

MAKE UNEXPECTED CONNECTIONS

A man in a blue and white checkered shirt and black pants stands next to a large, complex robotic arm. The background is a cloudy sky and a concrete wall. The text 'MAKE UNEXPECTED CONNECTIONS' is at the top, 'HONORS PROGRAM + BYU' is in the middle, and 'Year in Review 2018' is at the bottom. A caption at the bottom left identifies the man as Jared Blanchard, a 2018 Honors Graduate and Commencement speaker, showcasing the BYU Mars Rover.

**HONORS
PROGRAM** + **BYU**

Year in Review 2018

Jared Blanchard, 2018 Honors Graduate and Commencement speaker, showcases the BYU Mars Rover



OUR MISSION

We aim to develop student-scholars from across the university who will become **broad thinkers, creative problem solvers**, and **influential leaders**.

Our mission is achieved by cultivating

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS

INTERDISCIPLINARY THINKING

SKILLS OF INQUIRY



THE BYU HONORS **EXPERIENCE**

2018 was a year of **development, growth,** and **outreach** for the Honors Program. We benefited from faculty contributions from across campus, support from administration and dedicated staff, and the engagement of exceptional students. Each one is an important component of the BYU Honors Program, and it is a pleasure for me to associate with such great people. I am pleased to share highlights of the Honors Experience from the past year with you, our stakeholders.

LEADERSHIP

We received approval to create an Associate Director position for Honors, and welcomed **Dr. Dennis Cutchins** from the English Department to our team. Dennis has already provided outstanding direction and leadership to the Program, with specific responsibilities for scholarships and assessment. Along with this change came a reorganization of other positions. **Julie Radle** is now the Assistant Director and **Vika Filimoeatu** is the Honors Advisement Supervisor. **Dr. Spencer Magleby** continues as Director of the Program.



COURSES & FACULTY

Our **Unexpected Connections** courses continue to be one of the highlights of the Honors Experience. The new and continuing Honors Faculty who design and teach these courses are listed on the back of this report. You will also want to look at the pages that highlight students' experiences in the courses and feature some of these unique course offerings.

The Honors Program modified **Honors 120**, our introductory course, making it a prerequisite for further Honors courses. In 2018 about **400 students enrolled** in the course and had the opportunity to interact with **12 outstanding faculty presenters** from across campus.

Program Website & Publicity

I encourage all of you to explore our new website at **honors.byu.edu**. This beautiful new site focuses on the Honors Experience and is a resource for students, faculty and advisors. Along with the fresh site, we have new printed materials for students and advisors. We would be glad to send some of them your way. You may have seen banners across campus with pictures of Honors students. We had good success with this initial publicity campaign and have a new one in the works for 2019. Look for the Honors Program as you cross the campus, visit our website, and scroll through social media.

In 2019, we look forward to expanding relationships with academic units and centers across campus, refining our leadership development requirement and increasing support to representatives in the departments. If you have a desire to participate with Honors do not hesitate to give me a call.



DR. SPENCER MAGLEBY
Honors Program Director

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

BRYAN SAMUELSEN

Marketing

April 2020

In "**Adaptation**" we played Minecraft, camped in Canyonlands and learned how storytelling keeps the human race alive.



ELINA CHUN

Nursing

December 2018

My **Honors thesis** researched what happens when business, IT, and nursing students form teams to improve maternal health.





IDONGESIT EKPO

Biochemistry

August 2020

In **“Being Mortal: In Search of the Good Life”** we read Frankenstein, made ice cream with liquid nitrogen, and studied what it means to live the good life.



OSCAR ABADILLO

Information Systems

April 2020

In **“The Book of Life: Going Viral”** we practiced primitive spear hunting, read Tolstoy, and visited some early Native American cave paintings.



