

= Brigham Young University =

Brigham Young University ( often referred to as BYU or , colloquially , The Y ) is a private research university located in Provo , Utah , United States . It is owned and operated by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter @-@ day Saints ( LDS Church ) , and , excluding online students , is the largest of any religious university and the third largest private university in the United States , with 29 @,@ 672 on @-@ campus students . Approximately 99 percent of the students are members of the LDS Church , and one @-@ third of its US students are from Utah .

Students attending BYU are required to follow an honor code , which mandates behavior in line with LDS teachings such as academic honesty , adherence to dress and grooming standards , and abstinence from extramarital sex and from the consumption of drugs and alcohol . Many students ( 88 percent of men , 33 percent of women ) either delay enrollment or take a hiatus from their studies to serve as Mormon missionaries . ( Men typically serve for two @-@ years , while women serve for 18 months . ) An education at BYU is also less expensive than at similar private universities , since " a significant portion " of the cost of operating the university is subsidized by the church 's tithing funds .

BYU offers programs in liberal arts , engineering , agriculture , management , physical and mathematical sciences , nursing and law . The university is broadly organized into 11 colleges or schools at its main Provo campus , with certain colleges and divisions defining their own admission standards . The university also administers two satellite campuses , one in Jerusalem and one in Salt Lake City , while its parent organization , the Church Educational System ( CES ) , sponsors sister schools in Hawaii and Idaho . The university 's primary focus is on undergraduate education , but it also has 68 master 's and 25 doctoral degree programs .

BYU 's athletic teams compete in Division I of the NCAA and are collectively known as the BYU Cougars . Their college football team is an NCAA Division I Independent , while their other sports teams compete in either the West Coast Conference or Mountain Pacific Sports Federation . BYU 's sports teams have won a total of fourteen national championships .

= = History = =

= = = Early days = = =

Brigham Young University 's origin can be traced back to 1862 when a man named Warren Dusenberry started a Provo school in a prominent adobe building called Cluff Hall , which was located in the northeast corner of 200 East and 200 North . On October 16 , 1875 , Brigham Young , then president of the LDS Church , personally purchased the Lewis Building after previously hinting that a school would be built in Draper , Utah , in 1867 . Hence , October 16 , 1875 , is commonly held as BYU 's founding date . Said Young about his vision : " I hope to see an Academy established in Provo ... at which the children of the Latter @-@ day Saints can receive a good education unmixed with the pernicious atheistic influences that are found in so many of the higher schools of the country . "

The school broke off from the University of Deseret and became Brigham Young Academy , with classes commencing on January 3 , 1876 . Warren Dusenberry served as interim principal of the school for several months until April 1876 when Brigham Young 's choice for principal arrived ? a German immigrant named Karl Maeser . Under Maeser 's direction the school educated many luminaries including future U.S. Supreme Court Justice George Sutherland and future U.S. Senator Reed Smoot among others . The school , however , did not become a university until the end of Benjamin Cluff , Jr 's term at the helm of the institution . At that time , the school was also still privately supported by members of the community and was not absorbed and sponsored officially by the LDS Church until July 18 , 1896 . A series of odd managerial decisions by Cluff led to his demotion ; however , in his last official act , he proposed to the Board that the Academy be named " Brigham Young University " . The suggestion received a large amount of opposition , with many

members of the Board saying that the school wasn't large enough to be a university , but the decision ultimately passed . One opponent to the decision , Anthon H. Lund , later said , " I hope their head will grow big enough for their hat . "

In 1903 , Brigham Young Academy was dissolved , and was replaced by two institutions : Brigham Young High School , and Brigham Young University . ( The BY High School class of 1907 was ultimately responsible for the famous giant " Y " that is to this day embedded on a mountain near campus . ) The Board elected George H. Brimhall as the new President of BYU . He had not received a high school education until he was forty . Nevertheless , he was an excellent orator and organizer . Under his tenure in 1904 the new Brigham Young University bought 17 acres ( 69 @, @ 000 m2 ) of land from Provo called " Temple Hill " . After some controversy among locals over BYU 's purchase of this property , construction began in 1909 on the first building on the current campus , the Karl G. Maeser Memorial . Brimhall also presided over the University during a brief crisis involving the theory of evolution . The religious nature of the school seemed at the time to collide with this scientific theory . Joseph F. Smith , LDS Church president , settled the question for a time by asking that evolution not be taught at the school . A few have described the school at this time as nothing more than a " religious seminary " . However , many of its graduates at this time would go on to great success and become well renowned in their fields .

