

History Department Graduate Program Report
 January 17, 2020
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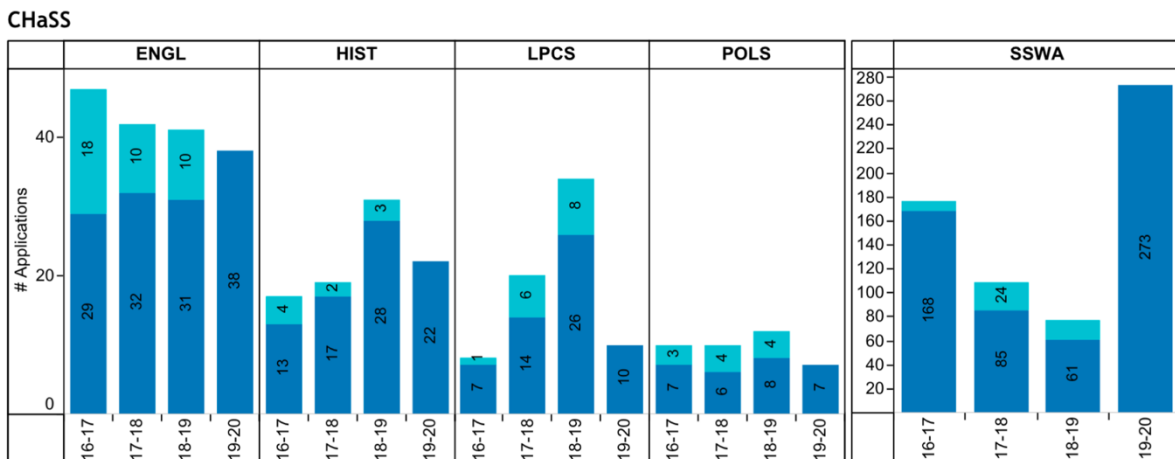
To the Office of the Dean:

This report summarizes the status of the History Department’s graduate program over the past four years, 2016-2020.

Admissions

The department’s application numbers have steadily increased since 2016. The following chart is not current. As of today, the department has 23 complete applications for 2020-2021 and 8 more incomplete applications. This increase can be attributed to new programs (Public History, Native American Studies minor, Ancient Languages and Cultures emphasis) and new faculty (Patrick Mason as Arrington Chair).

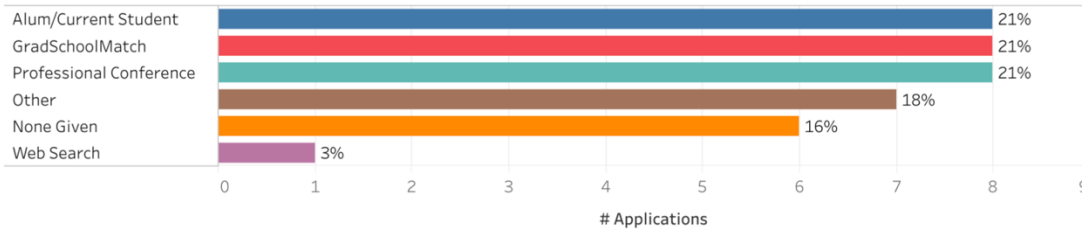
Annual Applications: College & Department, All Degrees



The following chart shows where applicants received information about the program, according to data collected by the SGS. I'm not sure where the data on GradSchoolMatch comes from; I correspond with all of the students who tag our program, and not one of them to date has come to USU.

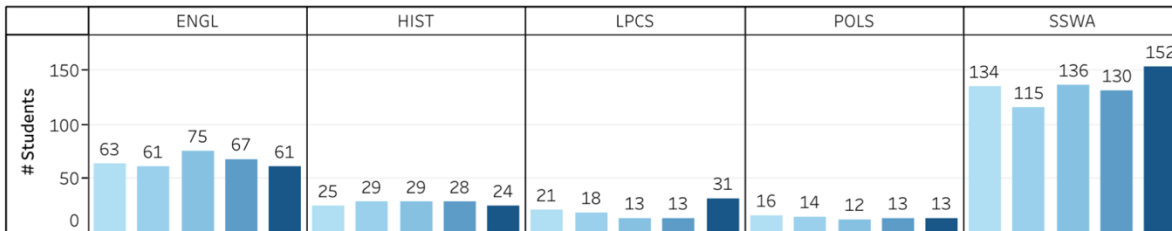
College of Humanities & Social Sciences: HIST

All Applications: submitted 2018-2019



College of Humanities & Social Sciences: Fall Enrollment (Banner)

All Degree-Seeking



The quality of our candidates and our acceptance rate have improved as well. Our acceptance rate dropped from 73% in 2016 to 48% in 2019. We are on track to have a 50% acceptance rate in 2020.

