# Chapter 32: Conclusion and Next Steps

### Spiritual Thought Box



Below is a quote from a presentation by President and Sister Nelson. It’s recommended that you read the whole presentation. They speak of amazing principles and promises for us all.

“It is my testimony that however fabulous your life is right now, or however discouraging and heartbreaking it may be, your involvement in temple and family history work will make it better. What do you need in your life right now? More love? More joy? … I entreat you to make a sacrifice of time to the Lord by increasing the time you spend doing temple and family history work, and then watch what happens. It is my testimony that when we show the Lord we are serious about helping our ancestors, the heavens will open and we will receive all that we need.”

–Sister Nelson, Open the Heavens through Temple and Family History Work. Russel M. Nelson and Wendy W. Nelson October 2017

[Open the Heavens through Temple and Family History Work](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2017/10/open-the-heavens-through-temple-and-family-history-work?lang=eng)

## Overview

### Study Questions

1. What would be the next educational step available to take in the FHGEN Department of BYU-Idaho towards Family History/Genealogy proficiency?
2. Think about some of the possible careers listed in this section that appeal to you and choose two or three to research in more detail.
3. From the list of skills, mark all that you think apply to you, or that you would like to develop in the future. Match these skills to the career possibilities. Does this give you even more ideas of possible careers you would like to pursue?

### Vocabulary

**Proficiency:** A high degree of competency or skill; expertise.

**Pursuing:** Following, continuing, or proceeding further.

**Accreditation:** Having met recognized standards. Official authorization. Professional standard.

**Certification:** Having met recognized standards. Official authorization. Professional standard.

### Conclusion and Next Steps

In this course, you have gained proficiency in the process of finding, analyzing and correlating advanced record types used in genealogical research. You also gained proficiency in following the research process to solve more complex genealogical problems and record conclusions. As you consider your future goals for genealogical research, you may want to use these skills in pursuing further education and/or a career path.

### Educational Path

In completing FHGEN 242, you have completed the last class in the first Family History Research Certificate. The next certificate is Advanced Family History Research. Following is some information about that certificate from the [BYU Pathway Worldwide Certificates and Degrees Program](https://www.byupathway.edu/certificate/advanced-family-history-research) site. It is recommended that you visit that site often as it is updated on a regular basis.

Advanced Family History Certificate: This certificate builds into the Family History Research associate degree and/or the Professional Studies bachelor's degree.

The advanced family history research certificate provides students with an understanding of family history research principles and practices. Students will learn techniques to define a research problem, develop a research plan, gather information from documents, analyze evidence, and write conclusions. Students will use recognized professional standards and a variety of tools to complete research projects. They will be prepared to apply these research skills to various geographic specialty areas.

Advanced family history research training will provide you with more extensive historical context, research skills, and hands-on technical learning required for you to become a competent family historian and genealogist. You can be trained in digital humanities, web publishing, human geography, genetic genealogy and/or DNA, editing and publishing, with ample opportunity for writing, workshops, and archival experience. This certificate prepares students for professional work in the genealogical field working for genealogical research firms, as private researchers, or as staff or educators at information institutions with genealogical departments.

Alternatively, we recommend searching for jobs requiring the skills obtained in this certificate, such as organization, data entry, research, analysis, writing, and editing.

**Essential Knowledge and Skills**

**Outcomes**

* Define a research problem through critical analysis of information.
* Develop a plan to effectively and efficiently solve a research problem.
* Gather information from documents relevant to the research problem.
* Analyze evidence to reach appropriate conclusions.
* Record conclusions using recognized professional standards and a variety of tools.
* Prepare for professional work in the genealogical field.

The following courses make up the Advanced Genealogy Certificate:

**FHGEN340—3 credits**

Genealogical Writing

This course teaches the principles of effective report writing for a variety of genealogical projects, including formatting, documentation, source citations, and presentation of genealogical data and evidence. Through case studies, students will learn how to prepare effective genealogical reports for clients.

**FHGEN351—3 credits**

US Geographic Specialization

This course focuses on how to conduct genealogical research in the New England, Upper-South, and Southeast United States regions, as well as how to conduct big city and African American research. Through case studies and assignments, students will learn about records, including their geographical-historical background and principles of paleography. They will learn methods for reconstruction of individual families and understand the development of demographic and family history studies. Students will learn key record types for the area and how to use them to find genealogical information. Students will produce a research report on how they solved an area-specific research problem.