= = = Expansion = = =

Franklin S. Harris was appointed the university 's president in 1921 . He was the first BYU president to have a doctoral degree . Harris made several important changes to the school , reorganizing it into a true university , whereas before , its organization had remnants of the Academy days . At the beginning of his tenure , the school was not officially recognized as a university by any accreditation organization . By the end of his term , the school was accredited under all major accrediting organizations at the time . He was eventually replaced by Howard S. McDonald , who received his doctorate from the University of California . When he first received the position , the Second World War had just ended , and thousands of students were flooding into BYU . By the end of his stay , the school had grown nearly five times to an enrollment of 5 @, @ 440 students . The university did not have the facilities to handle such a large influx , so he bought part of an Air Force Base in Ogden , Utah and rebuilt it to house some of the students . The next president , Ernest L. Wilkinson , also oversaw a period of intense growth , as the school adopted an accelerated building program . Wilkinson was responsible for the building of over eighty structures on the campus , many of which still stand . During his tenure , the student body increased six times , making BYU the largest private school at the time . The quality of the students also increased , leading to higher educational standards at the school . Finally , Wilkinson reorganized the LDS Church units on campus , with ten stakes and over 100 wards being added during his administration .

Dallin H. Oaks replaced Wilkinson as president in 1971 . Oaks continued the expansion of his predecessor , adding a law school and proposing plans for a new School of Management . During his administration , a new library was also added , doubling the library space on campus . Jeffrey R. Holland followed as president in 1980 , encouraging a combination of educational excellence and religious faith at the university . He believed that one of the school 's greatest strengths was its religious nature and that this should be taken advantage of rather than hidden . During his administration , the university added a campus in Jerusalem , now called the BYU Jerusalem Center . In 1989 , Holland was replaced by Rex E. Lee . Lee was responsible for the Benson Science Building and the Museum of Art on campus . A cancer victim , Lee is memorialized annually at BYU during a cancer fundraiser called the Rex Lee Run . Shortly before his death , Lee was replaced in 1995 by Merrill J. Bateman .

Bateman was responsible for the building of 36 new buildings for the university both on and off campus , including the expansion of the Harold B. Lee Library . He was also one of several key college leaders who brought about the creation of the Mountain West Conference , which BYU 's athletics program joined ? BYU previously participated in the Western Athletic Conference . A BYU satellite TV network also opened in 2000 under his leadership . Bateman was also president during

the September 11th attacks in 2001 . The planes crashed on a Tuesday , hours before the weekly devotional normally held at BYU . Previous plans for the devotional were altered , as Bateman led the student body in a prayer for peace . Bateman was followed by Cecil O. Samuelson in 2003 . Samuelson was succeeded by Kevin J Worthen in 2014 .

= = Academics = =

= = Admissions and demographics = = =

BYU accepted 49 percent of the 11 @, @ 423 people who applied for admission in the summer term and fall semester of 2013 . The average GPA for these admitted students was 3 @. @ 82 . U.S. News and World Report describes BYU 's selectivity as being " more selective " and compares it with such universities as the University of Texas at Austin and The Ohio State University . In addition , BYU is ranked 26th in colleges with the most freshman Merit Scholars , with 88 in 2006 . BYU has one of the highest percentage of accepted applicants that go on to enroll ( 78 percent in 2010 ) .

Students from every state in the U.S. and from many foreign countries attend BYU . ( In the 2005 @- @ 6 academic year , there were 2 @, @ 396 foreign students , or eight ( 8 ) percent of enrollment . ) Slightly more than 98 percent of these students are active members of the LDS Church . In 2006 , 12 @. @ 6 percent of the student body reported themselves as ethnic minorities , mostly Asians , Pacific islanders and Hispanics .

= = Graduation honors = = =

Undergraduate students may qualify for graduation honors . University Honors is the highest distinction BYU awards its graduates . Administered by the Honors Program , the distinction requires students to complete an honors curriculum requirement , a Great Questions requirement , an Experiential Learning requirement , an honors thesis requirement , and a graduation portfolio that summarizes the student 's honors experiences .

The university also awards Latin scholastic distinctions separately from the Honors Program : summa cum laude ( top 1 percent ) , magna cum laude ( top 5 percent ) , and cum laude ( top 10 percent ) . The university additionally recognizes Phi Kappa Phi graduation honors .

= = Rankings = = =

For 2016 , U.S. News & World Report ranked BYU as tied for 66th for national universities in the United States . A 2013 Quarterly Journal of Economics study of where the nation 's top high school students choose to enroll ranked BYU No. 21 in its peer @- @ reviewed study . The Princeton Review has ranked BYU the best value for college in 2007 , and its library is consistently ranked in the nation 's top ten ? No. 1 in 2004 and No. 4 in 2007 . BYU is also ranked No. 19 in the U.S. News and World Report 's " Great Schools , Great Prices " lineup , and No. 12 in lowest student @- @ incurred debt . Due in part to the school 's emphasis on undergraduate research , in rankings for 2008 @- @ 2009 , BYU was ranked No. 10 nationally for the number of students who go on to earn PhDs , No. 1 nationally for students who go on to dental school , No. 6 nationally for students who go on to law school , and No. 10 nationally for students who go on to medical school . BYU is designated as a research university with high research activity by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching . ] ] Forbes Magazine ranked it as the No. 1 " Top University to Work For in 2014 " and as the best college in Utah .

