

Department of Religious Education

University Mission Statement/Goals

- Educating the minds and spirits of students within an intercultural, gospel-centered environment and curriculum that increases faith in God and the Restored Gospel, is intellectually enlarging, is character building, and leads to a life of learning and service.
- Preparing men and women with the intercultural and leadership skills necessary to promote world peace and international brotherhood, to address world problems, and to be a righteous influence in families, professions, civic responsibilities, social affiliations, and the Church.



BYUH Assessment Plan 2007-2008

Unit Mission Statement

- Develop a testimony of Jesus Christ, of the restoration of the Church, and its leaders.
- Keep all covenants of the restored gospel, and become or keep actively involved in the mission of the Church. Apply the information obtained in class to life's situation.

Expected Learning Outcomes

Students who complete the required Religious Education core courses will be able to demonstrate achievement in each of the following learning outcomes.

Factual Learning Outcome

Students will learn the ancient and modern settings of the scriptures and they will have the ability to recall the factual information sufficient for demonstrating a basic understanding of LDS scripture, doctrine, and history.

Conceptual Learning Outcome

Students will be able to analyze and interpret LDS scripture, doctrine and history.

Application of Learning Outcome

Students will be able to use the factual knowledge and conceptual understanding of LDS scripture, doctrine and history in problem-solving and life application tasks.

Spiritual Learning Outcome

Students will have developed a deeper testimony of LDS scripture, doctrine and history, and have a greater desire to seek the Holy Ghost as an aid in studying, pondering, and living the doctrine of the Church.

Evidence of Learning

Factual Learning Outcome

In relation to LDS scripture, doctrine and history, students will be able to:

- define content-specific vocabulary
- recall significant historical dates and events
- identify characters of importance
- define fundamental doctrines

Conceptual Learning Outcome

Students will be able to analyze and interpret LDS scripture, doctrine and history and achieve the following:

- identify significant relationships among ideas
- explain fundamental doctrinal principles in their own words
- analyze scripture blocks to identify key doctrines, principles and practices

Application of Learning Outcome

Students will be able to use foundational knowledge and conceptual understanding of LDS scripture, doctrine and history in order to:

- teach a principle or idea to another individual
- explain a principle or truth
- solve a problem
- provide possible responses to case studies

Spiritual Learning Outcome

Student will develop a greater desire to seek the Holy Ghost as an aid in studying and pondering LDS scripture, doctrine and history in order to:

- distinguish between truth and error and ethical and non-ethical behavior
- assess spiritual promptings as they relate to learning
- develop Christ-like attributes

Direct Measures

Factual Learning Outcomes

1. Course level midterm and final quality tests of factual learning
2. Embedded test questions specifically designed for assessment purposes
3. Course evaluations (“Course Contributes to My Learning” – 80% “Agree” or higher)
4. Following the Winter Semester Instructors will submit a brief report* on the distribution of the results for each course in relation to # 1-3

Conceptual Learning Outcomes

1. Course level quality tests of student ability in conceptual learning
2. Course level evaluation of student written responses to embedded test questions that prompt a higher order thinking
3. Submit results for # 1-2 in the report following the Winter Semester

Application of Learning Outcomes

1. Course level assignments designed to measure application skills – to be included in post Winter report
2. Program level survey of recent graduates specifically designed to measure before and after application capabilities gained from Religious Education courses in relation to various life situations (80% in the “improved” or higher category)
3. Design and administer a new survey directly applicable to the needs of the Department by Summer 2008

Spiritual Learning Outcome

1. Anonymous course level exit reflection or response paper specifically designed to measure pre and post desires, convictions, and perceived growth stemming from a given Religion class in relation to distinguishing between truth and error, recognizing spiritual promptings, and developing Christ-like attributes. To be administered toward the end of the semester or included with course evaluations (80% or higher answer “noticeable, or some improvement” or higher. Results to be included in post-Winter report.

