

What Makes BYU Special?



August 31, 2006



In all the world, the Brigham Young University is the greatest institution of learning. This statement I have made numerous times. I believe it sincerely. There are many criteria by which a university can be judged and appraised and evaluated. The special qualities of Brigham Young University lie not in its bigness; there are a number of much larger universities. It should not be judged by its affluence and the amount of money available for buildings, research, and other facilities. It should not be judged by prestige, for there are higher institutions as the world measures status.

The uniqueness of Brigham Young University lies in its special role – education for eternity – which it must carry in addition to the usual tasks of a university. This means concern – curricular and behavioral – not only for the “whole man,” but also for the “eternal man.” Where all universities seek to preserve the heritage of knowledge that history has washed to their feet, this faculty has a double heritage – the preserving of knowledge of men and the revealed truths sent from heaven.

Spencer W. Kimball
September 12, 1967



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Where other institutions of higher education aim, in part, at educating and training students for various careers, this faculty must do that vital job and do it superbly well, but it must do far more. It must train a cadre of committed, educated youth who can serve effectively, not only in the world of work, but in the growing kingdom of God, in which skilled leadership is such a vital commodity.

It would not be expected that all of the faculty should be categorically teaching religion constantly in their classes, but it is proper that every professor and teacher in this institution would keep his subject matter bathed in the light and color of the restored gospel and have all his subject matter perfumed lightly with the spirit of the gospel. Always there would be an essence, and the student would feel the presence. Every instructor should grasp the opportunity occasionally to bear formal testimony of the truth. Every student is entitled to know the attitude and feeling and spirit of his or her every teacher.

Spencer W. Kimball
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BYU Mission

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.

Four major educational goals should prevail:

- All students at BYU should be taught the truths of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Students at BYU should receive a broad university education.
- Students should also receive instruction in the special fields of their choice. Preparation must be excellent.
- Scholarly research and creative endeavor among both faculty and students, including those in selected graduate programs of real consequence, are essential and will be encouraged.



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Aims of a BYU Education



The mission of Brigham Young University is “to assist individuals in their quest for perfection and eternal life.” To this end, BYU seeks to develop students of faith, intellect, and character who have the skills and the desire to continue learning and to serve others throughout their lives.

A BYU education should be:

1. Spiritually strengthening
2. Intellectually enlarging
3. Character building, leading to
4. Lifelong learning and service.



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