

2015 Up-date

## GERMAN

Summary of five year open-ended responses to alumni questionnaire: Responses to an open question about any thoughts the alumni had on the program (**Ten** alumni responding)

<b>Strengths noted:</b>	<b># of Responses</b>
Faculty Excellence	10
Great courses / Learned a lot about Language and Culture	4
Study abroad program	1
Good feeling of community in the program	1
Department Staff	1
Started a life-long passion for learning	1
<b>Areas to improve noted:</b>	
German student club leaders not well organized	1
Don't have instructors who just read from textbook	1
Consider proficiency exam before allowing some students to take courses	1
Different levels of ability between those who served a mission and those who have not	1

### **Response to future plans questions:**

Going directly into career = 4  
Going directly into graduate school = 5  
Taking time for self or family = 1

### **Quotes from 2015**

I started my German experience as a German minor, but I loved my experience as a study abroad student so much that I decided I did not want to stop taking classes. So, I changed my minor into a major. It was one of the best decisions I made. The German professors are amazing and care very much about their students' progress academically and personal life in general.

Dr. McGonagill is a world class educator, with a world class pedigree to boot. She is passionately involved in opening her students' minds to the broader historical context of the world. It is professors like her that make USU a hidden gem. With Dr. McGonagill's guidance we have broached important topics about history, the environment, politics, and communication, all while in her native tongue. Although I will be pursuing a degree in Psychology, I will actively keep learning about German history and the role Germany plays on the world stage. I am extremely grateful for the education I received at USU. Much to my surprise, I have realized that "I know nothing". I think this is the foundation of an educated mind: to understand our own ignorance. USU has ignited a passion for education that will likely burn the rest of my life.

The program is great and I love the professors. I have a greater interest in German now than I did when I began the program, which is good. Furthermore, I learned a lot about other cultures on the way. My only comment that is negative involves the students enrolled in the classes. For the German conversation courses as well as upper level grammar courses a clear division between students who learned in a strictly University fashion and students who learned abroad via missionary work or heritage learning is very apparent. This usually lead to the non-University students becoming dominate in the course and tended to silence or humble the new learners. There is not solution, as the program isn't big enough to split the two groups up, however it is something that very heavily impacted my experience. I am sure this phenomenon is already known, but it is the most relevant observation that I have, and I believe it is worth being reminded of.

I really enjoyed my German instructors. I especially loved how they encouraged me to expand my horizons and improve my German. They put a lot of time into their courses and I always felt like one of their greatest goals was to help me succeed.