Impact of Financial Aid on Plans to Attend 2006 Summer Sessions

Prepared at the Request of

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Survey Background and Methods

In December 2005, the Institutional Planning & Analysis section of the Office of Resource Management and Planning (ORMP) approached Student Affairs Research and Information (SARI) with a request to use the Quick Survey application to collect information about projected summer session attendance and the impact of financial aid on attendance. ORMP and SARI collaborated to devise an appropriate question for the survey application.

From December 22\textsuperscript{nd} 2005 to January 12\textsuperscript{th} 2006 (21 days), SARI delivered a Quick Survey to all enrolled undergraduates via the MyUCDavis portal (http://my.ucdavis.edu). A total of 6721 current undergraduates responded to the Quick Survey (31\% of the undergraduate population), including 1432 freshmen, 1344 sophomores, 1785 juniors, and 1912 seniors. Students were asked if they were planning to attend one or more summer sessions in 2006. Responses were provided on a 6-point scale where:

1= I will not attend, 
2= I will attend only if I receive a financial aid package that covers all per unit fees, 
3= I will attend only if I receive a financial aid package covering at least half of the per unit fees, 
4= I will attend only if I will be able to spread my summer fee payments over a 3 month period, 
5= I will attend regardless of financial aid or payment options, and 
6= Not sure if I will attend.
Quick Survey

Are you planning on attending one or more summer sessions this year (Summer 2006)?

- I will not attend.
- I will attend only if I receive a financial aid package that covers all per unit fees.
- I will attend only if I receive a financial aid package covering at least half of the per unit fees.
- I will attend only if I will be able to spread my summer fee payments over a 3 month period.
- I will attend regardless of financial aid or payment options.
- Not sure if I will attend.

Submit   Privacy   FAQs
Results

Among 6473 respondents, 29% were sure that they would not attend summer session and 13% would attend regardless of the availability of financial aid. One quarter of respondents were not sure whether they would attend 2006 summer sessions. About one third of the respondents indicated that they would attend in summer only if they received some assistance with payment. Of these, the largest proportion (24%) would attend only if unit fees were entirely covered by financial aid. A negligible proportion of respondents (2%) would attend if offered a payment plan.

Projected summer school attendance varied substantially by class level. Nearly half of seniors said that would not attend summer session in 2006 (49%). Freshmen were the most likely to be unsure about their summer attendance (32%). Sophomores and juniors were most likely to intend to enroll in the summer regardless of the availability of financial aid, and would increase attendance most substantially if aid were available. In terms of an immediate effect on time-to-degree, it is worth noting that over a fifth of seniors (22%) indicate that they would attend summer school if financial aid were available.
Figure 2.

Projected Summer School Attendance, by Class Level