

2023-2024 Cypress Stake Seminary Policy

The Church Handbook explains, "Seminaries and Institutes of Religion (S&I) assists parents and Church leaders in helping youth and young adults increase their faith in Jesus Christ and His restored gospel. This is done by supporting a **home-centered** study of the scriptures and the words of living prophets and other Church leaders."¹

President Nelson has described Seminary as a way for youth to become "devout disciples of Christ" by "**not just attending but actively participating in class** and faithfully following through with any assignments given."² In addition, as a Stake Presidency, we view Seminary as a training ground for youth to learn how to carry out responsibilities they are being asked to fulfill at earlier ages, such as serving missions and preparing to make temple covenants.

To help seminary classes be a place for students to deepen their conversion to Jesus Christ and His restored gospel, please review the following:

Daily Scripture Study

Parents can encourage their youth to develop daily scripture study habits while meeting the credit requirement to read the assigned scripture passages each semester.

Attendance (Absences, Leaving Class Early, Tardiness)

Parents can help their youth be accountable for their attendance by discussing it with them often. Tardies and absences can be viewed on Android and Apple's Seminary & Institutes apps and the mySeminary link on the church seminary website. The Parents tab on our stake website contains all links to download apps or access it online:

<https://seminaryresources.weebly.com/parents.html>

Teachers will record absences and tardies as required by S&I for accreditation. Students need a minimum of 75% attendance for a semester to receive credit. Also, students need to attend most of the class period to receive credit for the day. Completing one lesson in the student manual will make up for one absence.

If a student will need to miss or leave class early on a regular basis, parents should arrange with the teacher for routine make-up work. Typically, students who must routinely leave early will be asked to complete the portion of the lesson they missed using the student manual lesson.

A student may be marked tardy if they arrive after the start time or leave before class ends. Five or more tardies per semester should be made up to avoid credit being withheld for the semester. Completing one lesson in the student manual will make up for five tardies.

Paper & Digital Scriptures

Students should use their paper scriptures for their main study in class to develop the capacity to study and share the gospel in all formats. In addition, teachers will direct the use of electronics for the Gospel Library app to ensure phones are not a distraction and that their use contributes to the understanding and edification of students and allows the students to fulfill their role in the learning process.³

¹ Church Handbook, Section 15. <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/general-handbook/15-seminaries-and-institutes?lang=eng#p1>

² Russell M. Nelson, "A Personal Invitation to Participate in Seminary and Institute". <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/si/seminary/personal-invitation-to-seminary-and-institute?lang=eng>

³ Gospel Teaching and Learning: A Handbook for Teacher and Leaders in Seminary & Institutes of Religion. <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/gospel-teaching-and-learning-a-handbook-for-teachers-and-leaders-in-seminaries-and-institutes-of-religion/the-objective-of-seminaries-and-institutes-of-religion?lang=eng>