In 2009 , the university 's Marriott School of Management received a No. 5 ranking by BusinessWeek for its undergraduate programs , and its MBA program was ranked by several sources : No. 22 ranking by BusinessWeek , No. 16 by Forbes , and No. 29 by U.S. News & World Report . Among regional schools the MBA program was ranked No. 1 by The Wall Street Journal 's

most recent ranking ( 2007 ) , and it was ranked No. 92 among business schools worldwide in 2009 by Financial Times . For 2009 , the university 's School of Accountancy , which is housed within the Marriott School , received two No. 3 rankings for its undergraduate program ? one by Public Accounting Report and the other by U.S. News & World Report . The same two reporting agencies also ranked the school 's MAcc program No. 3 and No. 8 in the nation , respectively . In 2010 , an article in the Wall Street Journal listing institutions whose graduates were the top @-@ rated by recruiters ranked BYU No. 11 . Using 2010 fiscal year data , the Association of University Technology Managers ranked BYU No. 3 in an evaluation of universities creating the most startup companies through campus research .

= = = Notable research and awards = = =

Scientists associated with BYU have created some notable inventions . Philo T. Farnsworth , inventor of the electronic television , received his education at BYU , and later returned to do fusion research , receiving an honorary degree from the university . Harvey Fletcher , also an alumnus of BYU , inventor of stereophonic sound , went on to carry out the now famous oil @-@ drop experiment with Robert Millikan , and was later Founding Dean of the BYU College of Engineering . H. Tracy Hall , inventor of the man @-@ made diamond , left General Electric in 1955 and became a full professor of chemistry and Director of Research at BYU . While there , he invented a new type of diamond press , the tetrahedral press . In student achievements , BYU Ad Lab teams won both the 2007 and 2008 L 'Oréal National Brandstorm Competition , and students developed the Magnetic Lasso algorithm found in Adobe Photoshop . In prestigious scholarships , BYU has produced 10 Rhodes Scholars , four Gates Scholars in the last six years , and in the last decade has claimed 41 Fulbright scholars and 3 Jack Kent Cooke scholars .

= = = International focus = = =

Over three quarters of the student body has some proficiency in a second language ( numbering 107 languages in total ) . This is partially due to the fact that 45 percent of the student body at BYU has been missionaries for LDS Church , and many of them learned a foreign language as part of their mission assignment . During any given semester , about one @-@ third of the student body is enrolled in foreign language classes , a rate nearly four times the national average . BYU offers courses in over 60 different languages , many with advanced courses that are seldom offered elsewhere . Several of its language programs are the largest of their kind in the nation , the Russian program being one example . The university was selected by the United States Department of Education as the location of the national Middle East Language Resource Center , making the school a hub for experts on that region . It was also selected as a Center for International Business Education Research , a function of which is to train business employees in international languages and relations .

Beyond this , BYU also runs a very large study abroad program , with satellite centers in London , Jerusalem , and Paris , as well as more than 20 other sites . Nearly 2 @, @ 000 students take advantage of these programs yearly . In 2001 , the Institute of International Education ranked BYU as the number one university in the U.S. to offer students study abroad opportunities . The BYU Jerusalem Center , which was closed in 2000 due to student security concerns related to the Second Intifada and , more recently , the 2006 Israel @-@ Lebanon conflict , was reopened to students in the Winter 2007 semester .

A few special additions enhance the language @-@ learning experience . For example , BYU 's International Cinema , featuring films in several languages , is the largest and longest @-@ running university @-@ run foreign film program in the country . As already noted , BYU also offers an intensive foreign language living experience , the Foreign Language Student Residence . This is an on @-@ campus apartment complex where students commit to speak only their chosen foreign language while in their apartments . Each apartment has at least one native speaker to ensure correct language usage .

