students and their parents with information through Web sites and e-mail. In collaboration with other university units, the office provides additional information and links about campus resources through mailings to new students (freshman and transfer), local firesides, and individual telephone contact. When students first arrive on campus, FYE—assisted by representatives from key university areas in a campuswide undertaking—coordinates New Student Orientation to facilitate personal contact, an introduction to campus locations, campus life activities, advisement, and mentoring by peers and university faculty and staff. Throughout the student's first year, FYE

provides additional transition assistance through Freshman Academy (see below), freshman seminars, peer mentoring, and other First-Year events. The seminars (Univ 101, together with Honrs 100) provide an opportunity for incoming students to have sustained engagement with a faculty member on an academic subject in a small-group context.

Course (Univ)

101. Freshman Seminar. (0.5-1.0:Arr.:0 0.5-2:Arr.:Arr.)

Aims of a BYU Education in a disciplinary context. Topics vary by section and semester.

Freshman Academy

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Freshman Academy is a one-semester learning communities program in which a relatively small group of students takes the same set of two to five classes together. Open without additional charge to first-year students, Freshman Academy accepts students entering BYU during the summer, fall, or winter.

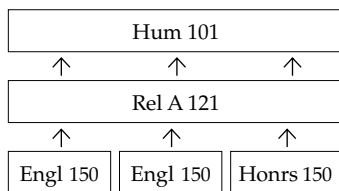
Participation in Freshman Academy gives students an immediate sense of community and integration into the life of the university. To provide academic support for first-year students, Freshman Academy recruits upperclassmen to serve as peer mentors for the students in each community. These peer mentors (most of them participants in the Academy when they were freshmen) encourage students to adopt good learning habits, help them form study groups, and model successful learning practices. They help students learn about the cultural, academic, spiritual, and social resources available on campus and provide support to the faculty in each learning community.

To further enhance the academic experience, Freshman Academy professors often collaborate to explore the relationships between their courses and to interact with students outside the classroom.

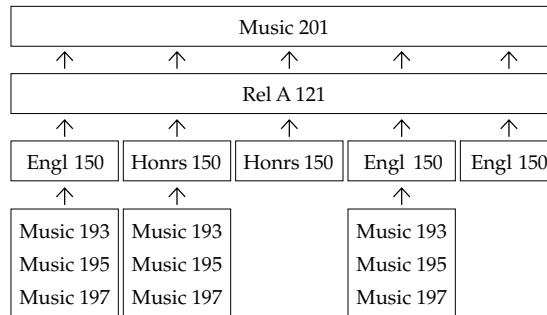
Because Freshman Academy allows students to register for several classes at once, participation reduces the difficulties many first-year students experience with the registration process. Students in learning communities have the opportunity to take university core, elective, and major-specific courses with other students who have similar interests.

The first figure below is an example of a learning community composed solely of courses meeting university core requirements; the second figure illustrates a learning community customized for students with a particular major in mind, combining university core and major courses:

Introduction to Humanities with First-Year Writing



Civilization 1 with First-Year Writing and Music Core



Freshman Academy students receive priority placement in on-campus housing, allowing them to live near other students in their learning community. These residency provisions make it easier for students to form study groups, work on projects, and develop long-lasting relationships. Contact Residence Life to apply for priority placement in Freshman Academy housing. In addition to class-related activities, Freshman Academy learning communities socialize, attend cultural events, and participate in service-learning projects together. All of these activities contribute to the individual student's achieving the academic and spiritual aims of a BYU education.

Participation in a Freshman Academy learning community helps students become aware of the responsibilities they owe to themselves and to others. Involvement in Freshman Academy is a serious commitment, and the program expects students to be true to their word, to attend and participate in classes, to work collaboratively with fellow students, to respect the dignity and selfhood of others, and to respond to the spiritual and temporal needs of individuals and communities. By interacting with others in these ways and taking responsibility for their own learning, Freshman Academy students develop the attributes of responsible and engaged citizens.

Incoming freshmen can participate in Freshman Academy regardless of previous academic preparation. The composition of the program reflects that of the entire freshman class in the distribution of majors and academic preparation. Freshman Academy students interested in the Honors Program may participate in communities designed to fulfill honors requirements or in communities that offer individual honors courses. Freshman Academy benefits every type of student, and all first-semester students are encouraged to participate. For the most current information, please visit <http://academy.byu.edu>.

Prestigious Non-BYU Scholarships and Fellowships

The Office of Prestigious Scholarships and Fellowships assists students in finding and applying for major externally funded scholarships and fellowships for undergraduate and graduate study (e.g., National Science Foundation, Fulbright, Rhodes, Goldwater, Truman, etc.) and scholarships for research opportunities, summer programs, and non-BYU study abroad programs. Students are encouraged to review the online information describing each scholarship at www.byu.edu/scholarships. For more information contact Carolyn Tuitupou in 102B MSRB or e-mail prestigious_scholarships@byu.edu.