

Utah State University

Department of History






Exit survey with graduating students




May 2014

UtahStateUniversity

DEPARTMENT OF
HISTORY

1. What's next for you?

#	Answer		Response	%
1	Employment: I have secured a job with a business in the private sector (business, corporation, private firm, etc.)		4	33%
2	Employment: I am waiting to hear back on private sector jobs for which I have applied		1	8%
3	Employment: I have secured a job in the public sector (teaching, museum, library, social services, etc.)		0	0%
4	Employment: I am waiting to hear back on public sector jobs for which I have applied		2	17%
5	Employment: I am presently (or planning to be) self-employed		1	8%
6	Military service: I will serve in the U.S. military		0	0%
7	Family: I am planning to start a family		1	8%
8	Volunteer work (church services, Peace Corps, AmeriCorps VISTA, etc.)		0	0%

9	Internship: entering an internship position		0	0%
10	Education: I have been accepted into graduate or professional school		2	17%
11	Education: I am waiting to hear back on applications to graduate or professional school		0	0%
12	Education: I plan to attend an institution for a specialized credential and/or certificate		2	17%
13	Taking time off: I plan to take a bit of a break from jobs and education		3	25%
14	Other: please clarify below		0	0%

Other: please clarify below

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	13
Total Responses	12

2. What was your major?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	history	9	75%
2	history teaching	1	8%
3	double major (please enter in the other area of specialization)	2	17%
	Total	12	100%

double major (please enter in the other area of specialization)

Economics
English: Creative Writing

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	3
Mean	1.42
Variance	0.63
Standard Deviation	0.79
Total Responses	12

3. What was your minor?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Please enter your minor field	11	92%
2	Double major; no minor field	1	8%
	Total	12	100%

Please enter your minor field

Classics: Civilizations, Latin, and Greek, and French
Psychology
Finance
Spanish
English as a Second Language
Classics
Classics- Latin Language
Political Science
Political Science
Anthropology
Spanish

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	2
Mean	1.08
Variance	0.08
Standard Deviation	0.29
Total Responses	12

4. Did you transfer to Utah State University from another institution?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Yes (please write the name of the institution(s))	2	17%
2	No	10	83%
	Total	12	100%

Yes (please write the name of the institution(s))
Snow College
College of Eastern Utah

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	2
Mean	1.83
Variance	0.15
Standard Deviation	0.39
Total Responses	12

5. What was your final GPA for your university-level work?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Please enter the GPA below:	12	100%
	Total	12	100%

Please enter the GPA below:	
3.92	
3.97	
3.53	
3.8	
3.8	
3.25	
3.87	
3.1	
3.4	
3.06	
3.78	
3.7	

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	1
Mean	1.00
Variance	0.00
Standard Deviation	0.00
Total Responses	12

6. Do you expect to stay in Utah?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Yes	7	58%
2	No	5	42%
3	Comment	0	0%
	Total	12	100%

Comment

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	2
Mean	1.42
Variance	0.27
Standard Deviation	0.51
Total Responses	12

7. Why did you decide to major in History?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Please enter your response below	12	100%
	Total	12	100%

Please enter your response below

History is all about stories and reasons for things. I love it.
 I had an interesting history teacher in high school
 I enjoyed history classes in high school and I met with Dr. Jones during during SOAR which convinced me.
 History interests me
 I love history and see the importance of it in our lives. I wanted to share that knowledge and love with future generations.
 Because I have always loved history, it was just something that I was interested in and I stuck with it
 I was an English major until I took Latin and HIST 1320 in the same semester for language and gen. ed. credits. I loved the history professors and realized that I could comparable and even better writing experience through the history department.
 I've always enjoyed history as a subject, and it was a challenging field of study.
 I enjoy learning about history and it fit well with my future employment plans
 I've always been interested in History.
 I wanted to learn more about people in the past.
 I wanted to to b e a high school administrator so I was doing history teaching. This last year, I decided against teaching and made the decision to complete a history degree.

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	1
Mean	1.00
Variance	0.00
Standard Deviation	0.00
Total Responses	12

8. What do you see yourself doing ten years from now in 2024?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Comment	12	100%
	Total	12	100%

Comment

Preferably working through my doctoral research in the Classics.
 I see myself with more education. I'm still deciding what path to follow though.
 Still working in the finance industry
 Employed doing historical research
 I see myself in my chosen field as a history teacher. I will always use the informations and historical skills I learned at this university.
 I would like to have a Master's Degree doing historical research somewhere
 Teaching Latin and history at a high school level.
 Hopefully happily employed, possibly having earned a higher level degree.
 Working with the same organization, having earned my masters degree, and working on a doctorate.
 Teaching
 I see myself being self-employed.
 I hope to be in the business sector as a management consultant.

