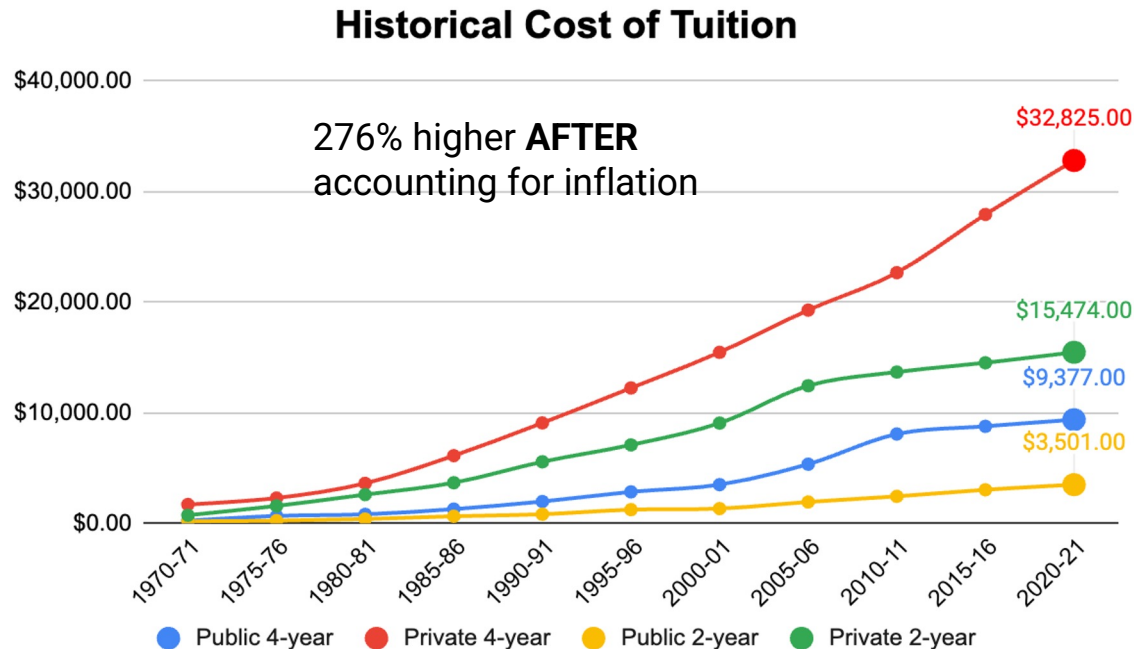


# Bridging the Financial Resource Gap

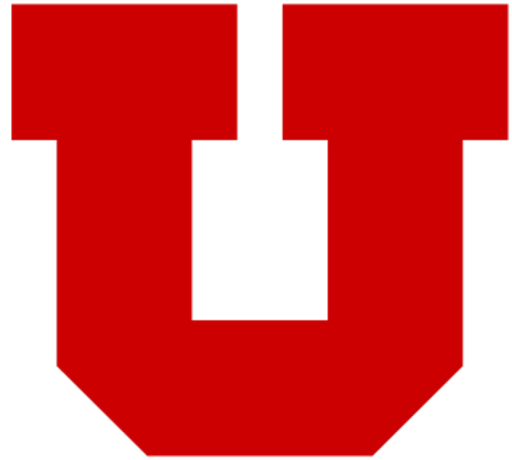
By Derek Che, Kyle Jensen, Josiah Perkins



# College Is Expensive



What are the effects at the  
University of Utah?



THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF UTAH

# What We Did

1. Research Resources on Campus
2. People/Offices interviewed:
  - a. Financial Aid and Scholarships Office
  - b. TRIO Student Support Services
  - c. Financial Wellness Center
3. Looking at the University's website
4. Surveyed Students About How They Feel

# What We Learned From Interviews

There are many resources available on campus!

