



Online Seminary

Essential Information for Parents and Students

What is online seminary?

Online seminary provides a daily seminary experience that helps the students learn the doctrines and principles of the gospel as found in the scriptures and the words of the prophets. Each week there are four days of online lessons, where students study the scriptures, participate in online learning experiences, and interact with their teacher and the other students in their class. An online lesson usually lasts between 30–45 minutes. In addition, the teacher and all the students meet together either face-to-face or virtually for one class each week.

What is the online seminary experience like for the students?

Students receive credit for the four days of online lessons by completing all of the assigned activities for the day. Students complete these four online lessons on the assigned weekdays following their own schedule; they do not need to complete the lessons at the same time as other students. The teacher will open and close the availability of the lessons online to help the students stay caught up and learn together as a class. Also, the students must be present at the weekly class to receive credit for attendance. The minimum credit requirements for each term are *both*: (1) attendance at 75 percent of the weekly classes and (2) daily completion of 75 percent of the online lessons.

What are the requirements for students to participate in online seminary?

- Daily access to a computer with high-speed Internet (greater than 400 kbps, dial-up Internet is not sufficient) for 30–45 minutes
- LDS account and email address

- Weekly attendance at a live class either face-to-face or virtually
- Download and use necessary software
- Signed seminary registration form noting the Internet and online use policy

What is the role of the teacher in online seminary?

Online teachers log in daily to their online seminary class to study the lesson materials along with the students, review students' work, participate in class discussions, and respond to questions. Teachers also track daily attendance, complete lessons, and open and close the availability of lessons to help each student have a daily seminary experience.

How should the weekly class be managed?

The weekly class meeting should include all of the students at one time, rather than small groups. If it is not possible to physically meet face-to-face, approved web conferencing tools should be used for the class to meet together. The weekly class should be similar to a daily seminary class.

What should students do to get the most out of online seminary?

- Set a regular time each day to do their online lessons.
- Create an environment where they can focus and learn by the Spirit.
- Eliminate distractions; not visit other websites while completing their online lessons.
- Reach outside of their comfort zone to get to know their teacher and other students.

- Study the scriptures daily outside of the time they spend in the online lessons.

What can parents do to support online seminary students?

- Schedule a time each day for their child to use the family computer for seminary.
- Encourage children to be prompt and active with their work and to openly communicate with their teacher and class.
- Help children eliminate distractions, such as music or social websites.
- Occasionally study an online lesson together with their child and ask what he or she is learning.
- Encourage children to study the scriptures daily outside of the time they spend in the online lessons.

What are the benefits of online seminary?

Online seminary requires rigorous, consistent effort on the part of the students. While it does require extra effort, online students who commit to and participate in their online seminary class have reported wonderful opportunities to learn from the scriptures and by the Spirit.

- No matter if they are shy or outgoing, all students can participate equally in an online seminary class because each can take the time they need to carefully craft their responses.
- Online seminary helps bring remote students, who otherwise would be in a home-study class or not in any seminary experience at all, together to create a feeling of a seminary class where students feel known and valued by their teacher and other students.
- Teachers and students have noted that comments in online seminary can be deep and reflective.
- Online seminary activities allow for one-on-one student and teacher interaction, creating the possibility for meaningful and individualized instruction.
- Credit for online seminary is based on meaningful participation rather than just physical presence in a class.

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