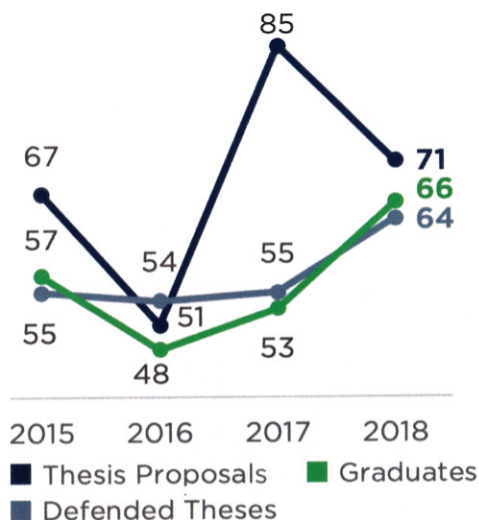
ELVIRA CORREA LAZARO

Political Science

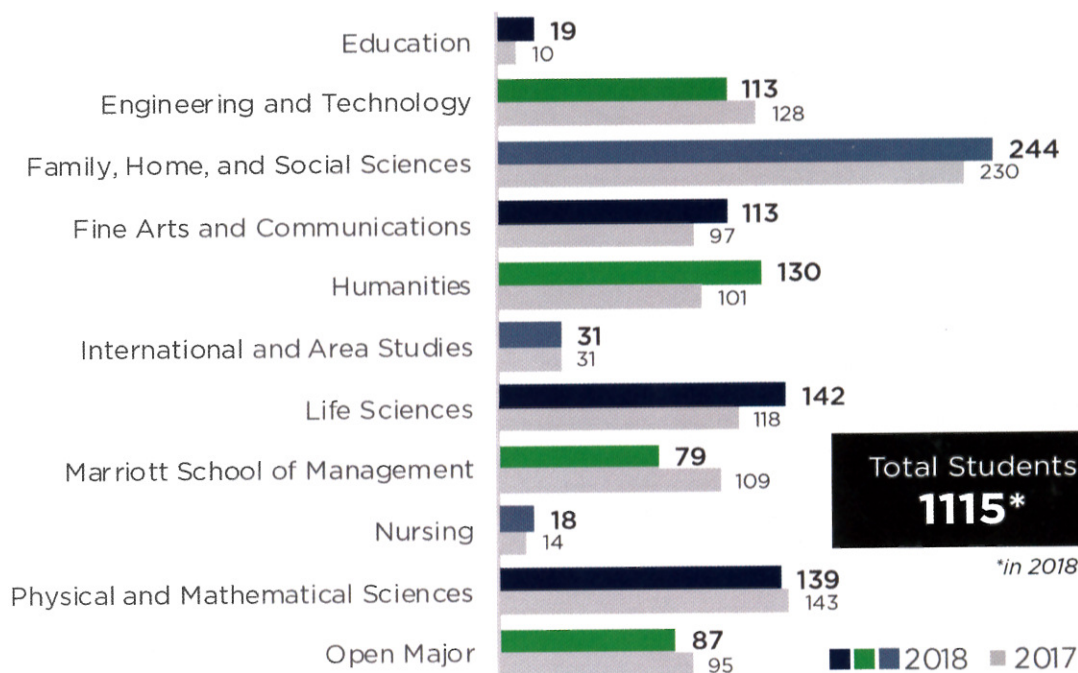
June 2019

In my **Great Questions** essay I used a Broadway musical, French fashion design, and epigenetics to expound on the meaning of personal identity.