1. Financial Aid and Scholarships Office
  2. University of Utah Development Office
  3. TRIO Student Success Services
  4. Financial Wellness Center
- Including targeted resources:

1. First-Gen Scholars
2. U of U Dream Center
3. Department of International Studies



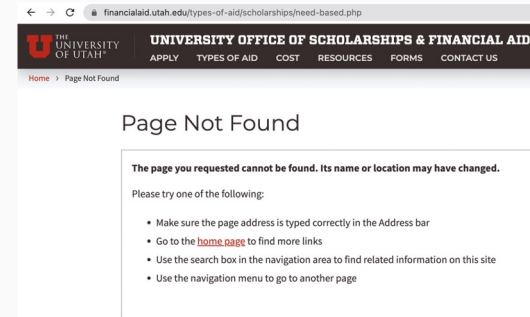
# University Office of Scholarships & Financial Aid

- [Bold.org](#)
- [Disability Scholarship Directory](#)
- [FastWeb](#)
- [Chegg.com Scholarship Search](#)
- [Peterson's](#)
- [College Resource Network](#)
- [Utah Department of Workforce Services Scholarship opportunities](#)
- [List of Scholarships](#)
- [Scholarships.com](#) (Apple and Android App Available)
- [Scholarship America](#)
- [International Financial Aid & College Scholarship Search](#)
- [International Student & Study Abroad Scholarship Search](#)
- [Educate Utah](#) - Scholarships for students who qualify for HB144, DACA, and who are non-FAFSA eligible
- [Unigo](#)
- [Department of Labor Scholarship Search](#)

**Beware**, some of the links don't work!

<https://financialaid.utah.edu/types-of-aid/scholarships/other-resources.php>

**Actual Screenshot**



Collectively, we have been at the  
University for 8 years

BUT EVEN WE ONLY RECENTLY  
LEARNED ABOUT THESE  
RESOURCES

# IS SCHOOL BREAKING THE BANK?!

Contribute to a survey trying to gauge student financial wellbeing at the University of Utah.

**7 multiple choice questions**  
WILL ONLY TAKE 1 MINUTE  
(COMPLETELY ANONYMOUS)

Submit by April 21, 2023

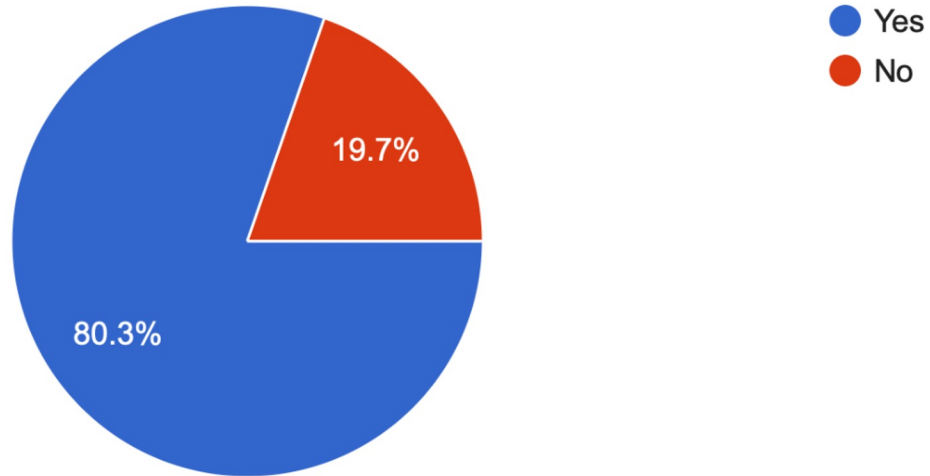
For the class *Being Human in STEM*  
*SCI 3900/HONOR 3990-Spring '23*





