



I've had several [students] come up to me ... with tears in their eyes, saying that their life has been changed; that the way they act at home toward their spouse and their children has changed; that their ability to pursue additional career opportunities, their confidence in themselves, and their testimony of the gospel of Jesus Christ has completely been renewed or strengthened. Many of these were inactive before they joined the program and talk about how [the program] has made a huge spiritual difference for their life.

— AREA SEVENTY



Contents

4 A New Path to Education

Background & program specifics

6 Pathway Academic Options

Specifics regarding degree options and advancement through the program

7 Pathway Program Types

Details about program admission, weekly operations, and tuition

8 A Priesthood-Driven Program

Pathway is another tool priesthood leaders use in their ministry and "rescue" efforts



Testimonials

"I just wanted to express my heartfelt appreciation for this inspired program. The real blessing is seeing the love the students have for each other and for our great missionary couples. I hope you know that this program is changing lives in amazing ways in our little part of the world. We view it as a key part of our ministry and are doing all we can to support it."

– STAKE PRESIDENT

"The students are becoming active again in the Church, going on missions, marrying in the temple, and contributing in wonderful ways at home, at church, and in the community — much more so than they were before starting Pathway, and much more so than they otherwise would."

– INSTITUTE DIRECTOR

"I am proud to be a part of such a great institution and to be part of a focus that is inspired and unlike any university of its kind. The results of its focus will make [BYU-Idaho] a beacon for the world to see, a light on the hill for all to view, and a marvel for other schools to stand in awe of how spirituality has such a profound effect on individual's well-roundedness. Its model, principles, and standards are part of the fruits that identify the Lord's gospel and Church."

– PATHWAY MISSIONARY

"I struggled in school, and I had a hard time taking my studies seriously. I already recognize a vast improvement in my faith in Christ and testimony of His gospel, and I have a deeper, more sincere desire to pursue an education. This program has eliminated the fears I had regarding school, motivated me to explore higher education, and inspired me to gain all the knowledge I can (both secular and spiritual). I look forward to being a more effective, devoted disciple of Christ."

– PATHWAY STUDENT

A New Path to Education

Millions of Church members throughout the world are in need of higher education. A recent Pew Research poll¹ found that 69 percent of U.S. Church members over age 18 do not have a college degree, 36 percent of whom have never attended college. The survey also found an interesting correlation between education and activity in the Church.

Activity Indicator	No College	Some College	College Degree
High religious commitment	50%	75%	84%
Current temple recommend	46%	67%	85%
Pay tithing	66%	80%	91%
Subscribe to all Church doctrines	66%	81%	85%
Positive outlook on life	80%	89%	92%

The study concluded that this tendency toward faithfulness as education increases is not common among other religious groups, making education particularly relevant to Latter-day Saints. While the study did not offer an explanation for this correlation, Elder M. Russell Ballard shared the following thoughts on the subject: "Prosperity and education seem to be connected to a higher likelihood of having traditional families and values.... When people make family and religious commitments to gospel principles, they begin to do better spiritually and often temporally as well" (Elder M. Russell Ballard, "That the Lost May be Found," *Ensign*, May 2012).

LAYING THE FOUNDATION

It has long been realized that there is more the Church can do to provide a Church-based education to many more individuals. In 1971, Henry B. Eyring said the following in his inaugural address as president of then Ricks College:



"We must also find ways for this college to serve young people whose needs are shaped by a great variety of cultures and situations, and who may not be able to come to this campus.... We will find direct ways to move the blessings of education ... from this campus out into the lives of men and women everywhere."

President Henry B. Eyring, Inaugural Response, December 1971



"It will be necessary for us ... to serve ever better the thousands of students we have on campus while simultaneously reaching out to bless the lives of tens of thousands of young Latter-day Saints throughout the world.... We must learn to assist and bless institute students and other LDS youth in Rhode Island and Rome while effectively serving our students on campus in Rexburg."