Recruiting

The department has intensified its recruiting efforts; we launched our own recruiting weekend in 2017 and have continued it since. The following report summarizes these efforts from 2017-2019.

Graduate Recruiting Weekend, 2017-2019 History Department Report

In October 2017, the History Department and CHaSS (\$1500) funded a “Welcome Weekend” for eight promising out-of-state students. Our goal was to increase both the academic profile of our students and to attract more out-of-state students to the program. This

program brought students to campus for two days and two nights of meetings, events, and tours.

In order to find students to invite to campus, History Department faculty asked their colleagues at other universities to nominate the strongest undergraduate in their program. We received eight nominations, and brought all of the students to USU. The students came from the University of Virginia, Wittenberg University (OH) (2), BYU-Idaho (3), the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse, and Alverno College (WI). This group was diverse in terms of gender and background.

During their visit, the students ate meals with a variety of department faculty, attended a mock graduate seminar, visited undergraduate classes, met with current graduate students, toured the USU campus as well as Special Collections and Archives, visited the Hyrum Museum (where we offer an internship), hung out with current graduate students in downtown Logan (during the Art and Film Festival) and went for a hike in Logan Canyon. Although we failed to collect measurable data (such as pre- and post-visit questionnaires about their “sense” of USU), the general sense among faculty was that the students fully enjoyed their visit.

Of the eight attendees, two applied to the program for Fall 2018 admission. Another student applied in Fall 2019 because he still had to complete a year of student teaching for his undergraduate degree. This student was overwhelmingly excited about USU and especially the beauty and outdoor recreation available in Cache Valley. A third planned to apply for Fall 2020, but we did not receive her application this year.

Overall, the Welcome Weekend was successful because it brought out-of-state applications to the program at the immediate rate of 25% (and possibly higher in coming years); students left with a positive impression of USU, so even if they don’t enroll in the program, they will have positive things to say about our Department and the University. We followed up this Welcome Weekend with a booth at the Phi Alpha Theta History national conference in New Orleans in January 2018, spreading the word to excellent undergrads from around the country.

After our first recruiting weekend, we made some changes to improve on our later recruiting efforts. First, we decided not to include students from Idaho since they were already familiar with USU. Second, we advertised and called for applications for the recruitment weekend earlier in order to maximize our number of high-quality students with real interest in USU. Third, we decided to tailor events and experiences to student interests and concerns a bit more, rather than doing more generic meetings. The students who did apply were those who met with individual faculty.

2017 Graduate Student Visit Agenda
October 5 – 7, 2017

Hotel Information

Comfort Inn

October 5

3:15 pm Board shuttle
4:45 pm Arrives at Comfort Inn
5:30 pm Dinner at Beehive with Melissa and Tammy Proctor

October 6

8:45am Meet in the hotel lobby
9:00-10:00 am Breakfast at Herm's with Susan C., Sue G., Jonathan B., and Norm J. (Susan and Jon Drive)
10:30 – 11:20am Attend Dr. Andersen's Class (WIDSTOE 007) (Melissa will walk over)
11:30-12:15pm Meet with Evelyn Funda and Richard Inoye (OM 323L)
12:30-1:30pm Lunch and Q&A about applying to grad school (OM 323L) (Julia, Victoria, Ravi, Angela, Jamie)
2:00pm Mock graduate seminar with Angela Diaz (OM 323L)
3:00pm Tour of campus (Grad School Rep)
4:00pm Tour of library with Jennifer Duncan (Victoria and Tammy pick up)
6:00pm Dinner (Jacks) Kelli Morrill, Suzie Skinner, David Tauber, Kirtan Patel, Elisabeth Cropper, Al Roberts, Colby Townsend (Tammy and Victoria will drive)
9:00pm/9:30pm Art and Film festival or downtown (Tammy will shuttle back to hotel at 9 and 9:30)

October 7

9:00am Meet in lobby and check out (Tammy and Chris will pick up in lobby)
9:30am Breakfast with Tammy Proctor, Elisabeth Cropper, Chris Conte
10:30am Hyrum Museum tour with Jami Van Huss (Elisabeth Cropper and Tammy will drive), Rebecca Andersen
12:00pm Lunch at Subway and back to Comfort Inn
1:30pm Shuttle

Cost Analysis:

Total cost of event: \$5928.16

Source of funds:

Graduate Recruiting index

CHaSS Contribution: \$1500.00

Welcome Weekend 2018

The following year, the Welcome Weekend followed the general pattern of the year before. **The department invited 5 students. Out of those, 1 applied to the History Masters program in Fall 2019.** As I was on sabbatical in 2018 I don't have as much detailed information about that year. If you would like more information, please let me know and I will collect it.

