HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF BECOMING A SEMINARY TEACHER?

The Church Educational System (CES) hires outstanding men and women who can influence the youth of the Church to learn and live the gospel of Jesus Christ. This brochure answers questions you might have about preparing for a career in Church education.

WHAT ARE THE PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR PROSPECTIVE TEACHERS?

An individual who teaches the gospel to the youth of the church in a CES setting must:

• Be a worthy and active member of the church and hold a current temple recommend.
• Exhibit a testimony of the Savior and His restored gospel.
• Exemplify Church teachings regarding marriage and family life.
• Maintain a proper balance in the many aspects of life.
• Relate to and be able to manage a classroom of teenagers.
• Demonstrate outstanding scripture-teaching skills.
• Be willing to abide by CES policies, including dress and grooming standards.

WHAT CAREER OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE?

The following career options are available in CES:

• Seminary teacher
• Seminary principal
• Institute teacher
• Institute director
• CES coordinator
• Other CES administrator

Nearly all new hires begin as released-time seminary teachers. Seminary principals, institute of religion teachers and directors, CES coordinators, and other CES administrators are appointed from among the ranks of experienced seminary teachers.

WHAT BENEFITS ARE AVAILABLE WITH CES?

The following are some of the benefits available to full-time CES employees:

• Medical, dental, disability, and life insurance plans
• Master retirement plan
• Savings plan, with employer matching

DO YOU REALLY REALIZE WHAT EACH OF YOU IS A PART OF — THIS HUGE EFFORT TO TEACH RELIGION TO YOUNG PEOPLE IN MANY NATIONS, SPEAKING SCORES OF LANGUAGES? LITERALLY, THE SUN NEVER SETS ON GROUPS OF STUDENTS WHO GATHER TOGETHER TO LEARN OF THE LORD AND HIS GREAT WORK

— “A Challenging Time—A Wonderful Time”,
An Evening with President Gordon B. Hinckley, 7 February 2003, Teaching Seminary Preservice

HOW DO I BECOME A SEMINARY TEACHER?

• Enroll in Religion 370:
  Taught T/Th; 9:00 a.m. M/W 10:15 a.m. Fall & Winter Semesters
  Taught T/Th 9:00 a.m. Summer Semester
• Enroll in Religion 471:
  Taught T/Th 11:30 a.m. Fall, Winter, & Summer Semesters
  Taught T/Th 7:00—10:00 p.m. Fall & Winter Semester
• Religion 475 classes are reserved for Student-Teachers

All classes are taught on the BYU-Idaho Campus in the Gordon B. Hinckley Building Room 221.

WHAT ARE THE EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS?

The education requirements for individuals desiring a full-time teaching position in CES include:

• An accredited bachelor’s degree (CES does not specify a major.)
• Institute of religion graduation or equivalent preferred, with emphasis on scripture courses.
• Completion of Doctrines of the Gospel (Religion 431 where available).
• Completion of the seminary preservice training and selection process preferred.

SEMINARY PRESERVICE TRAINING COURSES

While obtaining a bachelor’s degree, a prospective seminary teacher should take the following CES preservice training courses. These courses build on each other, and each course serves as a prerequisite for the next; the courses must be taken sequentially.

370 Introduction to Teaching Seminary
  This course is an introduction to religious education as a profession. It focuses on basic teaching concepts and the CES hiring process. During the course, prospective trainees are evaluated and screened for Religion 471.

471 Methods of Teaching Seminary
  This course focuses on the skills needed to be an effective scripture teacher. Particular attention will be paid to identifying principles and doctrines, asking great questions, developing variety in teaching and helping students apply what they learn. During the course, trainees are evaluated and screened for Religion 475.

475 Seminary Teaching Seminar
  This course deals with current teaching issues and needs. Trainees are also employed part-time and may teach from one to three seminary classes. Throughout the school year, trainees are evaluated to determine whether they should be considered for a full-time seminary teaching position with CES.

431 Doctrines of the Gospel (may be taken any time)

WHAT ARE THE CHANCES OF BEING HIRED AS A FULL-TIME SEMINARY TEACHER AND STARTING A CAREER IN CES?

There are openings each year for seminary teachers. The number of openings varies from year to year, but typically the number of applicants far exceeds the openings. It would be wise to have other alternatives in mind in case a career with CES does not develop.