



What Are the Changes Coming to Institute?

When Will the Changes to Institute Officially Begin?

Changes have been implemented on WISE for all terms that start after August 1, 2015.

Institute Graduation

Why Emphasize Graduation?

Studying a topic the way a student is required to study in order to graduate invites greater understanding of gospel truths than does merely attending an institute class. By actively participating and receiving institute course credit, young adults will strengthen their testimonies, increase their scripture study skills, learn from others and through the Spirit, and be better prepared for their future. Graduation is a central part of the institute experience. For more information about these changes, please see the documents entitled “Why Are We Making These Changes to Institute?” and “How to Talk about Institute Changes to Young Adults.”

New Graduation Requirements

14 credits are required to graduate:

- 8 Cornerstone course credits*
- 6 primary or secondary elective course credits

To earn credit for a particular course, a student must attend at least 75 percent of classes, complete assigned readings, and complete a course assessment.

*All scripture-based courses that a student has completed or will complete in semesters or terms that began prior to August 1, 2015, will be counted toward the Cornerstone requirement for graduation. Also, all elective credits earned prior to August 1, 2015, can still be used for graduation.

Graduation Award System

There will be two awards available to students.

- **Diploma.** This will be for students who have completed the required 14 credits. Diplomas can be printed by the agent program (the program assigned by the area office to work with a particular stake for graduation and recruitment) and sent to priesthood leaders for signature and distribution.
- **Course completion certificate.** This will be awarded to students who have completed a class. If multiple classes have been completed in a term, then all of the classes completed in that term will show on one certificate. This certificate can be emailed to the student or printed by the agent program and given to the student.



Graduation Exercises

With these exciting changes to institute, there are different ways graduation exercises could be conducted. Stakes are responsible for determining worthiness of young adults as well as distributing graduation diplomas. Stakes have the following options for honoring graduates, to be decided by the stake alone or in conjunction with the local institute program.

Note: Terms must be closed before awards can be printed.

- **Stake-level graduation event.** Stakes can choose to hold a graduation event. This would be for everyone in that stake who has earned a diploma.
 - *Graduation events before the term is over.* If a stake decides to hold a graduation event before the term is over, agent programs can print lists that show young adults who would potentially receive a diploma and deliver these to the stakes. The stakes can use these lists to prepare for the event with the understanding that young adults would need to complete the term before they could receive awards. Stakes can present empty diploma covers to the young adults.
 - *Graduation events after the term is over.* Agent programs can print lists of diploma recipients prior to the event so priesthood leaders have adequate time to ensure the worthiness of graduating young adults. Agent programs can print diplomas and deliver them to the stakes. The stake holds the event and hands out the diplomas at the event.
- **Program-level honors night event.** Any institute program can choose to hold an honors night to recognize all students in their program who have qualified for an award. This can be held each term or annually.
 - *Graduation events before the term is over.* Institute personnel can print lists that show potential awards for young adults (both completion certificates and diplomas). Institute personnel can prepare programs for the event using this list, with the understanding that young adults would need to complete the term to receive the actual awards.
 - *Graduation events after the term is over.* Institute personnel can print the course completion certificates and hand them out. This can be at the event, after the term closes but prior to the start of the new term, or at the beginning of the new term. Only certificates of course completion can be handed out at this time. Diplomas need to be signed and distributed by priesthood leaders at a separate event.
- **Combined program- and stake-level event.** Stakes can hold their own event in conjunction with an institute program event. Diplomas and certificates can be handed out at the same time under the direction of the young adult's priesthood leader if the event is held after the term has ended. Multiple stakes can be included in this event.

Institute Course Restructuring

How Will Courses Taken Prior to the Change Be Grandfathered?

Any scripture-based course that a student has completed or will complete in semesters or terms that began prior to August 1, 2015, will count as Cornerstone credit. All other courses taken prior to that date will be counted as elective credits.

How Do We Know Which Institute Courses Can Be Offered?

All Cornerstone and primary elective courses will eventually be available at all institutes. Secondary elective courses may be offered only when a minimum of one Cornerstone course and one primary elective course are also offered during the same semester at the same institute or stake location. In addition, the institute director must give approval to offer secondary elective courses. Some of these secondary electives also require the approval of S&I Curriculum Services (See "Determining Which Courses to Offer" in the "Institute Course Catalog Changes" section of this document). The term setup process in WISE will indicate whether a program meets these requirements.

