



OFFICE OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

GENERAL STUDIES

Welcome to BYU-Idaho! My name is Danae Romrell. I am the Dean of Interdisciplinary Studies and I am in charge of the General Studies major. We are so excited that you have chosen to study at BYU-Idaho. At BYU-Idaho our General Studies majors usually fall into one of two categories: 1) students who haven't chosen a major yet or 2) students who plan to finish an associate's degree at BYU-Idaho and then transfer to another university. The following sections give advice to students in both of these groups. No matter your reason for choosing the general studies major, we hope your first semester at BYU-Idaho is a success. Courses and programs at BYU-Idaho are designed to help you become a disciple of Jesus Christ who is a leader in your home, the church, and your community. As you embrace this mission of the university, your time at BYU-Idaho will bless your life and the life of your family.



Danae Romrell

DEAN OF INTERDISCIPLINARY
STUDIES
(208) 496- 3357
ROMRELLD@BYUI.EDU

What Courses Should I Take My First Semester?

The exact list of courses you should take will depend a little bit on your experience and your interests. But here is a list of courses you could take for your first semester.

- GE 101: College Success (1 credit) or GS 100: Career Exploration (1 credit)
- REL 200C: The Eternal Family (2 credits)
- MAT 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 haven't chosen a major yet, I recommend 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 Exploration 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.

You Belong at BYU-Idaho.

As a new freshman, you might have concerns about finding friends and acceptance as you begin your university experience. BYU-Idaho is where you belong. During your first semester, make a conscious effort to connect with your roommates, your professors, your ward members, your bishopric, and others. Participate in the BYU-Idaho Activities Program. Your experience as a General Studies major will be enhanced as you build relationships and connections both in and out of the classroom.

Advice for Students Who Plan to Transfer:

The General Studies associate's degree is called a transfer associate's degree because it is designed to help students who want to transfer to another school and finish a bachelor's degree there. The General Studies major requires you to complete the general education requirements and enough elective credits to reach 60 credits. 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 program. If this is the case for you, I recommend you find out as much as you can about the program you want to transfer to and take elective courses that prepare you for that program. For example, maybe you are wanting to transfer to a different university to study Marine Biology. Then it would be helpful to take several biology classes as electives. Or, if you want to transfer to another school to study Nuclear Engineering it would be helpful to take several calculus courses as electives.