Bridging the Financial Resource Gap



For University of Utah Students

Need Financial Aid But Don't Have Time To Apply?

In a recent campus survey*, ~60% of students (79/132) agreed that applying for financial aid was difficult because they felt they did not have the time to fill out applications.



Visit the Financial Aid and Scholarships Office!

They have people dedicated to helping students get the financial assistance they need!

Common Misconceptions:

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is time consuming - It takes about an hour to fill out. If you need help or have questions, schedule an appointment!

My time is not worth the effort - There are many opportunities, contact the office to help find them!

I don't have time to find anything - If you need financial assistance, take 15 minutes to talk to the office for advice!

Hours (Mountain Time):

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday:

8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Tuesday: 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Office:

Student Services Building 201 South 1460 East, Room 105 Salt Lake City, UT 84112-9055

Phone:

(801) 581-6211

Email:

financialaid@utah.edu



^{*} Anonymous survey conducted as part of this SCI 3900/HONOR 3990 project. Details and results at the end of this document

Is it Difficult to Find Scholarships for Which You Qualify?

In a recent campus survey*, **more than 82% of students (109/132)** were not satisfied with the ease-of-use of the website and struggled to find applicable scholarships.



Visit the Financial Wellness Center and TRIO!

They have people dedicated to helping students get the financial assistance they need!

Common Misconceptions:

If I don't qualify for FAFSA I can't get grants - TRIO has federal assistants (for citizens only)

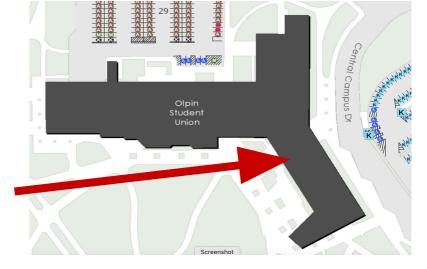
If I'm undocumented or an immigrant I have no options – The <u>Dream</u>
<u>Center</u> and <u>International Student and Scholar Services</u> respectively are there for you!

Financial Wellness is just about budgeting – False! The <u>Financial</u> <u>Wellness Center</u> knows all of the university's resources and can give you referrals to other places that help

Office:

A. Ray Olpin Student Union 200 Central Campus Dr, Salt Lake City, UT 84112

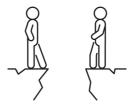
Ask the <u>Front desk</u> for directions! All resources on this page are in the Union!



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Feel Like You Don't Know Your Professors?

In a recent survey*, ~62% of students (82/132) agreed or STRONGLY agreed that applying for financial aid was difficult because they felt they did not know their professors well enough to ask for letters of recommendations.



Common Misconceptions:

Professors do not have the time to meet with a student - Actually, while many professors are busy, they are happy to talk to students. It's part of their job so don't let it stop you from reaching out!

Professors can only meet during office hours - If you cannot make it to a professor's office hours, send them an email to schedule a time that works for you! Professors are understanding and can accommodate.

I do not stand out against my peers - Reach out to your professors by talking to them during and/or after class. This will help them remember who you are!

I can only talk about schoolwork to professors – **Professors are** happy to talk about things outside of school like life in general. They are in fact human with interests and hobbies too!

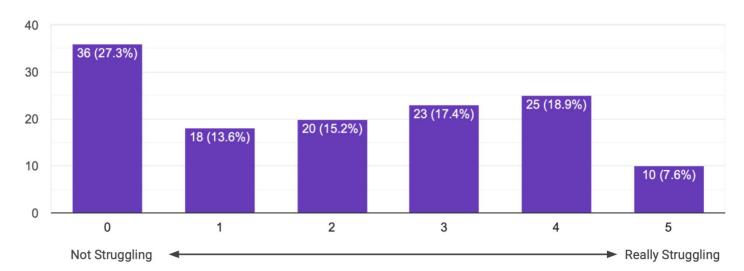
Asking for a letter of recommendation is burdensome – It is true that a letter of recommendation will be work for a professor but they are advocates for your success and will try to help you out whenever possible!

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Survey Results

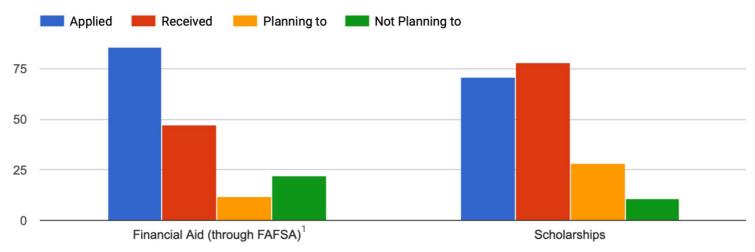
How much are you struggling financially to pay for school?

132 responses



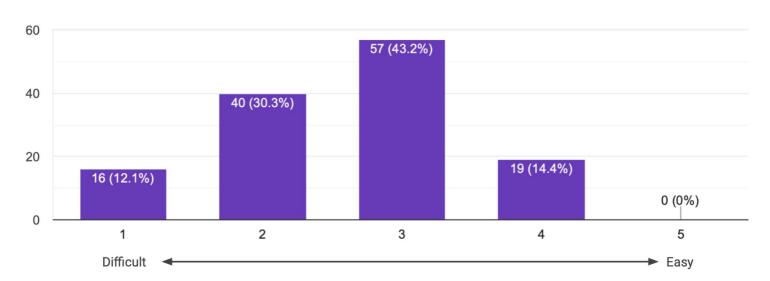
What types of financial aid did you pursue?

132 responses



How would you rate the process of applying to aid?

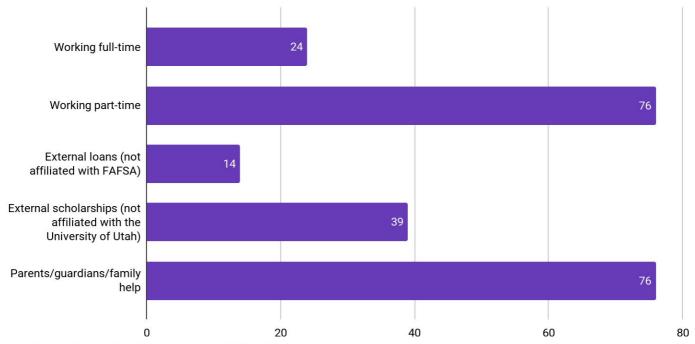
132 responses



Survey Results

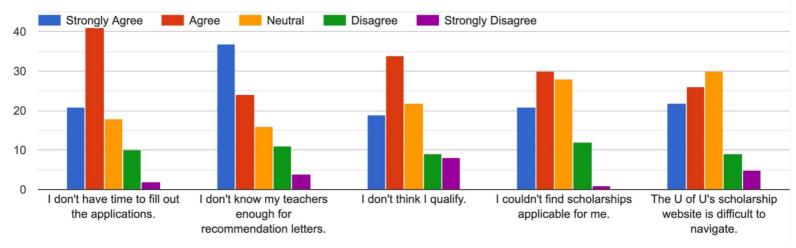
What other ways (besides FAFSA and scholarships) are you paying for college?

132 Responses



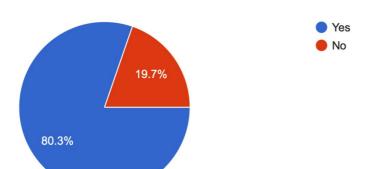
What made applying for financial aid difficult?

132 responses



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

132 responses



1. Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the form you need to fill out to get any financial aid from the federal government