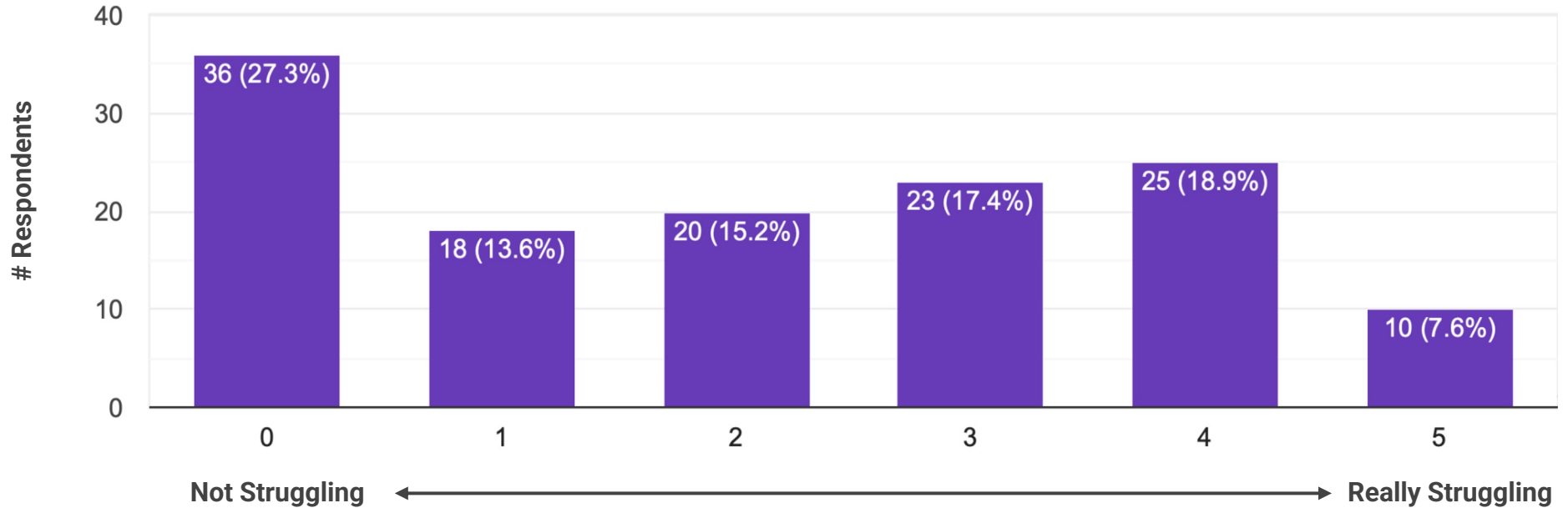
## Is your major in the College of Science or the College of Engineering?