= = Academic freedom issues = =

In 1992 , the university drafted a new Statement on Academic Freedom , specifying that limitations may be placed upon " expression with students or in public that : ( 1 ) contradicts or opposes , rather than analyzes or discusses , fundamental Church doctrine or policy ; ( 2 ) deliberately attacks or derides the Church or its general leaders ; or ( 3 ) violates the Honor Code because the expression is dishonest , illegal , unchaste , profane , or unduly disrespectful of others . " These restrictions have caused some controversy as several professors have been disciplined according to the new rule . The American Association of University Professors has claimed that " infringements on academic freedom are distressingly common and that the climate for academic freedom is distressingly poor . " The new rules have not affected BYU 's accreditation , as the university 's chosen accrediting body allows " religious colleges and universities to place limitations on academic freedom so long as they publish those limitations candidly " , according to associate academic vice president Jim Gordon . The AAUP 's concern was not with restrictions on the faculty member 's religious expression but with a failure , as alleged by the faculty member and AAUP , that the restrictions had not been adequately specified in advance by BYU : " The AAUP requires that any doctrinal limitations on academic freedom be laid out clearly in writing . We [ AAUP ] concluded that BYU had failed to do so adequately . "

= = Organization and administration = =

Brigham Young University is a part of the Church Educational System of LDS Church . It is organized under a Board of Trustees , with the President of the Church ( currently Thomas S. Monson ) as chairman . This board consists of the same people as the Church Board of Education , a pattern that has been in place since 1939 . Prior to 1939 , BYU had a separate board of trustees that was subordinate to the Church Board of Education . The President of BYU , currently Kevin J Worthen , reports to the Board , through the Commissioner of Education .

The university operates under 11 colleges or schools , which collectively offer 194 bachelor 's degree programs , 68 master 's degree programs , 25 PhD programs , and a Juris Doctor program . BYU also manages some courses and majors through the David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies and " miscellaneous " college departments , including Undergraduate Education , Graduate Studies , Independent Study , Continuing Education , and the Honors Program . BYU 's Winter semester ends earlier than most universities in April since there is no Spring break , thus allowing students to pursue internships and other summer activities earlier . A typical academic year is broken up into two semesters : Fall ( September ? December ) and Winter ( January ? April ) , as well as two shorter terms during the summer months : Spring ( May ? June ) and Summer ( July ? August ) .

= = Campus = =

The main campus in Provo , Utah , United States sits on approximately 560 acres ( 2 @. @ 3 km<sup>2</sup> ) nestled at the base of the Wasatch Mountains and includes 295 buildings . The buildings feature a wide variety of architectural styles , each building being built in the style of its time . The grass , trees , and flower beds on BYU 's campus are impeccably maintained . Furthermore , views of the Wasatch Mountains , ( including Mount Timpanogos ) can be seen from the campus . BYU 's Harold B. Lee Library ( also known as " HBLL " ) , which The Princeton Review ranked as the No. 1 " Great College Library " in 2004 , has approximately 8 ½ million items in its collections , contains 98 miles ( 158 km ) of shelving , and can seat 4 @, @ 600 people . The Spencer W. Kimball Tower , shortened to SWKT and pronounced Swicket by many students , is home to several of the university 's departments and programs and is the tallest building in Provo , Utah . Furthermore , BYU 's Marriott Center , used as a basketball arena , can seat over 22 @, @ 000 and is one of the largest on @- @ campus arenas in the nation . Interestingly absent on the campus of this church owned university is

a campus chapel . Notwithstanding , each Sunday LDS Church services for students are conducted on campus , but due to the large number of students attending these services , nearly all of the buildings and possible meeting spaces on campus are utilized ( in addition , many students attend services off campus in LDS chapels in the surrounding communities ) .

### = = = Museums = = =

The campus is home to several museums containing exhibits from many different fields of study . BYU 's Museum of Art , for example , is one of the largest and most attended art museums in the Mountain West . This Museum aids in academic pursuits of students at BYU via research and study of the artworks in its collection . The Museum is also open to the general public and provides educational programming . The Museum of Peoples and Cultures is a museum of archaeology and ethnology . It focuses on native cultures and artifacts of the Great Basin , American Southwest , Mesoamerica , Peru , and Polynesia . Home to more than 40 @, @ 000 artifacts and 50 @, @ 000 photographs , it documents BYU 's archaeological research . The BYU Museum of Paleontology was built in 1976 to display the many fossils found by BYU 's Dr. James A. Jensen . It holds many artifacts from the Jurassic Period ( 210 @-@ 140 million years ago ) , and is one of the top five collections in the world of fossils from that time period . It has been featured in magazines , newspapers , and on television internationally . The museum receives about 25 @, @ 000 visitors every year . The Monte L. Bean Life Science Museum was formed in 1978 . It features several forms of plant and animal life on display and available for research by students and scholars .