**FHGEN 352—3 credits**

Intro Genetic Genealogy

Students will be introduced to the ethics and basic concepts of using DNA as a tool in genealogical research. They will learn about different companies that offer DNA testing. Additionally, they will learn how to use autosomal DNA, mitochondrial DNA, Y chromosome DNA, and X chromosome DNA to enhance genealogical research and how to use DNA results in research reports. Students do not need to have taken a DNA test and they will not be using personal DNA results in the course.

**FHGEN 411—3 credits**

Research Methodology

This course teaches principles of effective genealogical research methodology for solving difficult problems using US and global record collections. Students will plan strategies to solve research problems. They will use a variety of genealogical record types and sources to complete research projects. Through assigned research projects, students will gain experience in describing a research problem, planning and executing a research strategy, compiling and analyzing evidence, assembling documents, citing sources, and producing professional and well-organized reports. This course will give students real-world research experience that they would encounter with professional client research.

**FHGEN 499R—3 credits**

Geographic Special Research

In this course, students will apply the skills they have gained in the Family History Applied Associates Degree program as they learn about earning professional genealogical credentials. Students will practice evidentiary analysis and writing skills. Students will learn about real-world genealogical environments and adapt to new geographic research areas. Students will gain experience in completing a directed three or four-generation research project.

[Advanced Family History Research](https://www.byupathway.edu/certificate/advanced-family-history-research)

Note that the BYU-Idaho Family History and Genealogy certificates are not the same as becoming certified or accredited genealogists through professional genealogy organizations like ICAPGen (International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists) or BCG (Board for Certification of Genealogists). They will, however, prepare you if you choose to seek professional accreditation or certification.

### Genealogical Skills and Career Paths

An individual studying family history and genealogy research may choose from many different career paths. In this final week, you will learn about some of them and the various skills needed to be successful. You will have an opportunity to reflect on your own skills and career path goals.

Whether or not your goals as a student include a future career in family history, this focus on professional-level skills and opportunities will help you realize your personal family history potential. These skills are equally useful in performing quality research and in any number of volunteer positions you accept, including teaching others.

The first profession that comes to mind in the field of family history research is a genealogist, or a person who conducts genealogical research for clients. However, there are many other professional career paths open to family historians and genealogists, including the following:

* Genealogist working for a genealogical research firm
* Forensic genealogist
* DNA genealogist
* Library patron consultant
* Archivist
* Cataloging and archival preservation specialist
* Genealogical website designer
* Genealogical tour guide
* Memory scanning and organizational services specialist
* Lecturer/Teacher
* Author
* Small business owner
* Historian
* Member of historical, genealogical, and/or lineage societies and boards
* Genealogical media producer or program host
* Owner of genealogical company
* Database manager
* And many more

Some of the skills needed for these career paths include, but are not limited to, the following:

* Project management: The ability to communicate with a client, establish scope and project plans, and create and meet deadlines.
* Legal knowledge: The ability to deal with contracts, copyright issues, the privacy of clients or any living individuals, and terms of use compliance. Expertise is not required, but some basic working knowledge will limit liability.
* Archival and library research: The ability to locate repositories, navigate the collection, and conduct thorough research. This skill is needed because only a portion of the world's records are online.
* Business: The ability to maintain financial records, communicate the value of their services, establish a brand, provide an excellent customer experience, and set appropriate pricing. Most professional genealogists work in the field because they love genealogy. However, maintaining the business is equally important.
* Writing: The ability to write reports for up to two hours for every one hour of research.
* Citation: The ability to use citations in reports, narratives, family group records, and pedigrees. Citations justify conclusions and allow others to easily replicate work. A genealogist who does not use citations is not taken seriously as a professional.
* Paleography: The ability to read difficult handwriting, handwriting with different characters (for example, Secretary Hand or Kurrentschrift), and foreign language handwriting.
* Public speaking: The ability to speak at conferences and in other public gatherings. This is a good way to generate income and establish a genealogist’s brand and expertise.
* Interpersonal communication: The ability to communicate effectively with clients, employees at repositories, or others who have information related to a research problem.
* Technological: The understanding of basic computer skills, such as saving and retrieving files, searching the internet and various online databases, and working with genealogical software.
* Second language: The ability to conduct research in a foreign country (or in Catholic records written in Latin). A genealogist may need to learn a few dozen key genealogical terms from a foreign language. Depending on the accessibility of records, learning to speak the language may help obtain information from those who hold the records.
* Analysis: The ability to critically judge information provided by clients or found in records. Since records cannot always be taken at face value, an analysis is required to reach accurate conclusions.
* Time management: The ability to meet deadlines and satisfy clients. A genealogist needs to manage their time well, planning out what they hope to accomplish in their day, hour by hour.
* And many more.

