

# SOAR Evaluations 2007: Summary

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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, each SOAR session covers the same information. 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, and an overall assessment of students' knowledge of university policies and procedures. The number of evaluations returned by students attending Express SOAR in the summer of 2007 was 1,134.

## Workshops

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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 two time blocks. Of the students who indicated on their SOAR evaluation that they had attended one or more workshop, 92.25% found the workshop(s) they attended helpful.

Students who attended workshops – Out of 552 responses:

Workshop	Percent	Number
Housing	14.1%	78
Connections	22.5%	124
Study Aboard	7.2%	40
Deciding on a Major	8.3%	46
Greek Life	2.0%	11
Financial Aid	6.0%	33
Aggie Life	39.8%	220

# Registration Outcome

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On the SOAR evaluation in response to the question, “I am currently registered for \_\_\_ credits,” the average was 13.77 credits.

## Policies and Procedures

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

Out of 1,134 responses

Policy/Procedure	Percent of “Yes” responses	Number of “Yes” responses
Know how to modify class schedule	99.1	1124
Know how to contact academic advisor	89.3	1013
Received student ID	98.9	1122
Know how much tuition and fees are going to be	83.2	994
Know when the tuition deadline is	99.0	1123
Understand how to pay tuition and fees	98.0	1111
Know where and how to purchase textbooks	96.5	1094
Know where to park and how to get a parking pass	89.7	1017
Have housing arrangements made on or off campus	94.0	1066
Know how to check USU email account	88.2	1000
Had questions about USU satisfactorily answered	96.9	1099

## Student Comments

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