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	1
Mean	1.00
Variance	0.00
Standard Deviation	0.00
Total Responses	12

9. If you could start your undergraduate work all over again, would you still choose history as your major?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Yes	11	92%
2	No (please explain briefly)	1	8%
	Total	12	100%

Yes	No (please explain briefly)
I have loved my time as a history major	While I loved history, I would do a business major. I have become more and more interested in business since I first enrolled at Utah State University.
Being a history major differentiated me in the business school which opened a lot of doors, but if I was to do it all over again I would have majored in accounting.	
Of course!! I have learned so many great things from the history department at USU. I would do it over again in a heartbeat! But I would do some things differently to get more out of it.	
This was definitely one of the best academic decisions I have ever made. I am incredibly happy with everything I learned in my history classes and it has set me on the path for a great career.	
I enjoy history immensely. I might have done a different minor, perhaps even a double major, but I would still chose history.	
I found the study of history to be very rewarding and would study it again.	

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	2
Mean	1.08
Variance	0.08
Standard Deviation	0.29
Total Responses	12

10. Did you work through the History Department's "pre-major" (the set of "foundation courses" that include: surveys of Western, World, and U.S. history + Gen Ed classes closely tied to the humanities + USU "competency" courses)?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Yes	6	55%
2	No	5	45%
	Total	11	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	2
Mean	1.45
Variance	0.27
Standard Deviation	0.52
Total Responses	11

11. IF you answered "yes" to the question above, do you feel that the pre-major

#	Answer	Response	%
1	provided a good foundation for your later upper-division course work	4	57%
2	helped clarify the core issues and skills that inform historical study	3	43%
3	neither helped nor hindered your course work	1	14%
4	at times helped your progress, but at times hindered your progress in the major	2	29%
5	seemed like a series of unnecessary hurdles to overcome	1	14%
6	served no useful purpose	0	0%
7	Comment	1	14%

Comment

I did not understand what historians really did until my senior seminar 4990. It would be helpful to implement some of the core things from that class earlier on in the major rather than at the end.

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	7
Total Responses	7

12. The History Department has adopted a set of undergraduate "learning outcomes" that fall into three categories (KNOWLEDGE, THINKING, SKILLS). We use the learning outcomes to clarify what we expect majors to know, understand, and be able to do when they complete their program of

study. We are very interested in understanding the knowledge and skills that you believe you have acquired as a history major. For each "learning outcome" our department has established, please indicate how fully you personally feel you developed a particular proficiency. (Slide the blue marker to the point

that matches your level of proficiency, with "0" as very weak and "10" very strong.)

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
1	KNOWLEDGE: identifying the key events which express/define change over time in a broad range of places and regions	0.00	10.00	7.77	2.52	13
2	KNOWLEDGE: identifying how change occurs over time; explaining historical continuity and change	7.00	10.00	8.50	1.00	12
3	KNOWLEDGE: recognizing the influence of political ideologies, economic structures, social organization, cultural perceptions, and natural environments	7.00	10.00	8.75	1.14	12
4	KNOWLEDGE understanding how race, gender, class, ethnicity, region and religion influence historical events	0.00	10.00	7.92	2.63	13

5	<p>THINKING: Recognizing the past-ness of the past (explaining how people have existed, acted and thought in particular historical periods; explaining the influence of the past on the present</p>	7.00	10.00	8.83	1.19	12
6	<p>THINKING: Developing an international perspective on the past (addressing the cumulative effects of global exchange, engagement, and interdependence; understanding the complexity and diversity of situations, events and past mentalities; comparing eras and regions</p>	6.00	10.00	8.75	1.29	12

7	THINKING: Recognizing the complex and problematic nature of the historical record (range of viewpoints; competing historical interpretations; challenge notions of historical "inevitability"; analyze cause-and-effect relationships and multiple causation)	6.00	10.00	8.58	1.31	12
8	SKILLS: Develop skills in critical thinking and reading (evaluate historians' debates; differentiate between historical facts and historical interpretations; assess the credibility of primary and secondary sources)	6.00	10.00	8.36	1.21	11

