

# SOAR Evaluations 2008: 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 2008 was 1,424.

## Workshops

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Four optional workshops are offered to new students in the morning of each SOAR day prior to the official welcome to Utah State University: Housing, Connections, Financial Aid, and Life as an Aggie. These workshops are offered during two time blocks. Of the students who indicated on their SOAR evaluation that they had attended one or more workshop, 94.44% found the workshop(s) they attended helpful. Out of the 1,424 evaluations, 540 indicated attendance of at least one workshop. The table below displays the percent and number of students in attendance at each workshop.

Workshop	Percent	Number
Housing	17.8%	96
Connections	38.1%	206
Financial Aid	16.9%	91
Life as an Aggie	27.2%	147

## Registration Outcome

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On the SOAR evaluation in response to the question, "I am currently registered for \_\_\_ credits," the average was 13.52 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. The table below displays the percent and number of respondents who answered “yes” out of 1,424 evaluations.

Policy/Procedure	Percent of “Yes” responses	Number of “Yes” responses
Know how to modify class schedule	94.2	1341
Know how to contact academic advisor	85.5	1217
Received student ID	93.7	1334
Know how much tuition and fees are going to be	72.5	1033
Know when the tuition deadline is	94.5	1345
Understand how to pay tuition and fees	91.8	1307
Know where and how to purchase textbooks	91.9	1308
Know where to park and how to get a parking pass	85.3	1215
Have housing arrangements made on or off campus	90.8	1293
Know how to check USU email account	90.4	1288
Had questions about USU satisfactorily answered	92.0	1310

# Early Registration

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If students register for SOAR by May 1, they get the opportunity to select classes early as part of the SOAR registration process. The number of people who indicated on their evaluation that they registered early (prior to May 1) was 1089. Of those 1089 responses, 94.5% indicated that they found early registration helpful.

# 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.