The campus also houses several performing arts facilities . The de Jong Concert Hall seats 1282 people and is named for Gerrit de Jong Jr . The Pardoe Theatre is named for T. Earl and Kathryn Pardoe . Students use its stage in a variety of theatre experiments , as well as for Pardoe Series performances . It seats 500 people , and has quite a large stage with a proscenium opening of 19 by 55 feet ( 17 m ) . The Margetts Theatre was named for Philip N. Margetts , a prominent Utah theatre figure . A smaller , black box theater , it allows a variety of seating and staging formats . It seats 125 , and measures 30 by 50 feet ( 15 m ) . The Nelke Theatre , named for one of BYU 's first drama teachers , is used largely for instruction in experimental theater . It seats 280 .

### = = = Student housing = = =

Single students have four options for on @-@ campus housing : Heritage Halls , Helaman Halls , Wyview Park , and the FLSR . Married students can live in Wymount Terrace .

Heritage Halls is a twenty @-@ four @-@ building housing complex on campus which offers apartment @-@ style living . The halls house both male and female students , divided by gender into separate buildings . Each building has ten to fourteen units capable of housing six people each .

Helaman Halls is a slightly newer complex which underwent a 12 @-@ year renovation between 1991 and 2004 . Helaman Halls is a nine @-@ building ( ninth opened in the summer of 2010 ) , dormitory @-@ style living area . Residents share a room ( larger than Heritage Halls ) with one other resident , but do not have their own kitchen and use shared bathrooms . Residents are required to have a meal plan , and eat at the newly remodeled Commons at the Cannon Center .

Wyview Park was originally built for families in 1996 , but this changed in 2006 when the complex began housing single students in order to counteract loss of singles ' housing in other areas . Wyview Park has 30 buildings that offer apartment @-@ style living for students , along with the option for shared or single rooms .

The Foreign Language Student Residence complex has twenty @-@ five apartments where students speak exclusively in a selected foreign language . The immersion experience is available in nine languages , and students are accompanied by a native resident throughout the year to enhance the experience .

Married students can house in Wymount Terrace , which contains a total of 462 apartments in 24 buildings .

Branches of the BYU Creamery provide basic food and general grocery products for students living in Heritage Halls , Helaman , Wymount , Wyview , and the FLSR . Helaman Halls is also served by a central cafeteria called the Cannon Center . The creamery , begun in 1949 , has become a BYU tradition and is also frequented by visitors to the university and members of the community . It was the first on @-@ campus full @-@ service grocery store in the country .

= = = Sustainability = = =

BYU has designated energy conservation , products and materials , recycling , site planning and building design , student involvement , transportation , water conservation , and zero waste events as top priority categories in which to further its efforts to be an environmentally sustainable campus . The university has stated that " we have a responsibility to be wise stewards of the earth and its resources . " BYU is working to increase the energy efficiency of its buildings by installing various speed drives on all pumps and fans , replacing incandescent lighting with fluorescent lighting , retrofitting campus buildings with low @-@ E reflective glass , and upgraded roof insulation to prevent heat loss . The student groups BYU Recycles , Eco @-@ Response , and BYU Earth educate students , faculty , staff , and administrators about how the campus can decrease its environmental impact . BYU Recycles spearheaded the recent campaign to begin recycling plastics , which the university did after a year of student campaigning .

= = Performing arts = =

= = = Dance = = =

The BYU Ballroom Dance Company is known as one of the best formation ballroom dance teams in the world , having won the U.S. National Formation Dance Championship every year since 1982 . BYU 's Ballroom dance team has won first place in Latin or Standard ( or both ) many times when they have competed at the Blackpool Dance Festival , and they were the first U.S. team to win the formation championships at the famed British Championships in Blackpool , England in 1972 . The NDCA National DanceSport championships have been held at BYU for several years , and BYU holds dozens of ballroom dance classes each semester and is consequently the largest collegiate ballroom dance program in the world . In addition , BYU has a number of other notable dance teams and programs . These teams include the Theatre Ballet , Contemporary Dance Theatre , Living Legends , and International Folk Dance Ensemble . The Living Legends perform Latin , Native American , and Polynesian dancing . BYU boasts one of the largest dance departments in the nation . Many students from all different majors across campus participate in various dance classes each semester .

= = = Music = = =

The Young Ambassadors are a song and dance performing group with a 50 @-@ year history at BYU . Prior to 1970 the group was known as Curtain Time USA . In the 1960s their world tour stops included Lebanon , Jordan , and Iraq . The group first performed as the Young Ambassadors at Expo ' 70 in Japan , and has since performed in over 56 nations . The royalty of Thailand and Jordan , along with persons of high office in countries such as India , have been among their audiences .

The BYU Opera Workshop gave the first North American performance of the Ralph Vaughan Williams opera The Pilgrim 's Progress in April 1968 , directed by Max C. Golightly .

