

SOAR Evaluations 2006: Summary

SOAR (Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration) is Utah State University's mandatory transition and enrollment program for incoming students. At SOAR, students participate in a number of activities directed toward facilitating their academic, geographic, and social transition to Utah State University, culminating in academic advisement and course registration. Though several different types of SOAR sessions are available to students, certain elements are included in each SOAR session. This document provides a summary of student assessment for those common elements, and includes aggregate data taken from all SOAR sessions.

When students arrive at SOAR, they attend optional workshops and meet with a small group to learn about academic policies and procedures. Later, they learn about university requirements, meet with an academic advisor, and register for classes. Students turn in SOAR Evaluations, which are found in their SOAR packets, at the end of the day in exchange for Aggie ice cream. Below is a summary of the overall number of students who attended each workshop, the average amount of credits for which students registered, and an overall assessment of students' knowledge of university policies and procedures. 930 SOAR Evaluations were returned by students attending SOAR in the summer of 2006, 875 of which were complete and available for analysis.

Workshops

Seven optional workshops were offered to new students each SOAR day in the morning prior to the official welcome to Utah State University. These workshops were offered during three time blocks. Of the students who indicated on their final SOAR evaluation that they had attended one or more workshop, 90.5% found the workshop(s) they attended helpful.

Workshops - number of students that attended (Out of 472)

14.4%	Housing	68
48.5%	Connections	229
17.4%	Study Abroad	82
14.8%	Deciding on Major	70
4.6%	Greek Life	22
21.8%	Financial Aid	103
55.1%	Aggie Life	260

Registration Outcome

On the final SOAR evaluation in response to the question, "I am currently registered for _____ credits," the average was 14.59 credits.

Policies and Procedures

On the final SOAR evaluation, students were asked to respond "yes" or "no" to questions regarding their knowledge of university policies and procedures.

- 98.4 % Know how to modify class schedule.
- 89.7% Know how to contact academic advisor.
- 98.3% Received student ID card.
- 79.9% Know how much tuition and fees are going to be.
- 98.7% Know when the tuition and fee deadline is.

- 96.6% Understand how to pay tuition and fees.
- 95.1% Know where and how to purchase textbooks.
- 86.2% Know where to park and how to get parking pass.
- 93.9% Have housing arrangements made, on or off campus.
- 97.1% Know how to check USU email account.
- 96.7% Had questions about USU satisfactorily answered.

	Yes	No	N/A	875/Yes
1.	861	8	5	98.4
2.	785	83	6	89.7
3.	860	10	4	98.3
4.	699	165	10	79.9
5.	864	8	2	98.7
6.	845	24	5	96.6
7.	832	38	4	95.1
8.	754	115	5	86.2
9.	822	51	1	93.9
10.	850	21	4	97.1
11.	846	20	8	96.7

Student Comments

In addition to quantitative data, we collect and record student comments about the orientation experience and implement them to the best of our ability.