President David A. Bednar, Inaugural Response, February 1998

Both of these men echoed a similar sentiment: BYU-Idaho must find ways to educate more students. And in 2009, a new program was introduced to do just that. Partnering with existing institutes of religion, the BYU-Idaho Pathway program was launched in three U.S. locations with about 50 students, and has now grown to thousands of students in dozens of locations worldwide.² The university has truly found, as Elder Eyring said, "direct ways to move the blessings of education ... from this campus out into the lives of men and women everywhere."


PATHWAY PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Pathway has been designed around three primary objectives, which are intended to serve as a catalyst in students’ lives both academically and economically. But in addition to the obvious educational and career benefits Pathway can provide, perhaps the most valuable aspect of this program for the many students who participate may be the spiritual nourishment that comes through regular gospel study and the association of fellow students. Pathway’s objectives are:

1. **Get the gospel down into students’ hearts.**
Students’ testimonies will grow as they enjoy the fellowship of other LDS students and participate in courses taught within the framework of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

2. **Help students become capable learners.**
Pathway eases students into higher education and helps them build confidence in a supportive environment. As part of BYU-Idaho’s Learning Model, students take control of their own learning through a process of preparation, teaching others, and internalizing their learning through reflection and application.

3. **Prepare students to lead and support families.**
Throughout their education, Pathway students will gain skills, learn doctrines, and strengthen values that will enable them to gain meaningful employment as well as be better parents, providers, citizens, and Church members.



PROGRAM STRUCTURE & ELIGIBILITY

Pathway consists of a four-step process (as shown on pg. 6). Students can stop after any level or may continue on to earn additional educational credentials — up to and including a bachelor's degree. Students may also opt to work directly toward a bachelor's degree, skipping some of the steps in the middle. This model is intended to provide flexibility and offer marketable opportunities at each level in the process, no matter what stage a student exits the program.

ACADEMIC START

Academic Start, the first step in the process, is designed to ease students into the rigors of college life and prepare them to be successful. During Academic Start, students take a light courseload for one full year (three semesters). Each semester, students take just *one* online academic course. In addition, students learn more about the gospel of Jesus Christ by taking one religion course each semester either from their local institute or online through BYU-Idaho.

Weekly Pathway Gatherings

During Academic Start, students are also required to participate in a weekly gathering every Thursday night. Students come having completed course assignments and are ready to actively participate in collaborative discussion and learning activities. These gatherings help students gain confidence, build camaraderie, develop meaningful relationships, and acquire leadership skills. Pathway gatherings (or cohorts) are organized in the following ways (program types may not be combined):

Age 18–30 Program	Age 31+ Program
Young adults age 18–30; typically gather at a local institute	Adults age 31 and over; meet at a local Church facility

Pathway Missionaries

As an added support, service missionaries are called in each Pathway location to oversee the on-site management of the program during Academic Start. Missionary duties include: building relationships with local priesthood leaders, recruiting new students, monitoring student academic success, training students how to lead class discussions, providing help and encouragement, and overseeing the general learning environment.

CERTIFICATES & DEGREES

After students complete Academic Start, they can choose to advance their education in a number of ways: 1) BYU-Idaho Online Degree Program; 2) BYU-Idaho Campus in Rexburg; or 3) Another College or University. While students are free to choose any option, many select BYU-Idaho's Online Degree Program, primarily because of its flexible educational options and affordable tuition. (See a full list of current BYU-Idaho online degree options on pg. 6.)

TARGET AUDIENCE

Pathway is primarily targeted to — and built around — 18–30-year-old young adult Church members who have little to no previous college experience and who face a variety of obstacles that keep them from pursuing an education. However, all Church members age 18 or older are eligible for the program if it is established in their local area.