BYU 's Wind Symphony and Chamber Orchestra have toured many countries including Denmark , Hong Kong , Russia , the British Isles , and Central Europe . The Symphonic Band is also an ensemble dedicated to developing the musician , but with a less strenuous focus on performance . Additionally , BYU has a marching band program called the Cougar Marching Band .

BYU has a choral program with over 500 members . The four BYU auditioned choirs include the 40 @-@ member BYU Singers , the 90 @-@ member BYU Concert Choir , the 200 @-@ member BYU Men 's Chorus ( the largest male collegiate choir in the U.S. ) , and the 190 @-@ member BYU Women 's Chorus . Both the BYU Men 's Chorus and BYU Singers have toured across the United States and around the globe . Each of the four groups has recorded several times under BYU 's label Tantara Records .

= = Athletics = =

BYU has 21 NCAA varsity teams . Nineteen of these teams played mainly in the Mountain West Conference from its inception in 1999 until the school left that conference in 2011 . Prior to that time BYU teams competed in the Western Athletic Conference . All teams are named the " Cougars " , and Cosmo the Cougar has been the school 's mascot since 1953 . The school 's fight song is the Cougar Fight Song . Because many of its players serve on full @-@ time missions for two years ( men when they 're 18 , women when 19 ) , BYU athletes are often older on average than other schools ' players . The NCAA allows students to serve missions for two years without subtracting that time from their eligibility period . This has caused minor controversy , but is largely recognized as not lending the school any significant advantage , since players receive no athletic and little physical training during their missions . BYU has also received attention from sports networks for refusal to play games on Sunday , as well as expelling players due to honor code violations . Beginning in the 2011 season , BYU football competes in college football as an independent . In addition , most other sports now compete in the West Coast Conference . Teams in swimming and diving and indoor track and field for both men and women joined the men 's volleyball program in the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation . For outdoor track and field , the Cougars became an Independent . Softball returned to the Western Athletic Conference , but spent only one season in the WAC ; the team moved to the Pacific Coast Softball Conference after the 2012 season . The softball program may move again after the 2013 season ; the July 2013 return of Pacific to the WCC will enable that conference to add softball as an official sport .

Most recently BYU had a standout basketball player , Jimmer Fredette , who in 2011 was named NCAA player of the year for basketball and led the nation in scoring .

The BYU men 's lacrosse club team competes in the Rocky Mountain Lacrosse Conference of the Men 's Collegiate Lacrosse Association ( MCLA ) ,

= = Student life = =

= = = LDS atmosphere = = =

BYU 's stated mission " is to assist individuals in their quest for perfection and eternal life . " BYU is thus considered by its leaders to be at heart a religious institution , wherein , ideally , religious and secular education are interwoven in a way that encourages the highest standards in both areas . This weaving of the secular and the religious aspects of a religious university goes back as far as Brigham Young himself , who told Karl G. Maeser when the Church purchased the school : " I want you to remember that you ought not to teach even the alphabet or the multiplication tables without the Spirit of God . "

BYU has been considered by some Latter @-@ day Saints , as well as some university and church leaders , to be " The Lord 's university " . This phrase is used in reference to the school 's mission as an " ambassador " to the world for the LDS Church and thus , for Jesus Christ . In the past , some students and faculty have expressed dissatisfaction with this nickname , stating that it gives students the idea that university authorities are always divinely inspired and never to be contradicted . Leaders of the school , however , acknowledge that the nickname represents more a goal that the university strives for and not its current state of being . Leaders encourage students and faculty to help fulfill the goal by following the teachings of their religion , adhering to the school 's honor code ,



and serving others with the knowledge they gain while attending .

BYU mandates that its students who are members of the LDS Church be religiously active . Both LDS and Non @-@ LDS students are required to provide an endorsement from an ecclesiastic leader with their application for admittance . Over 900 rooms on BYU campus are used for the purposes of LDS Church congregations . More than 150 congregations meet on BYU campus each Sunday . " BYU 's campus becomes one of the busiest and largest centers of worship in the world " with about 24 @,@ 000 persons attending church services on campus .

Some 97 percent of male BYU graduates and 32 percent of female graduates took a hiatus from their undergraduate studies at one point to serve as LDS missionaries . In October 2012 , the LDS Church announced at its general conference that young men could serve a mission after they turn 18 and have graduated from high school , rather than after age 19 under the old policy . Many young men would often attend a semester or two of higher education prior to beginning missionary service . This policy change will likely impact what has been the traditional incoming freshman class at BYU . Female students may now begin their missionary service anytime after turning 19 , rather than age 21 under the previous policy . For males , a full @-@ time mission is two years in length , and for females it lasts 18 months .