132 responses



# How much are you struggling financially to pay for school?

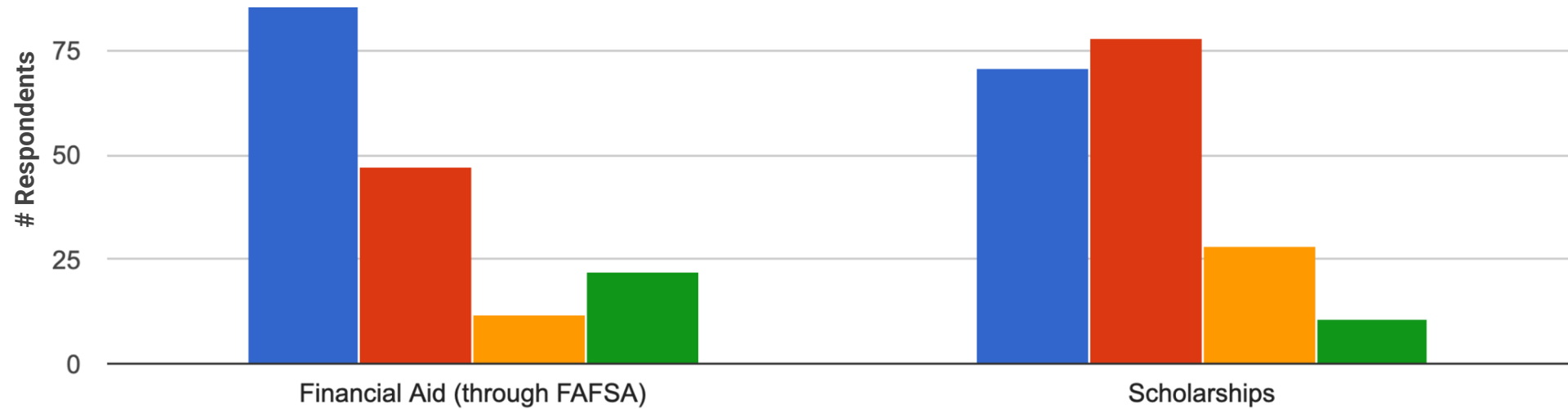
132 responses



# What types of financial aid did you pursue?

132 responses

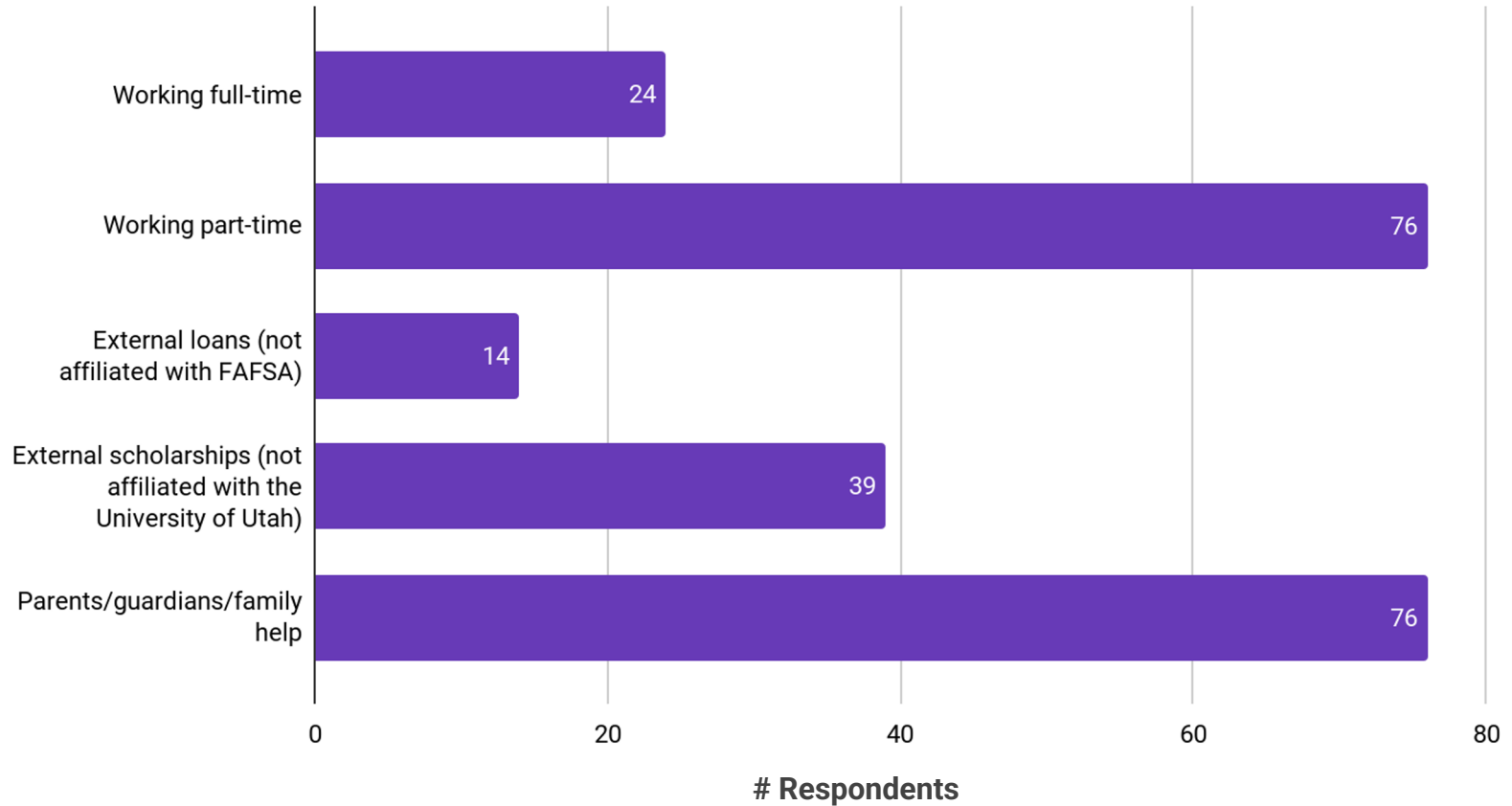
Applied Received Planning to Not Planning to



FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid

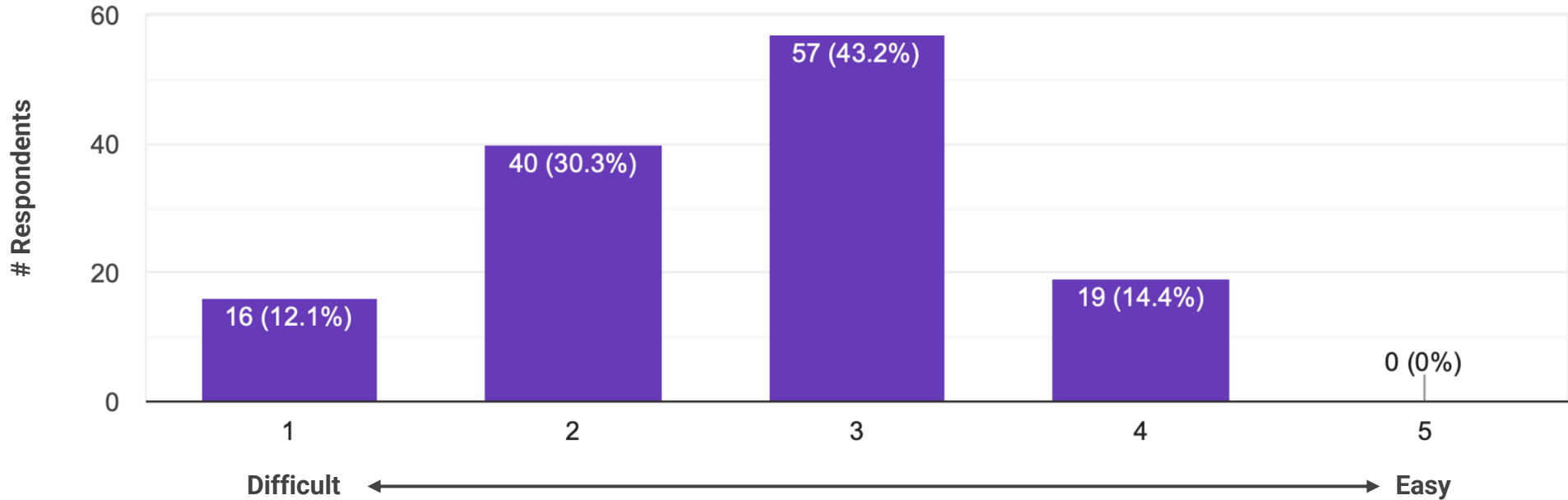
# What other ways (besides FAFSA and scholarships) are you paying for college?