How Will These Changes Impact the Previous 392R/393R courses?

The courses previously numbered 392R/393R have been re-numbered as 390R. For more information on the different course types, please see the section entitled “Institute Course Catalog Changes,” which outlines the three tiers of institute courses: Cornerstone, primary electives, and secondary electives. We acknowledge that for this next term, it may be necessary to list the course on the class schedule for students prior to receiving permission to teach the course. For this reason, institutes are encouraged to submit their proposal in a timely fashion for approval before the beginning of the term. For more information on receiving course approval, see the section entitled “How Do We Receive Approval for Secondary Elective Courses?”

How Will These Course Changes Affect 400- and 500-Level Courses That Are Duplicates of Existing 100-, 200- or 300-Level Courses?

We are eliminating these duplicate courses from the course catalog. For a complete list of courses available, see the section entitled “Institute Course Catalog Changes.” Please use the custom title fields available in WISE for courses focused on specific audiences or needs.

How Do We Receive Approval for Secondary Elective Courses?

For institutes teaching secondary elective courses, teachers will need to submit their assessments, syllabi, and readings lists for approval. To approve assessments, syllabi, and reading lists, you should send your proposed assessment to the S&I Office of Research and the Curriculum Department (si-approvals@ldschurch.org). They will reply only if there are glaring concerns. If you don't hear back from the central office within two business days, you can assume your course and assessment is approved. For more information, see the section entitled “Institute Course Catalog Changes.”

Cornerstone Courses

The Church Board of Education and Boards of Trustees for BYU, BYU–Idaho, BYU–Hawaii and LDS Business College have approved four new courses to be introduced in 2015 and 2016 at all Church universities and institutes of religion. These new courses are intended to be cornerstones of a young adult's religious education experience. They are centered in the scriptures and the teachings of latter-day prophets, with a focus on the Savior, His doctrine, and significant events in Church history.

These classes will build on students' previous church and personal experiences with gospel study. They will assist in applying gospel principles in ways that are relevant to young adults' current circumstances. For more information, go to education.lds.org.

1. Jesus Christ and the Everlasting Gospel

This course focuses on the eternal ministry of Jesus Christ and His divine roles and teachings throughout His premortal, mortal, and postmortal life.

2. Foundations of the Restoration

In this course students will study key revelations, doctrine, people, and events related to the Restoration of the Church of Jesus Christ.

3. The Teachings and Doctrine of the Book of Mormon

This course focuses on doctrine and themes found throughout the writings, teachings, and sermons of the Book of Mormon. Emphasis is given to prophetic witnesses of Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ.

4. The Eternal Family

This course is centered on the doctrine of the family and the central role families play in Heavenly Father's plan of salvation. Course content is based on "The Family: A Proclamation to the World," other teachings of latter-day prophets, and the scriptures.

When Can Programs Begin Offering the New Cornerstone Courses?

Any term starting on or after August 1, 2015 can offer the Jesus Christ and the Everlasting Gospel course and the Foundations of the Restoration course. Programs should not begin teaching the courses prior to this date because the WISE system will be unable to give students credit toward graduation for these courses before then. It is anticipated that The Eternal Family course will be available January 1, 2016, and The Teachings and Doctrine of the Book of Mormon course will be available April 1, 2016. Memos will be sent to the field to notify personnel when the course catalog has been updated.

Where Can I Find the Cornerstone Courses?

All Cornerstone course teacher manuals will be available on LDS.org in HTML and PDF formats and in the Gospel Library app. The course Jesus Christ and the Everlasting Gospel is now live in English at lds.org/manual/jesus-christ-and-the-everlasting-gospel-teacher-manual. We recommend that teachers and students use the digital resources wherever possible. The digital resources will be updated a few times per year.

The Cornerstone course teacher manuals will not be available through any distribution centers. If printed copies are needed, area directors can have small quantities (20 copies or fewer) printed and bound by working through their local printer. Then they can bill the cost to their 5220 accounts. If large quantities (more than 20) are needed, area directors should work with their area Materials Management manager to have the materials printed and shipped to the teachers. Printing and distribution costs may be subsidized in some areas if area directors work through their Materials Management area managers.