### Professional Genealogist Interviews

Following are professional genealogist interviews that are insightful and informative.

* Each genealogist is featured in three videos, so watch all three. Watch the following videos in order: Bio, Experience, Advice.
* To watch online, select the appropriate video title.
* To watch offline, select the Download Video icon located in the top middle.

#### Emily Alley—Genealogy Researcher

**Emily Alley Interview**

Part 1 (03:07 minutes, [Emily Alley Bio Transcript](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vQincdVxaaZ_i4p6xyWoCr-9mlbspuiLUaIw8UzTzwJ4QV12h8-1mcKUfZ6F_kvALhEgiQVj8Iw8v41/pub))

Part 2 (03:25 minutes, [Emily Alley Experience Transcript](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vSLDo2yObQt-e4vXN7O9T_0bZt5uSjEi5AhGS2dI1tSAYCz2UfQjAf94g9peOH_Ypbg_kVVCQWfqyld/pub))

Part 3 (05:46 minutes, [Emily Alley Advice Transcript](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vTfXOZOy2y7dzcxZ3rrvDXe2i2Na5QWd-BraKYmCMcaAFeQglRxUuTE_faqbl7wD3Uup6avpAYMDGxL/pub))

#### Juli Bratt—Rare Books Conservationist

**Juli Bratt interview**

Part 1 (03:31 minutes, [Juli Bratt Bio Transcript](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vSQGVo6F-F8NCIGDPetU5zNyfTFQrsYB0o9wwmvIRJ0PJlTEyXFDCQGMOktAB9OoZiH7hYlEFD4nIb8/pub))

Part 2 (03:50 minutes, [Juli Bratt Experience Transcript](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vTX5WZFVU3FNqqZMq7nd4VO1nygiRTDt_aJZSvhDDAqoOso-n5RqbKtX9OvPzMK8t23ensvC5v7fHB9/pub))

Part 3 (04:57 minutes, [Juli Bratt Advice Transcript](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vQwI6XG8HGMRPXBu9ohuipWdzgC8Ffu0cYjsIb3DX83p7bAeLB6jdBta1J1EjNnlF6VnmRdtBRiQjQL/pub))

#### Patti Call—Genealogy Researcher

**Patti Call Interview**

Part 1 (03:09 minutes, [Patti Call Experience Transcript](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vRU9R64kCY1Ttl8A4PhOAnV3812xL0eXNYd_OcGeIbIsPtqI1K0RbWityBlRatk6as71eM1thPfUurk/pub))

Part 2 (02:38 minutes, [Patti Call Bio Transcript](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vRs_FXlJlCZBor-7BE8DyyPdYYCcfySpq4pcsHq0NNLShunkbYFUMCbdzNCLExbnWHbGK_XKYXLlWNq/pub))

Part 3 (04:11 minutes, [Patti Call Advice Transcript](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vRHki-IO5vTiE0JhXO_ryAi8GiijlXFNDwm86a5QHTYl689MTyYl5SxXCRY6f4EQgCoiD7t4sJ8RoZY/pub))

#### Margaret Chesley—Former BYUI FHGEN Program Chair

**Margaret Chesley Interview**

Part 1 (02:23 minutes, [Margaret Chesley Bio Transcript](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vT7AeEjTZjJNWLrgznkwNW8Ib_2t6t3z3gemQD4GbJq2PVWTxIp1Q-XIzcFBhnrOFK2_K9xE-I7_cb3/pub))

