

Mexico Class Reflection
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Participating in the Civil Engineering Mexico Study Abroad project this semester was one of the highlights of my BYU experience.

By participating in this project, I had the opportunity to:

- Work on a real project that affects real people.

- Apply what I have learned in multiple classes (ce431, ce531, ce112, ce270, ce113, and ce351) to understand and solve a complex problem.

- Operate in a team environment.

- Forge and strengthen friendships with my fellow students.

- Experience first-hand the difficulties of cross-cultural collaboration.

- Better appreciate the culture of Mexico.

- Learn about engineering and environmental attitudes, trends, and politics in Mexico.

- Gain confidence in my ability to see a project through from inception to successful completion.

- Use my technical knowledge to serve others.

Participating in this project in conjunction with the WMS class made all the difference. I looked forward to each new lesson in WMS class, because I knew I needed the knowledge right away to apply on my project. There was no, “am I ever going to need to know this in the real world?” because I was already needing to know it in the real world.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of this class was that I worked in a team. We saw a lot of each other, since we worked on the same project for several different classes. I felt that my teammates each contributed and worked hard on the project. It was refreshingly different than many of the teams I’ve worked in at BYU, where I ended up doing most of the work. Good communication was essential in our team. We had to know who was doing what to make sure everything was completed.

The hardest aspect of the project was the collaboration with Mexico. We spent a lot of time at the beginning of the project inefficiently searching for data online, because we hadn’t been sent our data from Mexico yet. Indeed, a more efficient way to accomplish this project would have been to have one person communicating with Mexico from the beginning, and the rest of us doing nothing for the first month! This underscores the importance of good communication from the get-go with all those who are involved in a project. I feel this was especially valuable, because I plan to work in the international engineering market as my career progresses.

I look forward to using the things I have learned throughout the rest of my career.