COST

One of the greatest benefits of Pathway is its low cost. Pathway is currently offered at just \$65 per credit — less than half the cost of a traditional BYU-Idaho degree. This means a Pathway student can earn a bachelor's degree for less than \$8,000.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. Belong to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	6. Listen to, speak, read, and write English proficiently ³
2. Have daily access to a computer with high-speed Internet	7. Obtain the financial resources to cover tuition during the first year
3. Feel comfortable using computer programs (Word, Excel, etc.)	8. Strive to live BYU-Idaho's Honor Code
4. Commit to attending a weekly Pathway gathering (first year only)	9. Be capable of entry-level college academic work ⁴
5. Spend approximately 15 hours on coursework weekly	10. Live within a reasonable commuting distance of a Pathway site

For eligible students, the admission process is simple:

WHAT'S REQUIRED?	WHAT'S <u>NOT</u> REQUIRED?
• Submission of application	• NO application fee
	• NO ACT/SAT scores
	• NO high school diploma/GED
	• NO ecclesiastical endorsement (during the first year)

This process is intended to eliminate as many obstacles as possible. With a low cost and a simple admissions process — a BYU-Idaho education is open to more people than ever before.

PROGRAM RESULTS

Many Pathway students have reported significant benefits relative to their participation in Pathway. Students surveyed near the completion of Academic Start have reported the following:

Increased testimony of the gospel of Jesus Christ	98%
Greater faith in the Lord's ability to help me in my life	98%
Improved personal prayer	94%
More confidence in my ability to succeed in college	92%
Improved personal scripture study	88%
More confidence in my ability to provide for my family	82%



Whether educationally, spiritually, or both — Pathway is blessing thousands of Church members throughout the world in remarkable ways.

¹ *Mormons in America* (2012), Pew Research Center retrieved from www.pewforum.org/mormons-in-america.
² Visit www.byui.edu/online/pathway/locations for a list of Pathway locations.
³ A language proficiency assessment is required for non-native English speakers.
⁴ All Pathway students must be capable of entry-level college academic work with post-secondary accommodations if qualified and requested.

STEP 1



ACADEMIC START (15 Credits)

- Attend for one full academic year (three semesters)
- Meet for weekly gatherings every Thursday evening
- Take 3 BYU-Idaho academic courses (3 credits ea.; 1 ea. semester):
Life Skills, Math, & Writing (sequence of courses will vary)
- Take 3 religion courses (2 credits ea.; 1 ea. semester):
Age 18–30 Program: (Institute) Book of Mormon (fall & winter semesters)
Age 31+ Program: (BYU-Idaho) Book of Mormon (fall & winter semesters)
All Programs: (BYU-Idaho) Teachings of the Living Prophets (spring semester)



Advance into BYU-Idaho's Online Degree program (must have a B average – 3.0 GPA)

STEP 2



PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATES*

Administrative Assistant	Home & Family Studies
Basic Accounting	Information Systems
Entrepreneurship	Professional Sales
Family History Research	Web Media

**Some programs are not yet available. For a listing of program availability, visit the following site: www.byui.edu/online/online-degrees-and-certificates/programs*



Continue on toward an Associate Degree (or conclude program with Certificate)

STEP 3



ASSOCIATE DEGREES*

Admin. Asst./Office Mgmt.	General Studies
Family History Research	Web Design & Development

**Some degrees are not yet available. For a listing of degree and course availability, visit the following site: www.byui.edu/online/online-degrees-and-certificates/programs*



Continue on toward a Bachelor's Degree (or conclude program with Associate's)

STEP 4



BACHELOR DEGREES*

Applied Management	Marriage & Family Studies
Business Management	Public Health
Health Care Administration	University Studies
Interdisciplinary Studies	Web Design/Development

**Some degrees are not yet available. For a listing of degree and course availability, visit the following site: www.byui.edu/online/online-degrees-and-certificates/programs*

Pathway Program Types



Pathway students are assigned to one of two programs when they are admitted: Age 18–30 or Age 31+. Program assignments are based on a student's age as of the first day of class. Following is some additional information:

Course Information

- All academic courses are offered online through BYU-Idaho.
- Religion courses are offered through institute and BYU-Idaho (depends on program type and semester; see table).

Weekly Gatherings

- Students meet for an academic gathering Thursday nights for one hour during their first year in Pathway.
 - Students in the Age 18–30 Program also meet for a religion gathering on Thursday nights.
 - All program types must gather separately. Combining programs into one group is not permitted.
- Gatherings occur at a single, approved location for each program type.
 - Age 18–30 groups should gather at a facility where institute is offered.
 - Age 31+ groups should gather at a Church meetinghouse or stake center.
- Separate service missionary couples oversee student groups in each program type.