Total Spent	\$5,305.90
SGS Recruiting Grant	\$1,500
Total History Department Costs	\$3,805.90

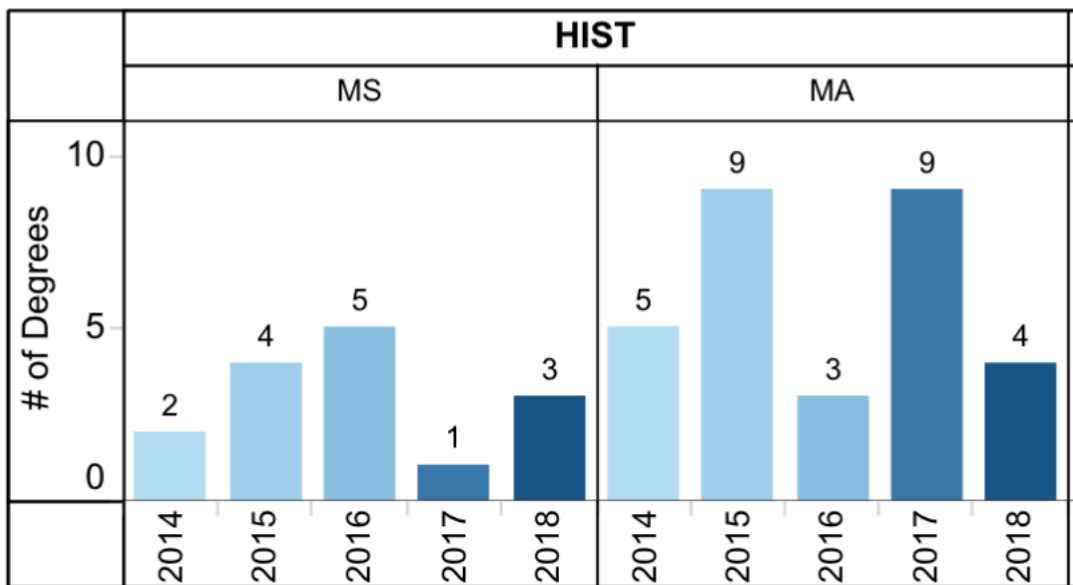
Welcome Weekend 2019

In October 10-12, 2019 the History Department hosted its third consecutive Recruiting Weekend, bringing 6 out-of-state students and one BYU student who was particularly interested in meeting Dr. Patrick Mason, the new Arrington Chair of Mormon History. **Of those 7 students, 2 applied for admission to our graduate program in Fall 2020.**

The schedule was similar to the previous two years. Visiting students had meals with a variety of professors, met with the Special Collections and Archives staff and a variety of internship coordinators who work closely with our Public History program, toured the USU campus, and went for a hike in Logan Canyon. We timed our fall graduate student social for that weekend so the visiting students could meet current students in a social and informal setting. The following day, the students visited the Hyrum Museum, another internship site that works closely with our program.

Graduation Rates

The following chart depicts the department's graduation rates since 2014. These numbers seem to fluctuate from year to year, ranging from a low of 7 (2014/2018) to a high of 13 (2015). For the 2019-20 year, the department currently has 8 graduates, several of whom needed the summer grace semester to finish. We should therefore have a high graduation rate for 2019-20. The department instituted a research seminar in Fall 2017 to help students finish their thesis or Plan B project within two years. It is still unclear whether or not that course is doing what we hoped it would do.



ASSESSMENT OUTCOMES – MAY 2019

Of 10 students admitted in Fall 2017:

- 3 successfully defended a Plan A/Plan B project by May 4, 2019.
- 3 defended in summer or fall 2019.
- 2 took a LOA for personal/family reasons
- 1 is working part-time on the degree
- 1 has not made plans to finish the degree

Summary

The History Department's graduate program has rebounded from its years of low enrollment. Since 2016, we have increased our applicant pool and lowered our acceptance rate. We continue to recruit high-quality students through the department's recruiting weekend and make changes to the program to meet student demands, such as implementing a Public History track, offering quality internship opportunities, and creating a research seminar.