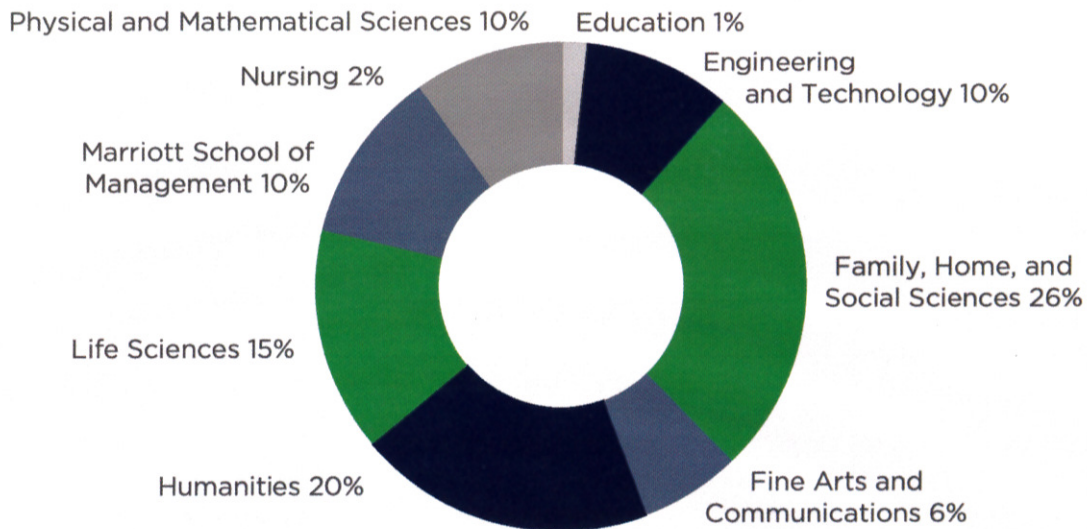
ENROLLMENT AND THESIS TRENDS



STUDENTS BY COLLEGE



GRADUATES BY COLLEGE





UNEXPECTED CONNECTIONS

Unexpected Connections courses offer students the opportunity to explore multiple disciplines while fulfilling two GE requirements. Classes are team-taught by two professors from different disciplines. Together they select their course focus and build a unique curriculum. Students are able to engage in an interdisciplinary learning environment and make unexpected connections of their own during each course.

Each year the Honors Program introduces new topics and questions in these courses. Recent additions include: *Race and Music*, *The Comedy of Life: Exploring Social Structure Through Humor*, and *Scale and Perspective: in the Arts and Physical Sciences*.

In the **"The Germ of an Idea: Disease and Literature"** course Dr. Dennis Cutchins and Dr. Brian Poole explore the concept that disease has molded human behavior, as well as human culture. Students test bacteria in a lab and consider how disease influenced the greatest minds in literary history.



Students in **“The Book of Life: Going Viral”** course visited Freemont Indian State Park to look at hieroglyphics, petroglyphs, and examples of living conditions. They also stopped by Cove Fort to study Church History and early communication processes. The course, taught by Dr. Julianne Grose and Dr. Cynthia Hallen, looks at the connection between the nuances of language and the basic elements of life and DNA.

Under the direction of Dr. Evan Ward and Dr. John Colton, students in **“Uncertainty: Quantum Mechanics & Early 20th Century Europe”** went about collecting stories of exceptional European Jews who served to unite the continent through art, science, athletics, and style during the early twentieth century. The stories they collected formed the basis for an exhibit displayed at the SLC Jewish Community Center in February 2019.



Alcuin Fellows | 2018 - 2020

John Bennion | English
Humanities

John Colton | Physics
Physical and Mathematical Sciences

Aaron Eastley | English
Humanities

Julianne Grose | MMBio
Life Sciences

Cynthia Hallen | Linguistics
Humanities

Paul Richards | Civil Engineering
Engineering

Patrick Steffen | Psychology
Family, Home, and Social Sciences

Evan Ward | History
Family, Home, and Social Sciences

Alcuin Fellows | 2017 - 2019

Dennis Cutchins | English
Humanities

Michael Call | Comparative Arts & Letters
Humanities

Samuel Otterstrom | Geography
Family, Home, and Social Sciences

Brian Poole | MMBio
Life Sciences

Mark Purves | Russian
Humanities

Alcuin Fellows | 2016 - 2018

Wade Hollingshaus | Theater & Media Arts
Fine Arts and Communications

Megan Jones | Theater & Media Arts
Fine Arts and Communications

Richard Kimball | History
Family, Home, and Social Sciences

Matthew Linford | Chemistry
Physical and Mathematical Sciences



HONORS PROGRAM
BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

The Honors Program is part of
BYU | Undergraduate Education

BYU Honors Program Administration
102 MSRB
Provo, UT 84602
honors@byu.edu

honors.byu.edu

Designed by Josue Lopez