

Fall 2014 Senior Exit Survey (10)

1. What are your plans after graduation? If you have a specific job, please name it.

- Teach School: (3) LDS Seminary; Cache Valley High Schools in History,
- Graduate or Professional School: (3) Political Sci; History; Physician Assistant School
- Private sector employment: (1) Coaching football, maybe in public sector;
- Public sector employment:
- Other plans: (1) Possible tutoring on the side
- Not Sure: (4) I'm not sure what exactly I'm doing RIGHT after graduation but I'd like to do grad school eventually; No clue, probably get a job cabinetmaking (I'm certified); Hopefully something w/ the government?; I don't know

2. Do you expect to stay in Utah?

Yes: 6 No: 4

3. Are you a double major? If so, name the major:

Yes: 2 No: 8

- Political Science
- Spanish w/ teaching emphasis

What is/are your minor(s)?

- Political Science - 3
- English
- German
- Spanish
- Latin
- Classic Civilization

4. When and why did you decide to major in History?

- Declared when I applied at USU out of high school
- I decided to major in history in between my freshman and sophomore years due to a love for the subject and the courses I had had. The size of the major (36 credits) was also a factor, since history is my secondary major.
- My first year in college because it was more practical than a creative writing degree.
- I decided to major in history while serving in the U.S. Army. I have always loved history, especially military history, so it was a natural and easy choice.
- Shawn Clybor taught a class and was an amazing teacher, so I decided to take more classes from him. I ended up taking a significant interest in World War 2 and anti-semitism with Jewish and German History.
- My sophomore year. I enjoy history and I feel that the research skills from this major will help in the medical field.
- My sophomore year, 2012-2013. After taking gen-ed classes History was my favorite. I've always like History so I just went with it.
- March 13, 2011 because I wanted to major in something I loved.
- I like history, I enjoy it. I think we should understand the past (try) so we can have a better view of the present.

- My second semester at Utah State Universtiy. I have always loved history.

5. Are you a transfer student? If so, indicate the institution(s).

Yes: 3

No: 7

- Snow College
- Hopkinsville Community College, KY
- Military

6. What is your GPA?

3.?, 3.0 (2), 3.1, 3.18, 3.4, 3.41, 3.5, 3.8, 3.93

7. What kind of writer do you now consider yourself to be?

Poor:

Fair:

Good:

8

Excellent: 2

8. What language(s) do you read? How did you learn your language(s)?

- English (3)
- French (2): learned in HS and at Snow College
- German (3): learned at USU; with a dictionary
- Spanish (2): LDS mission; native language and immersion school
- Latin (1): Latin minor

9. What was the most valuable thing about your history education at USU?

- Broadening and deepening my knowledge with history topics.
- I became a much better critical thinker and learned to more deeply analyze situations, events, and people.
- It really challenged my writing and critical thinking skills and made me appreciate history even more.
- The push by the dept. to investigate history more critically.
- Insight into the capabilities and ignorance of mankind.
- Learning to do good research and honing my writing skills.
- It taught me how to write and be a critical thinker. It also taught me what I believe and my morals.
- Learning how to learn.
- Being a better writer.

10. What changes in the curriculum would you suggest to better ensure our mission?

- Offer more summer courses.
- Offer a greater variety of history classes
- Wider range of upper tier class offerings
- The changes just made (this semester) that don't help me at all, would have been great. More European studies for those interested, rather than having to take two American History (blagh!) classes. I also think that Statistics would be more valuable for history rather than Math 1050. Seems like it would be closely related.

- I suggest that a standardized writing guide be implemented. In my sophomore & junior years I felt a bit adrift on the elements of a good paper. The basics were explained, but not

enforced as strictly as possible.

- Offering more/different classes maybe. I felt like after one semester I had taken everything I wanted to. Also, be more specific about the teachers during registration. As in- when I took history of Modern Europe from Prof. Landers I didn't know it had an environmental history focus. I dislike environmental history.

- I would have recommended the History 3000 class, but the history department was a step ahead.

- I think everything is great!

11. Short essay about how Department of History goals were met and suggested changes in curriculum to help meet these goals.

- The goals of the USU history department have been met in my experience as an undergraduate student. Although I have occasionally been frustrated by differences in analysis, particularly when receiving feedback from graduate students, the curriculum and instruction that I received at Utah State helped me become a stronger writer, researcher, and student.

- Having transferred from Snow College, I only spent two years here at USU, but I feel that my time in the history department has been very good. Even though writing four papers for every class is difficult and sometimes monotonous, it definitely got me thinking differently about history, always examining the events in a historical perspective. It also definitely helped me develop my writing even more, and I felt confident going into History 4990 to write 20-25 pages of historical context. I feel that over the two years that I spent at USU this mission was mostly achieved.

- I thought I had been taught to communicate through writing, but I guess I thought wrong. I feel like most of the teachers have done well in teaching to analyze sources and to be able to help guide students in what is important. I feel that the department could be much more united in their teaching. Having every teacher prefer a specific writing style is infuriating. I feel like there could be more focus on big picture and long lasting effects of events. This class took me from feeling like I was a good, or at least decent writer to making me feel like a failure. I feel like the history program taught one way, then this class says "throw it all out the window and do it completely different." This class would be better if it taught us how to write the paper before actually writing it.

- I learned how to back up assertions with good source research. Critical thinking and challenging preconceptions helped make me more aware of social, political and personal happenings in my environment. Dr. Cogan and Cori Nani (through Dr. Titchener's class) stressed the finer details on paper writing and made me a better writer.

- They have been met in that I have definitely been able to research and analyze that research in all of my history classes. Communicating has also been met because of all the papers! I don't know how this could be changed, but the things that I wish were different is that I feel like I don't know enough to be a history major! Certain classes I feel like the only things I've retained are the things I researched. Not all classes, just some. Overall I really think that those requirements were all met for me. I loved the classes and most of the professors! My only critique is having more class times offered. So many classes that I wanted to take I couldn't because they were only offered at a specific time. Even just having more upper-division online classes offered would be really nice. Thank you for everything!

- I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as a history major at Utah State. I personally believe

that I have met the goals of the history department. Skills such as researching, analyzing, synthesizing, and communicating are not only important in the history field, but also in private life and the workforce. I am thankful towards USU for teaching me these skills. Through different essays and projects I felt like I learned and benefitted the most. In contrast tests taught me how to study, but not the previously listed skills that are most important. I will be forever grateful to Utah State University.

- I felt that the capstone was an excellent course in learning how to research, analyze & write. Out of all of my classes it has been the most helpful. History classes under 3000 level were not good sources of this. Most 3000 & higher seemed to do all right in these areas, especially the classes with more essays. Writing an essay every week is not my favorite, but the history classes that included this helped me the most in using historical methods. History classes, overall, have been the most enjoyable & beneficial in my college career. I've learned the most in these classes, and have been stretched the most academically.