Part 2 (02:49 minutes, [Margaret Chesley Experience Transcript](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vT7AeEjTZjJNWLrgznkwNW8Ib_2t6t3z3gemQD4GbJq2PVWTxIp1Q-XIzcFBhnrOFK2_K9xE-I7_cb3/pub))

Part 3 (03:55 minutes, [Margaret Chesley Advice Transcript](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vSazpamrhVhGsWO1bfUVw7E1h0-djZAkbQ3yJ6UqerQMCspwbAXhSiFbo9B2BCHqcJ-J51nH2BzmQT6/pub))

#### Duncan Cole—Forensic Researcher

**Duncan Cole Interview**

Part 1 (03:54 minutes, [Duncan Cole Bio Transcript](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vRrUDObDlSBMoC7LPEX9vJULOtvrWzE_aKY3t1S5Mos44XCwoh3ByAnXRj4Vu1UjuQGeYFZJYB5mzEP/pub))

Part 2 (04:17 minutes, [Duncan Cole Experience Transcript](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vRYqWCKU-_vmcJ-J1sbw-3blaze-_ONpjxbsFCy3lfRdQ3MwbohjzV-cqcEbUT8YPQPj1DaZoj3DRtv/pub))

Part 3 (03:51 minutes, [Duncan Cole Advice Transcript](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vTR26e_pj6JopvG3imQguB6SVC1UzGMtSv8vhFnrFa_HuxYdZ34165kux1Vllc61ImcrIzOrTb2mi_R/pub))

#### Katie Derby—Library Patron Consultant

**Katie Derby Interview**

Part 1 (05:07 minutes, [Katie Derby Advice Transcript](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vTOibjd55POcsi_MNZ5TkCCbhuwFwB_Rg1GmHf1td3DVJIMMVAPQbeFyg8tm7YZFZ9p0mOm2K6m8bST/pub))

Part 2 (05:47 minutes, [Katie Derby Experience Transcript](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vTMNJymjg8xj0A5Rhj9hUlwLuah5ykeq3WlZ0oDH_gtzxXvvXZX7kU6stsBsXWf4_HlEYwz9iJI9A2l/pub))

Part 3 (04:15 minutes, [Katie Derby Bio Transcript](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vQF327c3sKAEiu9kIQ-L6NNASSXLAbAQcZS8ZgiU_xr7q8IfYYp9BsS8aBEUMy9Iusok2WuoktGa9xm/pub))

#### Jason Harrison—FamilySearch VIP Hosting & Research Services Manager

**Jason Harrison Interview**

Part 1 (05:29 minutes, [Jason Harrison Experience Transcript](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vRcjhwR7jHwsTlWhWmcUZWmXbVWYT6VtPSHaSaXB74NlwdVhFUBE2cV7dJjFkdP1MEcsH4DyFCQ9ZNe/pub))

Part 2 (05:15 minutes, [Jason Harrison Advice Transcript](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vSpn4XvJNTvVe7EVCJ9xHvT8n9I8GTMgW6O_fWKHp4noXxvcl1vcbcBwcRrb2WL4XdvYXWB-RMoNja3/pub))

Part 3 (04:40 minutes, [Jason Harrison Bio Transcript](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vT79wp946zqi2hwT31zl8McXJ2lGYF6o7MGMiosVSxaOyLZ-uEPYsMu0ZVdsSZpcjW6cS8UDamh6Ijo/pub))

#### Susan Lott—Digital Preservation Specialist

**Susan Lott Interview**

Part 1 (03:44 minutes, [Susan Lott Bio Transcript](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vSN_1BLJ0QERY1xlvY7YPYC9cnlVBzgbRVEuX5pE25AQhspDR4t4Cv00aBBwQpsid-1nqmVlhVlTA6S/pub))

Part 2 (04:34 minutes, [Susan Lott Advice Transcript](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vTaqojYPdfGMdJFa-saX4gDrfNqnif7UljSSSXt8rePMF5mhNV_JvtSC5Ml3kQqMtYZN4XFbUmlBJ6b/pub))

Part 3 (04:38 minutes, [Susan Lott Experience Transcript](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vR4YcZI-QcClUMvQq67UOXMqg0qTQeKxMFUGit1tWSzX8tvsV5hfmLtlqjkobWFAv6y1fo4RJMfncPj/pub))