	Tuition Schedule Age 18–30 Program	Tuition Schedule Age 31+ Program
Academic Courses	Life Skills Basic Math Basic English	Life Skills Basic Math Basic English
Academic Gatherings	60 minutes	60 minutes
Religion Courses	(Institute) Book of Mormon (1st half) (Institute) Book of Mormon (2nd half) (BYU-Idaho) Teachings of the Living Prophets ¹	(BYU-Idaho) Book of Mormon (1st half) (BYU-Idaho) Book of Mormon (2nd half) (BYU-Idaho) Teachings of the Living Prophets
Religion Gatherings	60–90 minutes (for institute courses) 60 minutes (for BYU-Idaho courses)	No Religion Gathering
Minimum Applications to Begin a New Class	15	15
Tuition Rate	\$65/credit	\$65/credit
Total 1st Year Tuition	Fall (\$195), Winter (\$195), Spring (\$325) = \$715 ²	Fall (\$325), Winter (\$325), Spring (\$325) = \$975

¹ Teachings of the Living Prophets is taught during BYU-Idaho's spring semester. It is facilitated through BYU-Idaho because many institutes do not operate during the summer months. For program consistency, students may not take this course through their local institute, even if it offers the course during BYU-Idaho's spring term.

² Tuition is less expensive for students in the Age 18–30 Program because institute is offered at no cost.

A Priesthood-Driven Program



Pathway provides outstanding opportunities for individuals interested in achieving a variety of educational goals, but it is so much more than just a vehicle to gaining a college degree.

A RESCUE OPPORTUNITY

Kim B. Clark, president of BYU-Idaho, related an experience he had visiting with a Pathway service missionary. The elder, who had previously served as a bishop and in a stake presidency, stated, “In all my life, I’ve never seen anything this powerful in bringing back into activity young adults who have wandered away.” President Clark added, “In a very interesting way, education has become a vehicle through which the Lord touches hearts and gets the gospel into peoples’ hearts. So we’ve now

seen Pathway not only as an educational experience but as a conversion experience for the student; as an opportunity to help get the gospel deep into their hearts, prepare them to lead families, and become leaders in the kingdom.”

In a powerful way, the effort Pathway students make to learn and apply gospel-based principles activates the Holy Ghost in their lives. This inspires hope for a brighter future; increases confidence in their ability to learn, teach, and lead at home and in the kingdom; and helps them chart a course to temporal and spiritual development.

A stake president expressed his feelings like this: “I just wanted to drop you a short note and express my heartfelt appreciation for this inspired program.... The real blessing though was seeing the love the students had for each other and for our great missionary couples.... I hope you know that this program is changing lives in amazing ways in our little part of the world. We view it as a key part of our ministry ... and are doing all we can to support it.”

ROLE OF PRIESTHOOD LEADERS

Stories and testimonies like these have become commonplace throughout the program — and it is primarily because of the involvement of local priesthood leaders who embrace Pathway as part of their ministry. In every stake of the Church, stake presidents, bishops, and auxiliary leaders unite in prayer in behalf of the members under their stewardship. Pathway is yet one more lifeline priesthood leaders can use as part of their rescue effort.

Engaged priesthood leaders often invite Pathway missionaries into their bishops trainings and stake and ward councils, and they also ask missionaries to give Pathway presentations during combined Relief Society and priesthood meetings and stake firesides. A united effort on the part of Pathway missionaries, priesthood and auxiliary leaders, and local CES administrators establishes the foundation of a successful and sustainable program.

“In all my life, I’ve never seen anything this powerful in bringing back into activity young adults who have wandered away.”

MORE INFORMATION? Visit www.byui.edu/pathway, or watch Pathway videos at www.byui.edu/online/videos
QUESTIONS? Contact Bryan Justesen at (208) 496-1821