9	SKILLS: Develop research skills (formulate sound historical questions; obtain historical data from a variety of sources; identify gaps in available records; recognize the discipline's standards for accurate and ethical research)	6.00	10.00	7.64	1.43	11
10	SKILLS: Construct reasonable historical arguments (well-organized; supported with historical evidence from a variety of primary and secondary sources)	6.00	10.00	8.42	1.44	12

13. Was there any particular part of your experience as a history major that you found especially interesting or engaging?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Comment:	10	100%
	Total	10	100%

Comment:
 I particularly enjoyed classes that focused on discussion. I felt like I learned more by talking about the material with my peers
 Several teachers were extraordinary. Including Rosenband, Eric Kimball, Fran Titchener.
 Research in USU archives
 The 4990 research seminar, and the faculty is great, for the most part. I like the new webpage. Keep that going and updated, I check it often. It's fun to be involved with the department
 I took a historical methods class with Dr. Jones just prior to taking the capstone class. The historical methods class was a great experience and was the first real training that I had in what a historian actually does. Due to this class, I had a much better experience in my capstone than most of my friends.
 I enjoyed doing the individual research involved in the major's capstone course (4990). HIST 4990 Social Movements Capstone with Dr. James Sanders
 Engaging in historical arguments.
 I loved working with professors who were engaged with and energetic about their areas of study. That makes students passionate about whatever time period/ place the professor specializes in and makes us want to learn more.

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	1
Mean	1.00
Variance	0.00
Standard Deviation	0.00
Total Responses	10

14. Was there any particular part of your experience as a history major that you would prefer to change, alter, or eliminate?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Comment:	9	100%
	Total	9	100%

Comment:
None
More research
I wish that I had been more aware of departmental and university opportunities. I did not know about phi alpha theta, for example, until my senior year. What else is there for history majors to do besides that anyway? I wish that I knew about awards, contests, clubs/organizations, events, and various opportunities to get involved with. Those things would be nice on my resume right now. I don't think undergraduates are educated well enough early on about things they need to be doing that will help them secure employment after graduation. That is the main regret I have from college, I wish I would have done more and been more involved because now I need the credentials. But early on in my college career I assumed a degree was enough and I did not know what else was available. Undergrads within the humanities/history department also need to be told early on what types of skills they are developing and why their humanities degree is valuable. I didn't understand what purpose my degree would serve until I took the 4990 course. If I had understood earlier that I was developing invaluable transferable skills (such as communication and research), I would have approached my degree differently and far more effectively.
The pre-major was... different. I wouldn't propose eliminating it, but perhaps the scope of it should be changed to give students a bit of a taste of what higher level courses are like.
No
No
No.
I think research assignments using specific sources should start earlier in the major. While there were some classes that prepared me for extensive research, most did not help. This made the capstone a more difficult experience than it could have been.

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	1
Mean	1.00
Variance	0.00
Standard Deviation	0.00
Total Responses	9

15. Is there a component of the history curriculum that you believe the department should add or delete?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Leave the curriculum as it is.	5	45%
2	Add the following:	6	55%
3	Delete the following:	0	0%
4	Comment	0	0%
	Total	11	100%

Leave the curriculum as it is.	Add the following:	Delete the following:	Comment
	Intro to methods and theory		
	For future historians I would include a class of how to write a history paper or make sure it is included in a lower level course every history major must take. I did not have a problem, but I know many did.		
	More upper division course variety during any given semester would be nice It seemed that each semester offered a lot of the same types of courses covering similar topics and subjects. There are tones of courses listed in the USU catalog that I wanted to take but was never able to because the same types of classes were always offered, with little variety and few options.		
	a lower level class which explains what the history major is, what an historian actually does, and what kinds of jobs history majors are prepared for after graduation.		

	The department should definitely make more of its courses available online. The selection was limited after reaching a certain point, making the degree difficult to finish.		
	I think there needs to be more emphasis on ancient civilizations (beyond Classical Studies) and that there should be more focus on history outside of the west (e.g. Asia, Eastern Europe, Africa). The program has plenty of focus on the United States, some focus on European History (western), but is seriously lacking in-depth courses everywhere else and for time periods before American Colonization (in America) and the Early Modern Period (in Europe).		

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	2
Mean	1.55
Variance	0.27
Standard Deviation	0.52
Total Responses	11