Some student materials are available only online and may not be available in all languages. In areas that operate in print only, the readings should be limited to the scriptures and materials that are accessible in print in the required language. Teachers may identify additional required reading elements that are available in the language.

Will the Cornerstone Courses Be Available in Other Languages?

The Cornerstone courses are being released in approximately 29 languages.

Who Should Teach the Cornerstone Courses?

It is anticipated that every full-time institute teacher will teach at least one Cornerstone course during each academic year and all four courses within a four-year period. Called teachers may also teach these courses.

Will Cornerstone Courses Be Offered through Independent Study?

Not at this time, but it may be a consideration in the future.

May Cornerstone Courses Be Offered in One-Credit Terms?

Yes. One-credit courses are intended to be offered by quarter-system programs and primarily during "summer" semester (term 3) at other campus- and stake-based programs. Program administrators should consider these classes to meet young adult needs, but they are not intended to replace the two-credit classes. Programs (including quarter programs) that offer one-credit Cornerstone courses should offer the courses in sequence across consecutive terms.

Course Completion Requirements

What Is Required to Complete a Course for Credit That Counts toward Graduation?

There are three requirements for students to receive credit for a course to count toward graduation. Students must do the following:

1. Attend a minimum of 75% of classes in the term
2. Complete all assigned readings for the course
3. Complete the assessment for the course

What Is the Purpose of Required Reading in Institute?

Regular reading of the scriptures and the words of modern prophets helps us to receive personal revelation, which helps us receive the direction and answers we need in our lives. Young adults in institute are required to complete assigned readings in order to receive course credit. Reading material for all courses will include scriptures, relevant prophetic statements, and talks from modern prophets. The hope is that the reading required for institute will become a part of the gospel study that every member should participate in daily and will help young adults make this regular study a habit in their lives.

How Will the Reading Assignments Work?

Young adults in institute are required to complete all assigned readings in order to receive course credit. The assigned readings for each course range from 125 to 225 pages of material and include scriptures, relevant prophetic statements and talks from modern prophets, and other related material. For example, the first two Cornerstone courses include the following assigned readings:

1. Jesus Christ and the Everlasting Gospel
 - About 97 pages of general conference addresses, excerpts from the *Teachings of Presidents of the Church* manuals, and other prophetic statements.
 - Approximately 900 verses of scripture, or 41 pages (about 22 verses per page in the New Testament).
2. Foundations of the Restoration
 - About 161 pages from general conference addresses, excerpts from *Teachings of Presidents of the Church* manuals, excerpts from *Church History in the Fulness of Times*, excerpts from *Our Heritage*, articles from the Gospel Topics section of LDS.org, and other sources.
 - Approximately 680 verses of scripture, or 45 pages (about 15 verses per page in the Doctrine and Covenants).

Will a List of Required Readings Be Available for Each Institute Course?

No. Eventually, suggested lists will be provided for all courses. Until then, some courses will have required student readings while other courses will require the teacher to create the list of required readings. It is expected that the total reading required for students be somewhere between 125 and 225 pages for a semester-length (two-credit) course.

Will Institute Courses Be Repeatable for Credit?

Students may repeat every class; however, they will receive credit toward graduation only once per course. Exceptions include the Devotional/Lecture Series course and the Principles of Leadership course, for which students can earn up to two credits total that count toward graduation. Students may receive course completion certificates for every course taken (even repeat courses).

Will Makeup Work Be Available?

We anticipate an increase of students desiring to do makeup work. Makeup for absence is available and will be assigned by the teacher. It is hoped that any makeup work will cover lesson material missed during the absence(s) and an equal amount of time as that the time missed in class.

For example, a student requesting makeup work for two missed classes might be assigned to read and review the lessons taught on those dates and write a paragraph identifying the most important doctrines and principles taught in those lessons and how he or she might apply these doctrines and principles in his or her own life. (All lesson material will be available on LDS.org.) Teachers will be able to determine exactly which lessons were missed if they have kept an updated syllabus/schedule in WISE (this is a new feature to WISE). Additionally, students will be reminded that they need to complete the required readings for lessons that were missed.

