

FIRST-YEAR FOUNDATIONS FOR STUDENT SUCCESS (UNIV 101)

CHIP OSCARSON, DIRECTOR GENERAL EDUCATION

JUNE 2, 2023

BYU General Education
UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION



BYU Mission Statement

The mission of Brigham Young University — founded, supported, and guided by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints — is **to assist individuals in their quest for perfection and eternal life**. That assistance should provide a period of intensive learning in a stimulating setting where a commitment to excellence is expected and **the full realization of human potential is pursued**.

All instruction, programs, and services at BYU, including a wide variety of extracurricular experiences, should make their own contribution toward **the balanced development of the total person**. Such a broadly prepared individual will not only **be capable of meeting personal challenge and change** but will also **bring strength to others** in the tasks of home and family life, social relationships, civic duty, and **service to mankind**. (emphasis added)



What is the role of General Education in preparing students to achieve the mission of BYU?

Write down a few ideas

Share them with your neighbor

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

“A majority of Americans don't think a college degree is worth the cost, according to a new Wall Street Journal-NORC poll, a new low in confidence in what has long been a hallmark of the American dream.

The survey, conducted with NORC at the University of Chicago, a nonpartisan research organization, found that 56% of Americans think earning a four-year degree is a bad bet compared with 42% who retain faith in the credential.

Skepticism is strongest among people ages 18-34, and people with college degrees are among those whose opinions have soured the most, portending a profound shift for higher education in the years ahead.”

Americans Are Losing Faith in College Education, WSJ-NORC Poll Finds

Confidence in value of a degree plummeted among women and senior citizens during pandemic

By [Douglas Belkin](#) [Follow](#)

March 31, 2023 5:30 am ET





Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman, “Covenant versus Consumer Education,” BYU Forum
31 Jan. 2023



First-Year Foundations For Student Success

UNIV 101



UNIV 101: First-year Foundations for Student Success

- 2 credits, Pass/Fail (Credit/No Credit)
- Taught by CFS professional and professorial faculty from all colleges
- Discipline-agnostic: focus on scholar-discipleship not discipline
- Curriculum developed and managed by subcommittee of Faculty General Education Council (FGEC)
- Sections of 20-25 students
- Will be required of **all** incoming first-year students beginning winter semester 2024



UNIV 101: First-Year Foundations

Outcome 1

Students will recognize and value the unique community, purpose, and Mission and Aims of BYU and connect the BYU experience to their own educational and spiritual goals.



UNIV 101: First-Year Foundations

Outcome 2

Students will recognize and feel confident in accessing campus resources that provide support for academic success and personal resiliency in addition to physical, social, and financial well-being.



UNIV 101: Learning Outcomes

Outcome 3

Students will develop the character essential to lifelong disciple-scholarship using gospel-centered learning, intellectual humility, and respectful engagement with others.



UNIV 101: Learning Outcomes

Outcome 4

Students will discover the value of both contributing and belonging to the BYU community by embracing the Statement on Belonging, the Honor Code and other prophetic guidance; participating in activities and events; and serving others.

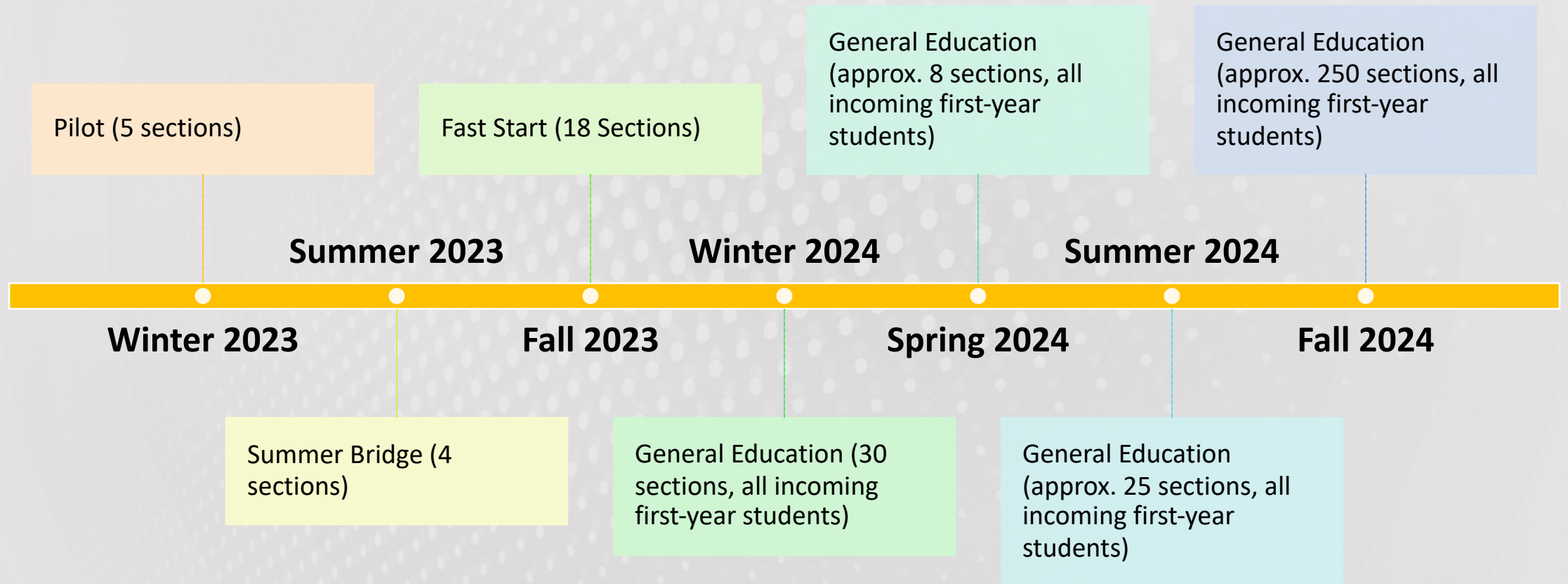


Key goals:

- Renewed focus on the student and student learning
- Commitment to “the balanced development of the total person”
- Reflection and commitment on part of students and faculty to the mission of BYU
- Better understanding of resources available that can close achievement gaps
- Strengthen belonging on campus



Implementation Plan



How does UNIV 101 fit into General Education?

- As of winter 20224, incoming first-year students will be required to take UNIV 101 during their first semester.
- UNIV 101 will satisfy one of the seven Arts, Letters and Sciences GE requirements (Arts, Biological Science, Civilization 1, Civilization 2, Letters, Physical Science, or Social Science) of the student's choosing. Fulfilling an Arts, Letters and Sciences requirement with UNIV 101 does not fulfill coursework required by the major.



How does UNIV 101 fit into General Education?

- Coherence of General Education as a program
- Integration of GE into the mission and purpose of the university
- Reinvigoration of our pedagogy: student centered
- Commitment to lifelong learning and service
- Belonging



Is this GE redesign?





It ought to be obvious to you, as it is to me, that some of the things the Lord would have occur in the second century of BYU are hidden from our immediate view. Until we have climbed the hill just before us, we are not apt to be given a glimpse of what lies beyond. The hills ahead are higher than we think. This means that accomplishments and further direction must occur in proper order, after we have done our part. **We will not be transported from point A to point Z without having to pass through the developmental and demanding experiences of all the points of achievement and all the milestone markers that lie between! [...]**

As previous First Presidencies have said, and we say again to you, we expect (we do not simply hope) that Brigham Young University will “become a leader among the great universities of the world.” To that expectation I would add, **“Become a unique university in all of the world!”**

Pres. Spencer W. Kimball, “The Second Century of Brigham Young University”