#### Michael McCormick—Probate Researcher

**Michael McCormick Interview**

Part 1 (05:23 minutes, [Michael McCormick Bio Transcript](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vQHZaNdchqHwaWfFtSA9HRUyJWVke3fUsT_EDoOVCdFs_lAs6Sj_AAfiYF0msZBOSJVR7lFYQGmNT-Z/pub))

Part 2 (04:55 minutes, [Michael McCormick Experience Transcript](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vSal5m7bB4pq1VQYB1q0szzjycbqVwFpgo4ZK8IVoEsGZjfFRVQoHWL-SWm6Hsw6u47JkTiG3U3I-ij/pub))

Part 3 (04:35 minutes, [Michael McCormick Advice Transcript](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vRNfV5mCRlSeq6e5OnvA12dFdzXCbzW50VJWDdXJSiAuIB6Gl95TI4erZbdMwbr4un7423LK12pRDV6/pub))

#### David Rencher—FamilySearch Chief Genealogical Officer

**David Rencher Interview**

Part 1 (03:10 minutes, [David Rencher Bio Transcript](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vQmT7PshnJatKLhwvF38aHZMlVmoH-g7GOQhvp8w6xH477BX7fIKyqNGhur8-AnYjwjSXelk_Dudt1a/pub))

Part 2 (02:49 minutes, [David Rencher Experiences Transcript](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vSA-nqx5O_B4r1LuNhoEzTTolNnjT6RFh0TWrBN4oVCzPtEAGHsqxgcXZirDT9tPJrolgI6SE0NCTzA/pub))

Part 3 (09:14 minutes, [David Rencher Advice Transcript](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vSnVr1OlaGtGNHnnSXOM9IJ8E1WQLIxHmvkYN26wPdLv_91gQRdX47eY-KywMZI20nUsP_adFr6a-au/pub))

#### Tristan Tolman—Genealogy Researcher

**Tristan Tolman Interview**

Part 1 (02:44 minutes, [Tristan Tolman Advice Transcript](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vSHL4JIYaSYLhM15B882s2cd6mlmcwQD6dYKNerDVolwJEXuw7ihxw6vum601-ZwUaN-9LSmJrpVBjP/pub))

Part 2 (02:22 minutes, [Tristan Tolman Experience Transcript](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vRTOYRTz11cGQaQO0wxSVD2CGDUq4dSQyk9jIdYB3ybPrkBqFh4hAp7UejmV-jQs_hfBdtrsCMufwtg/pub))

Part 3 (04:11 minutes, [Tristan Tolman Bio Transcript](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vQUspczN0cdYpvqx3UNzlqZWzpDsoxjOT0Y-kRAmhMyzfUVrnExwDQK7Tshi0gpK1e4juzlLC4dQxCf/pub))

#### James Warren—Genealogy Researcher

**James Warren Interview**

Part 1 (03:55 minutes, [James Warren Experience Transcript](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vRwMXW2aO8tciO-zJO3KZ4HqmfyZTCh5rPcZJmDfp53vuTv6H4hIh3UIbQX2hFRG04eK-v2NZH-PEvn/pub))

Part 2 (06:24 minutes, [James Warren Advice Transcript](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vRkBM99BYosniSC3MknvXDeRy7lpODW-ZcF3sW4uy-V8Fe6VD6TQjH2U0w85EqRm5_d3vfyVzSXnKaR/pub))

Part 3 (02:33 minutes, [James Warren Bio Transcript](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vQsBrbZLoHTdQ4eF2k8i8ML-TwMjAPDQBSo7t_0DTcab53XOuxLr0_XIzv_sXdMBk2MBBu2ZSCkThUK/pub))

### Answers to Study Questions

1. What would be the next educational step available to take in the FHGEN Department of BYU-Idaho towards Family History/Genealogy proficiency? (The FHGEN Advanced Family History Research Certificate.)
2. Think about some of the possible careers listed in this section that appeal to you and choose two or three to research in more detail.
3. From the list of skills, mark all that you think apply to you, or that you would like to develop in the future. Match these skills to the career possibilities. Does this give you even more ideas of possible careers you would like to pursue?

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