Will There Be Grades in Institute?

We will continue to work under the same grading structure that currently exists in institute for now, with further instruction coming in the near future.

Elevate Learning

Elevate Teaching—Meeting Young Adults' Needs

We must continually seek to improve institute teaching quality. In a recent international study, young adults were asked to describe the value they desire to see in institute. This is the value statement created based on their feedback: "I strengthen my commitment to Jesus Christ and gain guidance for life through institute. I seek to apply truth from scriptures and modern prophets. I grow stronger while I learn from others and through the Spirit as we share life experiences and our understanding of truth."

Not only should we teach to the S&I Objective, but our purpose in teaching should also be to meet the expectations of young adults.

Is There a Bachelor's Degree Requirement for Teachers to Teach Institute Courses?

We have been asked to track and verify who is teaching institute courses for young adults wanting transfer credit to Church universities. Wherever possible, institute teachers should have a bachelor's degree. This requirement makes institute credit transferrable to Church universities and is especially useful for students who are or will be involved in the Pathway program. We are making modifications in WISE to track this and will train personnel on the process when it is complete.

Assessments

How Will Assessments Work?

Last year in seminary, we implemented learning assessments to help youth understand key doctrines and principles and be prepared to share what they know. Institute assessments will be designed to help young adults understand, review, explain, and organize what we hope they have learned in class and to help students apply those teachings to their lives.

Starting with terms that begin on or after August 1, 2015 students will be invited to respond to a few essay questions per course. They will need to complete these writing projects to receive graduation credit in a course. Institute learning assessments for the first two Cornerstone courses will be available in August 2015 in 29 languages. Draft assessments will be ready for the primary elective courses this year in English only. Assessments will not be required this year for primary elective courses in non-English speaking areas.

Institutes teaching secondary elective courses will need to submit the syllabus, reading list, and assessment for each course to be approved. For more information on this approval process, see the section entitled “How Do We Receive Approval for Secondary Elective Courses?”

In addition to the essay-question assessments, the Office of Research will be developing several different assessment approaches during the next few years. All formats will focus on how well students know gospel truths, whether they know how to find the answers to their own questions, and whether they know how to apply gospel truths in their lives.

Making Assessment Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The purpose of assessment accommodations is to enable students with specific needs, disabilities, or health-related conditions to participate in the assessment on an equal basis with other students. Teachers should make appropriate accommodations to meet the specific needs, disabilities, and health-related conditions of their students. The following are guidelines to consider as you make accommodations for your students:

1. Identify students who may have specific needs or disabilities. Have a private conversation with each of these students to identify his or her specific need(s). Listen attentively, and be positive.
2. Based on your conversation, make a plan that appropriately accommodates the student's specific need(s).
3. Implement the accommodations. Individual accommodations should remain confidential. It is impossible to list all of the possible accommodations, so go to the Church's disabilities website to find general information on helping individuals with disabilities: [lds.org/topics/disability](https://www.lds.org/topics/disability).
4. While always looking for ways to help, avoid making accommodations that change or reduce the learning expectations of the student.
5. Have Christlike love for each student, and follow the promptings of the Spirit as you make accommodations to meet students' needs.

Church University Transfer Credit

How Do These Changes Affect How Credit Can Transfer to Church Universities?

Nearly all institute courses will transfer for credit to all Church universities if the course is taught by an instructor with a minimum of a bachelor's degree (including called teachers) and if students fulfill the requirements to receive credit for the course (attend 75%, complete required readings, complete assessment). Courses that do not transfer to Church universities include the Devotional/Lecture Series, Institute Choir, The Gospel and the Productive Life, and Principles of Leadership courses. Some courses are not accepted at BYU or BYU–Hawaii but are accepted at BYU–Idaho, such as the Scripture Study: Power of the Word course. Transfer courses will automatically be assigned a “P,” or a passing grade.

Choir and Devotional Courses

How Many Choir or Devotional Course Credits Can Apply towards Graduation?

While only two credits received from institute choir courses or devotional courses count toward graduation, students may participate in choir or devotional courses as often as they choose.

