SARI Presents:
Return of Reasons to Choose
Summer Session Enrollment

By Steve Chatman

Just before the start of summer sessions in 2002, undergraduate students were
asked to identify from a list the three most important reasons why they should
consider summer enrollment at Davis. Following Hollywood’s example, SARI
posed the question again just before the start of summer 2003. At issue was the
extent to which dramatic growth in summer enrollments and a changing
economy might be associated with changing attitudes.

The most significant but probably least interesting result to most people was
lack of change. The distribution of responses in 2003 was nearly identical to
that in 2002. Of the 12 reasons offered, the distribution of responses differed by
1% or less in 7 cases. This is remarkable stability, and like Hollywood
following a script recipe, stability can be a good thing.

Responses to one item showed a significant change from 2002 to 2003.
Undergraduate students were more inclined to select “Make use of apartment”
as a top three reason for attending summer sessions. This could well reflect the
fact that local housing costs have increased rapidly.

As was true in 2002, graduating faster and getting back on track to graduate on
time continued as the top most frequently selected reasons (together over 90%
each year).

The third most popular reason to attend summer sessions was in order to take a
lighter load the rest of the year (37%). Other items reflecting the desire to use
summer in order to achieve a better overall schedule were commonly selected:
easier to focus, load lighter (33%), complete unappealing course quickly (33%),
and have more fun, course load lighter (9%).
Similar to last year, 21% of respondents cited the availability of otherwise impacted courses as a top reason.

The next most commonly selected reasons were related to instructional advantages: classes are smaller (22%) and faculties are more available (7%).

Availability of courses impacted during other quarters was noted by 21% of respondents.

And last, 9% thought that summer in Davis was preferable to going home.

Respondents selecting “Other” and providing details in the open-ended response box tended to list unique reasons.

"Which of the following are the THREE (3) MOST IMPORTANT REASONS why undergraduate students should consider summer enrollment at Davis?"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2002</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Get back on-track to graduate on time</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get ahead and graduate faster</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enroll in summer, take lighter load rest of year</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make use of rented apartment</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easier to focus, load lighter</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete unappealing course quickly</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classes are smaller</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impacted courses are available</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have more fun, course load lighter</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preferable to going home for the summer</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty are more available</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 1*

This report was compiled by Student Affairs Research & Information (SARI) based on My.UCDavis QuickSurveys, running during summer 2002 and summer 2003. The QuickSurveys were available to all students, all faculty, and all staff. For more detailed information, contact us at (530) 754-7985.