

*Introducing... courses with KSA educational framework*

# **Curriculum with Knowledge, Skills, and Attributes**



**BYU | Independent Study**

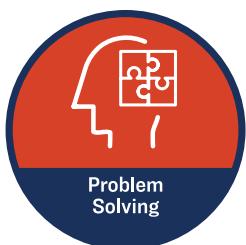
## Why KSA?

BYU Independent Study (BYU IS) high school courses have always focused on providing excellent learning opportunities for students with each course tied to standards. To more fully engage high school learners, BYU IS provides innovative ways to fulfill all aspects of a student's learning experience.

Abundant research shows that students retain knowledge and take higher-level sequence courses when they understand how subject knowledge applies to real life and can be used to help them advance their educational and career goals.

While we have always been big on instilling knowledge in lasting ways, we're excited to announce a whole new level of applicability in online education. Our new courses engage the whole learner by combining knowledge, skills, and attributes.

We believe that courses developed around a framework of knowledge, skills, and attributes (KSA) result in deeper learning outcomes and are mutually reinforcing. They have concrete meaning and can be expressly taught, learned, and measured. This framework identifies what we refer to as The Portrait of a Learner, or the ideal characteristics (KSAs), that are cultivated in a student who completes a BYU Independent Study online course.





How do you know when you have gained knowledge about a subject?

Which courses from your education were memorable?

Which subject knowledge have you retained and used in your life?

If you're like most people, you remember new knowledge better if it has been applied in practical ways. Using new knowledge solidifies it in our consciousness and helps us easily retrieve what we've learned.

Our new portfolio of KSA courses incorporates skills and attributes to help students retain what they have learned for years to come. Each course combines a unique set of knowledge, skill, and attribute development such as the examples below.

Course Knowledge	Skill	Attribute
Tenth Grade English, Part 1	Creativity: Openness and Courage to Explore	Courage
Biology, Part 1	Critical Thinking: Interpretation and Analysis	Resilience
Exploring Computer Science 1	Creativity: Creative Production and Innovation	Integrity



Learn more at  
[is.byu.edu/ksa](http://is.byu.edu/ksa)



Each new BYU Independent Study course includes practical skill development in one of four key areas: Collaboration, Communication, Creativity, and Critical Thinking.

These skills map to content skills and 21st Century Learning Competencies, and students can earn micro-credential digital badges that they can include on their personal resume or social media.

Microcredential Category	Skill
Collaboration	Flexibility Leadership and Initiative Collaborate Using Digital Media Responsiveness and Constructive Feedback Cooperation Responsibility and Productivity
Communication	Deliver Presentations Communicate Using Digital Media Engage in Conversations and Discussions Communicate in Diverse Environments Communicate Using Writing Effective Listening
Creativity	Work Creatively with Others Openness and Courage to Explore Creative Production and Innovation Idea Design and Refinement Idea Generation
Critical Thinking	Constructing Arguments Information and Discovery Interpretation and Analysis Problem Solving Reasoning Design Thinking



## Attributes

With the varied challenges students face today, educators have a unique opportunity to weave both practical skills and soft skills into course learning. We call these soft skills “attributes.” These attributes also follow the Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Competencies model.

In addition to compounding knowledge and practical skills, our new course portfolio also includes deep questions and opportunities for students to learn how to comfortably connect and interact with others.

These developed attributes can help them become more emotionally resilient and successful in their academic and personal lives.

Attribute	SEL Competency	Detail
Courage	Self-Management	Showing the courage to take initiative
Diligence	Self-Management	Setting personal and collective goals
Gratitude	Social Awareness	Understanding and expressing gratitude
Humility	Responsible Decision-Making	Demonstrating curiosity and open-mindedness
Integrity	Self-Awareness	Demonstrating honesty and integrity
Kindness	Relationship Skills	Developing positive relationships
	Social Awareness	Showing concern for the feelings of others
Resilience	Self-Awareness	Having a growth mindset
	Self-Management	Identifying and using stress management strategies
Respect	Relationship Skills	Standing up for the rights of others
	Self-Awareness	Developing interests and a sense of purpose
Responsibility	Responsible Decision-Making	Anticipating and evaluating the consequences of one's actions

Our new courses engage the whole learner by combining knowledge, skills, and attributes.

Attributes provide students with opportunities to reflect about how to develop those characteristics beyond their online class.

Even in our math curriculum, we provide character-building opportunities through application activities and challenges.



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