Will Readings and Assessment Be Required in Institute Choir and Devotional Courses?

Yes, assessments will be required for all institute courses. For these courses, teachers are asked to create a list of readings that have application to the music being learned or the devotional and administer an assessment.

Institute Course Catalog Changes

Institute Course Offerings

Cornerstone Courses		
Course #	Credits	Course Name
200	2	The Eternal Family
225	2	Foundations of the Restoration
250	2	Jesus Christ and the Everlasting Gospel
275	2	The Teachings and Doctrine of the Book of Mormon

Primary Elective Courses		
Course #	Credits	Course Name
121	2	Book of Mormon (1 Nephi to Alma 29)
122	2	Book of Mormon (Alma 30 to Moroni 10)
130	2	Missionary Preparation
150	2	The Gospel and the Productive Life
211	2	New Testament (Gospels)
212	2	New Testament (Acts to Revelation)
215	2	Scripture Study—The Power of the Word
301	2	Old Testament (Genesis to 2 Samuel)
302	2	Old Testament (1 Kings to Malachi)
324	2	Doctrine and Covenants (Sections 1 to 76)
325	2	Doctrine and Covenants (Sections 77 to 138)
327	2	Pearl of Great Price
333	2	Teachings of the Living Prophets
341	2	Latter-day Saint History (Joseph Smith—Martyrdom)
342	2	Latter-day Saint History (Brigham Young—Lorenzo Snow)
343	2	Latter-day Saint History (Joseph F. Smith—present)

Secondary Elective Courses

The courses below require approval before being offered or taught, as specified in each column.

Course #	Credit	Course Name (Note: many of the courses have new numbers)		
		<p>Administrative Approvals Required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institute Director • Area Director • S&I Curriculum Services <p>Materials Needed for Requesting Approval</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course syllabus. • Selection of required student readings for each lesson. • Course assessment (assessment should also be sent to si-approvals@ldschurch.org). <p>Course Curriculum</p> <p>There is no published curriculum.</p>	<p>Administrative Approvals Required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institute Director • Area Director <p>Materials Needed for Requesting Approval</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection of required student readings for each lesson (follows existing curriculum). • Course assessment (assessment should also be sent to si-approvals@ldschurch.org). <p>Course Curriculum</p> <p>Published curriculum—it will not be updated or translated into additional languages, however.</p>	<p>Administrative Approvals Required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institute Director • Area Director <p>Materials Needed for Requesting Approval</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection of required student readings for each lesson. • Course assessment (assessment should also be sent to si-approvals@ldschurch.org) <p>Course Curriculum</p> <p>There is no published curriculum.</p>
031	1			Devotional/Lecture Series*
110	2			Institute Choir†
180	1		Principles of Leadership*	
182	0		Principles of Leadership Lab	
190	2			Advanced Institute Choir†
390R	2		Preparing for an Eternal Marriage	
390R	2		Building an Eternal Marriage	
390R	2		Introduction to Family History	
390R	2		Presidents of the Church	
390R	2		Doctrines of the Gospel (chapters 1 to 20)	
390R	2		Doctrines of the Gospel (chapters 21 to 37)	
390R	2	Latter-day Hymns		
390R	2	Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith		

390R	2	Teachings of President Thomas S. Monson		
390R	2	The Book of Isaiah		
390R	2	The Parables of Jesus		
390R	2	The Restored Gospel and Christian History		
390R	2	The Restored Gospel and World Religions		
390R	2	The Writings of John the Beloved		
390R	2	Women in the Scriptures		
471	2		Teaching Seminary (preservice only)	
475	0		Seminary Student Teacher Seminar (preservice only)	

*Up to two credits of these courses may apply toward graduation.

†Two credits of choir may apply toward graduation.

Determining Which Courses to Offer

Use the following chart as a guide to determine which courses to offer at a particular institute.

Cornerstone Courses	Primary Elective Courses	Secondary Elective Courses
These courses must be offered frequently enough to permit any student to graduate within an appropriate period of time.	These courses must be offered frequently enough to allow students to obtain the required elective credits for institute graduation.	These courses may be offered only when a minimum of one Cornerstone course and one primary elective course are also offered during the same semester at the same institute location.