Student Learning Improvement Plan

Direct measures obtained from the standardized assessment data will be used for the purpose of:

- Determining any implications for existing course learning outcomes
- Suggesting appropriate modifications of existing course outcomes or methodology

* All reports are to be submitted by June 15th and the Assessment team will review and report the results to the Faculty and Staff at the August Department meeting.



Department of Religious Education

BYUH Assessment Plan 2006-2007

University Mission Statement/Goals

- Learn the truths of the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- Gain an abiding, life-directing testimony of Jesus Christ, His Church, and His leaders on earth
- Live a chaste, righteous life and develop Christ-like character traits

Unit Mission Statement

- Develop a testimony of Jesus Christ, of the restoration of the Church, and its leaders.
- Keep all covenants of the restored gospel, and become or keep themselves actively involved in the mission of the Church. Apply the information obtained in class to life's situations.

Outcomes	Means of Assessment	Findings	Actions
1. <i>Students will learn the truths of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and apply them to life's situations</i>	REVIEW OF RESEARCH PAPERS A panel of faculty will review research papers written by junior and senior students enrolled in the capstone course, REL 431- Doctrines of the Gospel. The target is for 80% of the students from the group to demonstrate the ability to apply doctrines of the gospel to explain or respond to current events and circumstances.	80% of Students enrolled in the class can consistently meet the criteria. The dynamics of the student body enrolled in the course seems to indicate that these students constitute predominantly Jr.s and Sr.s taking a non required upper division course as an elective and excelling in it. This is a positive aspect of the effectiveness of the course, but this measure may not accurately reflect all those taking required courses in a Religion program that is officially not a major.	Consider incorporating more classes in a random selection process to evaluate – which might more accurately represent the student body enrolled in the classes across the board. Continue to ensure that classes are challenging based on factual and religious considerations. Difficult to isolate from current survey how Religion courses solely affected their ability to accomplish this measure to the exclusion of other external activities involved in the university experience. Prepare and write a survey specifically designed for our department to more accurately measure this objective.
	SURVEY OF GRADUATING STUDENTS Graduating students will rate the influence that their BYU-H experience has had on their ability to understand the doctrines and Standard Works of the Church. The target is to have 80% of those students rate that influence as "good" or higher.	85% of students surveyed rated "good" or higher. Objective reached. Many of the comments remarked on the effectiveness of the courses. Reoccurring themes included maintaining quality and high expectations. Students want to be challenged within reason of 2 credit hrs.	

Outcomes	Means of Assessment	Findings	Actions
<p>2. <i>Students will develop a testimony of Jesus Christ, His Church, and His leaders on earth</i></p>	<p>GRADUATING SENIORS' SURVEY A random sample of students that have completed core religion requirements at BYU-Hawaii will rate the influence their religion classes have had on their ability to gain an abiding, life-directing testimony of the Gospel. The target is to have 80% of those students rate that influence as "good" or higher.</p>	<p>83.5% rated "good" or higher.</p> <p>Objective reached.</p> <p>Many students reported the importance of having spiritually uplifting classes while learning facts and pertinent information.</p> <p>A reoccurring theme was that students want to have Spiritual experiences and see how doctrines can be applied in life.</p>	<p>Again, difficult to ascertain from current survey how much can be attributed specifically to religion courses. Rewrite survey to help isolate the direct influence of Religion core classes on this measure.</p> <p>Utilize course and faculty evaluations in this endeavor. Include specific assessment questions to be taken along with, and in conjunction with course evaluations.</p>
	<p>ALUMNI SURVEY Just like the Graduating Seniors' Survey, the target is to have 80% of Alumni rate that influence as "good" or higher.</p>		
<p>3. <i>Students will commit to live a righteous and chaste life</i></p>	<p>GRADUATING SENIORS' SURVEY A random sample of students that have completed core religion requirements at BYU-Hawaii will rate the influence their religion classes have had on their desire to live a chaste, righteous life. The target is to have 80% of those students rate that influence as "good" or higher.</p>		<p>See above Actions for Survey qualifications and efficacy.</p>
	<p>ALUMNI SURVEY Just like the Graduating Seniors' Survey, the target is to have 80% of Alumni rate that influence as "good" or higher.</p>		