= = = Honor code = = =

All students and faculty , regardless of religion , are required to agree to adhere to an honor code . Early forms of the Church Educational System Honor Code are found as far back as the days of the Brigham Young Academy and early school President Karl G. Maeser . Maeser created the " Domestic Organization " , which was a group of teachers who would visit students at their homes to see that they were following the schools moral rules prohibiting obscenity , profanity , smoking , and alcohol consumption . The Honor Code itself was not created until about 1940 , and was used mainly for cases of cheating and academic dishonesty . President Wilkinson expanded the Honor Code in 1957 to include other school standards . This led to what the Honor Code represents today : rules regarding chastity , dress , grooming , drugs , and alcohol . A signed commitment to live the honor code is part of the application process , and must be adhered by all students , faculty , and staff . Students and faculty found in violation of standards are either warned or called to meet with representatives of the Honor Council . In certain cases , students and faculty can be expelled from the school or lose tenure . Both LDS and non @-@ LDS students are required to meet annually with a Church leader to receive an ecclesiastical endorsement for both acceptance and continuance .

Controversy has grown in since 2014 surrounding the school 's honor code , as evidenced by growing national attention paid by national news media and the American Bar Association . Various LGBT advocacy groups have protested the honor code and criticized it as being anti @-@ gay , and The Princeton Review ranked BYU as the 3rd most LGBT @-@ unfriendly school in the United States . Beginning in 2014 and continuing through 2016 , several students have alleged that when they reported being raped , the school punished them for violating the honor code . Some students report that , having been victimized by a rapist , they are told they are now sinners . The atmosphere further prevents some students from being willing to tell the police of the crimes , a situation that local police have publicly deplored .

= = = Culture and activities = = =

BYU 's social and cultural atmosphere is unique . The high rate of enrollment at the university by members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter @-@ day Saints ( more than 98 percent ) results in an amplification of LDS cultural norms ; BYU was ranked by The Princeton Review in 2008 as 14th in the nation for having the happiest students and highest quality of life . However , the quirkiness and sometimes " too nice " culture is often caricatured , for example , in terms of marrying early and being very conservative .

One of the characteristics of BYU most often pointed out is its reputation for emphasizing a " marriage culture " . Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter @-@ day Saints highly value

marriage and family , especially marriage within the faith . Approximately 51 percent of the graduates in BYU 's class of 2005 were married . This is compared to a national marriage average among college graduates of 11 percent . BYU students on average marry at the age of 22 , according to a 2005 study , while the national average age is 25 years for men and 27 years for women .

Many visitors to BYU , and Utah Valley as a whole , report being surprised by the culturally conservative environment . Brigham Young University 's Honor Code , which all BYU students agree to follow as a condition of studying at BYU , prohibits the consumption of alcoholic beverages , tobacco , etc . As mentioned earlier , The Princeton Review has rated BYU the " # 1 stone cold sober school " in the nation for several years running , an honor which the late LDS Church president Gordon B. Hinckley had commented on with pride . BYU 's 2014 " # 1 stone cold " sober rating marked the 17th year in a row that the school had earned that rating . BYU has used this and other honors awarded to the school to advertise itself to prospective students , showing that BYU is proud of the rating . According to the Uniform Crime Reports , incidents of crime in Provo are lower than the national average . Murder is rare , and robberies are about 1 / 10 the national average . Business Insider rated BYU as the # 1 safest college campus in the nation .

Many on @-@ campus student activities and clubs are organized by BYUSA , the university 's official student association . A popular comedy club is Divine Comedy .

BYU sponsors a question @-@ answering service known as the " 100 Hour Board " . Previously an actual physical bulletin @-@ board located in the Wilkinson Student Center , it is currently hosted online : anyone with an account can go onto the website and ask a question , with topics ranging from BYU academic questions to questions about relationships or Church doctrine . The questions are answered in 100 hours by pseudo @-@ anonymous BYU students . It has been affiliated with The Universe since 2006 .

= = Media = =

The BYU Broadcasting Technical Operations Center is an HD production and distribution facility that is home to local PBS affiliate KBYU @-@ TV , local classical music station KBYU @-@ FM Classical 89 , BYU Radio , BYU Radio Instrumental , BYU Radio International , BYUtv and BYU Television International with content in Spanish and Portuguese ( both available via terrestrial , satellite , and internet signals ) . BYUtv is also available via cable throughout some areas of the United States . The BYU Broadcasting Technical Operations Center is home to three television production studios , two television control rooms , radio studios , radio performance space , and master control operations .

The university produces a weekly newspaper called The Universe ( it was published daily until 2012 ) , maintains an online news site that is regularly updated called The Digital Universe and has a daily news program broadcast via KBYU @-@ TV . The university also has a recording label called Tantara Records which is run by the BYU School of Music and promotes the works of student ensembles and faculty .