132 Responses



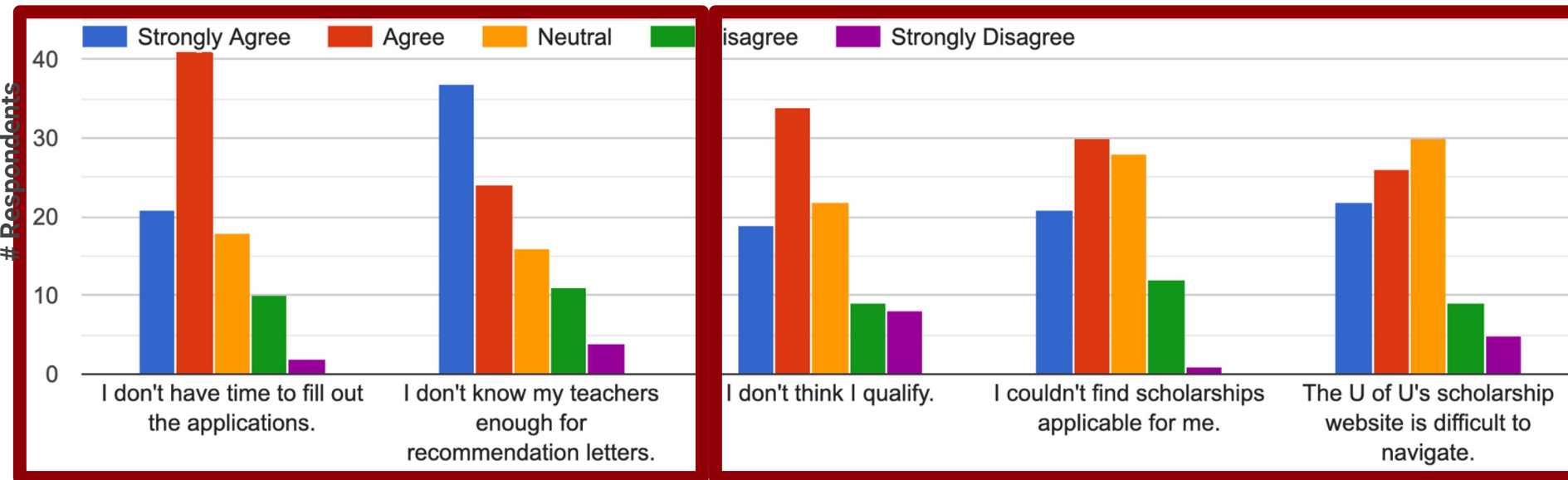
# How would you rate the process of applying to aid?

132 responses



# What made applying for financial aid difficult?

132 responses



# Problem: Students do not have time to fill out applications.

## Administrator Solutions:

- **Annual** Financial Aid Orientation
- Establish a Team Dedicated to Promoting Resources

## What Students Can Do:

- Talk to the Financial Aid and Scholarships Office
- Make Time to Help Yourself

# Problem: Students do not know their teachers well enough to ask for letters of recommendations.

## Administrator Solutions:

- Varying and flexible office hours

## What Students Can Do:

- Take the initiative!
- Ask for help!



# Survey Free Responses

“The biggest issue is if you are in the middle class. FAFSA makes it so that you don’t qualify for financial aid but your parents don’t make enough for them to comfortable pay tuition.”

# Survey Free Responses

“I applied for FAFSA but didn’t get anything. I know this happens to a lot of students because the FAFSA considers them able enough to pay without aid when, in reality, financial aid would really help those students.”

# Survey Free Responses

“Financial aid is meant to help students are struggling financially. And these students historically struggle with other things like academics and socializing with professionals (professors). It is not very reasonable to make need-based scholarships that hard like a membership to a club.”

# Students Need Help Finding Scholarship Opportunities

## Bridging the Financial Resource Gap



For University of  
Utah Administration  
& Leadership

## Bridging the Financial Resource Gap



For University of  
Utah Students

HELP THE NEXT GENERATION OF:

**INVENTORS**

**ACTIVISTS**

**LEADERS**

**THINKERS**

# Acknowledgements

College of Engineering (Administration Director) - Monica Heaton

Financial Wellness Center (Assistant Director) - Beth Hunsaker

Professors:

Chemical Engineering Department Chair - Eric Eddings

Chemical Engineering Associate Department Chair - Tony Butterfield

Chemical Engineering Associate Professor - Heather Holmes

Chemical Engineering Advisor - Sydney Cushing (Placed in Newsletter)

Professors of SCI 3900 (Claudia, Rodrigo, Caroline, and Seetha)

# Help us close the Financial Resource Gap!

## Bridging the Financial Resource Gap



For University of  
Utah Administration  
& Leadership

### Main Takeaways:

- The U has many resources
- Students don't know many of them
- Many who need aid, do not have it

Pick up our Package/Handouts for  
Faculty/Administrator and Students and  
share them.

## Bridging the Financial Resource Gap



For University of  
Utah Students