



OFFICE OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

GENERAL STUDIES

Welcome to BYU-Idaho! My name is Kevin Brower and I serve as Dean of Interdisciplinary Studies. As part of the many wonderful programs and opportunities sponsored by our office, we are excited that you have chosen to pursue a university degree at BYU-Idaho. Our General Studies program typically falls into one of two categories: 1) students who have not yet chosen a major or 2) students who plan to complete an associate's degree at BYU-Idaho and then transfer to another university. Regardless of the reason you have chosen General Studies, we hope your first semester is a success. Part of that success will come as you continually remember that courses and programs at BYU-Idaho are designed to help you become a disciple of Jesus Christ as a leader in your home, the Church, and community. As you embrace the mission of the university, your time at BYU-Idaho will bless the lives of you and your family.



Kevin Brower

DEAN OF INTERDISCIPLINARY
STUDIES

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What Courses Should I Take My First Semester?

The list of courses you should take your first semester depends a little bit on your experience and your interests. We do, however, highly recommend including the following:

- GE 101: Freshman Seminar (1 credit) or GS 100: Career and Self Discovery (1 credit)
- REL 200C: The Eternal Family (2 credits)
- MATH 108X: Math for the Real World (3 credits)
- ENG 150: Writing and Reasoning Foundations (3 credits)
- One or two courses that help you explore possible majors

Advice for Students Who Are Looking for a Major:

If you have not yet chosen a major, it is highly recommended you take advantage of resources offered by the university to help you choose a major as soon as possible. It is to your advantage to choose a major sooner rather than later. In a [devotional address](#) given in Spring 2018, BYU–Idaho President Henry J. Eyring talked about choosing a major. He said: “Even if you’re not sure about your interests, the best way to find a major is to make your best guess and ‘try it on.’”

Here are four resources you should consider:

- Consider signing up for the Freshman Focus Areas program. This two-semester program helps new freshman explore possible majors and careers. Visit the Freshman Focus Areas website to complete an interest form and learn more about the program.
- Attend the Dare to Declare events. These two events are held in Fall and Winter semesters. At our Dare to Declare Society Night you can learn about academic societies that you can join. At our Dare to Declare Majors Night, faculty from every department are there to talk to students about possible majors and careers.
- Take the GS 100: Career and Self Discovery class. This course is a great option for finding out what career or majors might be good for you.
- Use the Career Exploration resources in iPlan. (Go to iplan.byui.edu. Login with either your BYU–Idaho or your Church account. Click on Career Exploration.)

Advice for Students Who Plan to Transfer:

The General Studies associate’s degree is sometimes called a transfer associate’s degree because it is designed to help students who want to transfer to another school. The General Studies major at BYU–Idaho requires you to complete the general education requirements as well as enough elective credits to successfully complete 60 credits total. As a potential transfer student, it is especially important to choose your elective credits wisely. One common reason for wanting to transfer to another university is because BYU–Idaho might not offer your specific degree program. If this is the case for you, please find out as much as you can about the degree and school you want to transfer to and take elective courses that prepare you for that program.

You Belong at BYU-Idaho.

As a new student at BYU–Idaho, you might have concerns about finding friends and acceptance. One easy way to overcome these concerns is to make a conscious effort to connect with your roommates, your professors, your ward members, your bishopric, and others. You may also find it helpful to participate in the campus Activities Program. Whatever the case, your life and experience as a General Studies major will be enhanced as you build positive relationships and connections both in and out of the classroom.