



Online Seminary Supervisor Calling Description

The online seminary supervisor (OSS) is a calling similar to a stake seminary supervisor. Their purpose is to assist the online seminary area coordinator (OSAC) and other coordinators in training, answering questions, and supporting called online seminary teachers. An OSS is called by their local stake president after counsel and consideration with the local S&I coordinator.

Responsibilities

- Teach/shepherd called online teachers through training as an exemplary online teacher
- Work one-on-one with online teachers to assure they are ready to start the year (summer training will be a very time-intensive part of the year)
- Responsive and supportive to online teachers and coordinators who have questions and concerns
- Prepare and hold a monthly online inservice for the teachers
- “Visit” each online class frequently and observe student and teacher participation
- Build rapport and confidence in called teachers to increase mutual support
- Prepare a monthly report for the OSAC and S&I area leadership
- Attend a monthly online seminary leadership meeting
- Substitute classes and help teachers who are experiencing changes in, callings, health/personal problems, etc.

Considerations

An online seminary supervisor will spend a considerable amount of time training new teachers during the summer and the beginning of the school year. This time will gradually decrease as called online teachers get accustomed to their roles. The OSS will need an average of 2+ hours each weekday to spend in this role. They must be willing to serve “on-call” and be willing to respond quickly to inquiries and questions from teachers. The OSS will participate in supervisor training in preparation for summer training of teachers. An OSS should not be an online teacher at the same time, or serve in other church callings.

Calling process

An online seminary supervisor is a calling extended by a priesthood leader from the stake in which they reside, akin to the calling of a stake supervisor. They need to have served as an online teacher prior to serving as an OSS. The local S&I coordinator will express the need for an OSS to stake leadership, describe their role, and inform them that they will be helping teachers from multiple stakes in addition to their own stake. The OSS should supervise no more than 8 online teachers. The coordinator will counsel with the priesthood regarding potential candidates and their availability and capacity to fulfill the role of the OSS. If the teacher accepts the call to serve as an OSS, they will need to finish teaching the current school year as well as begin the training to become an OSS. (A new online teacher will need to be called to teach the next year in their place. Once the OSS is called and set apart, they should be put in contact with the OSAC to begin their preparation.)

What should priesthood leaders consider before calling an online seminary supervisor?

- Does the person have a firm testimony of the Savior and the Restoration of the gospel?
- Are they worthy of a temple recommend.
- Do they love the youth and interact well with them?
- Does the person have basic computer skills, including the use of email, sending and receiving attachments, and website navigation?
- Does the person have daily access to a computer with high-speed Internet? (greater than 400 kbps, dial-up Internet is not sufficient). They will need to download software to perform their teaching functions.
- Is the person outgoing enough to reach out to the students they do not physically see?
- Are they in a position with family, health, and work obligations where they could spend the time needed to serve as an online seminary teacher? (The online teacher should not have any additional callings.)
- Has the person been an exemplary online seminary teacher/shepherd?
- Is the person willing to learn and master technological skills, tools, and concepts?
- Is the person responsive, detail-oriented, and easy to work with?
- Does the person have strong communication skills to be able to build rapport with fellow called teachers and S&I coordinators?

For further information or clarification, contact your local S&I representative.