= = Alumni = =

As of November 2007 , BYU has approximately 362 @, @ 000 living alumni . Alumni relations are coordinated and activities are held at the new Gordon B. Hinckley Alumni and Visitors Center .

Over 21 BYU graduates have served in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives , such as former Dean of the U.S. Senate Reed Smoot ( class of 1876 ) . Cabinet members of American presidents include former Secretary of Agriculture to President Dwight D. Eisenhower , Ezra Taft Benson ' 26 and Rex E. Lee ' 60 , who was United States Solicitor General under President Ronald Reagan . Mitt Romney , former Governor of Massachusetts and 2012 Republican Presidential Candidate , class of 1971 .

BYU alumni in academia include former Dean of the Harvard Business School Kim B. Clark , two time world 's most influential business thinker Clayton M. Christensen , Michael K. Young ' 73 ,

current president of the University of Washington , Matthew S. Holland , current president of Utah Valley University , Stan L. Albrecht , current president of Utah State University , Teppo Felin , Professor at the University of Oxford , and Stephen D. Nadauld , previous president of Dixie State University . The University also graduated Nobel Prize winner Paul D. Boyer , as well as Philo Farnsworth ( inventor of the electronic television ) and Harvey Fletcher ( inventor of the hearing aid ) . Four of BYU 's thirteen presidents were alumni of the University . Additionally , alumni of BYU who have served as business leaders include Citigroup CFO Gary Crittenden ' 76 , former Dell CEO Kevin Rollins ' 84 , Deseret Book CEO Sheri L. Dew , and Matthew K. McCauley , CEO of children 's clothing company Gymboree .

In literature and journalism , BYU has produced several best @-@ selling authors , including Orson Scott Card ' 75 , Brandon Sanderson ' 00 & ' 05 , Ben English ' 98 , and Stephenie Meyer ' 95 . BYU also graduated American activist and contributor for ABC News Elizabeth Smart @-@ Gilmour . Other media personalities include former CBS News correspondent Art Rascon , award @-@ winning ESPN sportscaster and former Miss America Sharlene Wells Hawkes ' 86 and former co @-@ host of CBS 's The Early Show Jane Clayson Johnson ' 90 . In entertainment and television , BYU is represented by Jon Heder ' 02 ( best known for his role as Napoleon Dynamite ) , writer @-@ director Daryn Tufts ' 98 , Golden Globe @-@ nominated Aaron Eckhart ' 94 , animator and filmmaker Don Bluth ' 54 , Jeopardy ! all @-@ time champion Ken Jennings ' 00 , and Richard Dutcher , the " Father of Mormon Cinema . " In the music industry BYU is represented by lead singer of the Grammy Award winning band Imagine Dragons Dan Reynolds , multi @-@ platinum selling drummer Elaine Bradley from the band Neon Trees , crossover dubstep violinist Lindsey Stirling , former American Idol contestant Carmen Rasmusen , Mormon Tabernacle Choir director Mack Wilberg and pianist Massimiliano Frani .

BYU has also produced many religious leaders . Among the alumni are several LDS Church general authorities , including two church presidents : Ezra Taft Benson ' 26 , and Thomas S. Monson ' 74 ) , six apostles ( Neil L. Andersen , D. Todd Christofferson ' 69 , David A. Bednar ' 76 , Jeffrey R. Holland ' 65 & ' 66 , Dallin H. Oaks ' 54 , and Reed Smoot 1876 ) , and two general presidents of the Relief Society ( Julie B. Beck ' 73 and Belle Spafford ' 20 ) .

A number of BYU alumni have found success in professional sports , representing the University in 7 MLB World Series , 5 NBA Finals , and 25 NFL Super Bowls . In baseball , BYU alumni include All @-@ Stars Rick Aguilera ' 83 , Wally Joyner ' 84 , and Jack Morris ' 76 . Professional basketball players include three @-@ time NBA champion Danny Ainge ' 81 , 1952 NBA Rookie of the Year and 4 @-@ time NBA All @-@ Star Mel Hutchins ' 51 , three @-@ time Olympic medalist and Hall of Famer Kre?imir ?osi? ' 73 , and consensus 2011 national college player of the year Jimmer Fredette ' 11 , currently with the New York Knicks organization . BYU also claims notable professional football players including two @-@ time NFL MVP and Super Bowl MVP and Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback Steve Young ' 84 & J.D. ' 96 , Heisman Trophy winner Ty Detmer ' 90 , and two @-@ time Super Bowl winner Jim McMahon . In golf , BYU alumni include two major championship winners : Johnny Miller ( ' 69 ) at the 1973 U.S. Open and 1976 British Open and Mike Weir ( ' 92 ) at the 2003 Masters .