

UCI Survey Response from non-Applicants. June 2004

The Survey was distributed by UCI staff and hosted online at the URL

<http://survey.eap.ucop.edu/WebFiles/ucinoapp/index.jsp?BrowserType=ie5up>. The introduction to the survey reflected its purpose, with the following statement to students: "*According to our records, you had planned to apply for an EAP program this year, but you did not eventually follow through and apply. We would like to know why, and especially if there is anything we could have done to help you get to the point of actually applying.*"

The survey asked students to respond to "two questions," selecting as many responses as applicable from among the 17 provided. The responses were coded with either 0 or 1, with 1 indicating a checkmark for that response. There were also two separate text-boxes where survey participants could provide further information.

The first question read: "I did not apply because (choose all that apply):" with 11 options listed. Below in "Multiple Response Table 1," we see that there were 41 valid respondents to question one (of 45 survey participants) -- that is, "valid" as an expression of selecting at least one of the 11 options listed (four did not respond) within question one. We collected a total of 79 responses from these 41 respondents, or an average of almost two responses per survey participant (1.93). The listed response "I'm planning to apply for an EAP program (next year)," elicited a response from 48.8% of the survey participants (Pct of Cases,) or viewed another way, it was the leading response accounting for 25.3% of responses. Similarly, the other responses can be assessed in this table and at "Multiple Response Table 2."

A note should be given regarding the use of the word "valid" regarding survey participant response. Not selecting any item is, in a wider application of the term "valid," an informative response. E.g., in Multiple Response Table 2 there are far fewer "valid respondents." This does not mean that their preference to not select any item is inappropriate or necessarily "invalid." What it tells us is that these students did not respond to the subject ("If you needed more help, please specify what you needed"). Quite simply, they may very well have not needed more help, regardless of what options were presented to them, for not only did they not select any of the specified responses, but they also did not choose to select the option: "Other: Please specify below." Ultimately, all survey participants selected to "submit" their responses (checked boxes or left empty). The software does not collect responses otherwise.

MULTIPLE RESPONSE TABLE 1

Dichotomy label	Name	Count	Pct of Responses	Pct of Cases
I'm planning to apply for an EAP program nextyear	nextyear	20	25.3	48.8
I am participating on an IOP program ins	iopprog	2	2.5	4.9
I couldn't afford it.	afford	8	10.1	19.5
I preferred to graduate instead of study	graduate	5	6.3	12.2
I couldn't get credit for classes that I	nocredit	5	6.3	12.2
I needed more help figuring out which pr	needhelp	9	11.4	22.0
The application process was too long/too	appldiff	8	10.1	19.5
My parents didn't want me to go.	parents	5	6.3	12.2
I felt uncomfortable traveling abroad gi	fears	1	1.3	2.4
I didn't want to give up other personal	perscomm	3	3.8	7.3
Other: Please specify below.	otherst	13	16.5	31.7
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	Total responses	79	100.0	192.7

4 missing cases; 41 valid cases

Given that the response is a convenience sample there is good reason to anticipate some bias to the responses. Still, the "other" specified reasons should be given some attention. Clearly, some respondents merely elaborated on their previous selection(s). One issue that was not anticipated, and frequently noted below, is that of programs of interest being cancelled (Waseda, 2 responses, and Summer Barcelona).

Other specified response for not applying:
<i>I am lame.</i>
<i>I got hired as an RA</i>
<i>I'm not sure if I can still go considering my work commitment and I did not want to go through the EAP program that I was looking into because I did not want to live with the host family. I have to look into an IOP program, but it's too late for next ye</i>
<i>I decided that I can't miss election year, I'm really political. I'm definitely going next year.</i>
<i>i changed majors and need to bring up my gpa.</i>
<i>I felt that I became interested in EAP a little too late. I really wanted to apply to Pharmacy this school, and hopefully be able to attend interviews this fall, but that would not be possible if I had done the London Semester Program (What I really want</i>
<i>Disorganization in application process.</i>
<i>I did apply but the program that I was applying for was canceled. (EAP Japan: Waseda University</i>
<i>I choose to return as a Resident Advisor for Middle Earth Housing.</i>
<i>I was not able to get a transcript from the community college that I attended in order to finish the application.</i>
<i>the barcelona summer program was cancelled</i>
<i>The program that I initially wanted to go to was cancelled. The Waseda program was changed to Spring ICU. I wanted to go to Waseda and not ICU. Although I didn't apply for ICU, I plan to apply for a different program in the same country during the sam</i>
<i>i just returned from abroad an the appliccation was due the week that i moved back. i didnt have enough time nor thought it polite to asks my profs for another letter of rec the first time i saw them.</i>
<i>The application SEEMED too long and difficult. I realize now it is not, but I was intimidated. I felt rushed to plan my entire year, but I do greatly regret it now. I did finally come in and am applying for another program, however.</i>

In response to the second question, "If you needed more help, please specify what you needed (choose all that apply):" the survey had far fewer "valid" respondents, but also witnessed an increased average in the number of responses (2.2) per valid respondent. Articulation of degree requirements, course selectivity and financial aid were of most concern, whereas the specifics of other program features or access to information from a staff member were not a leading issue. Other specified issues were few, and not novel other than that one student needed better access to online material.

MULTIPLE RESPONSE TABLE 2.

Dichotomy label	Name	Count	Pct of Responses	Pct of Cases
More information on available classes ab	classes	16	25.4	55.2
More information about the programs abro	programs	7	11.1	24.1
More information on what requirements cl	degreqr	17	27.0	58.6
More information on financial aid and sc	finaid	15	23.8	51.7
More access to/an appointment with a CIE	counslr	4	6.3	13.8
Other: Please specify below.	otrneed	4	6.3	13.8
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	Total responses	63	100.0	217.2

16 missing cases; 29 valid cases

Other Needs specified:
<i>There was an adequate amount of information available. Thank you!</i>
<i>Better access to on-line materials.</i>
<i>i had no idea how my financial aid was going to cover me if i went abroad, how much i could be rewarded, etc. it was very vague.</i>
<i>I think it's very reassuring when the counselor can give you a list of all you need to do for your application step by step. Sometimes a lot of information is thrown at you at once and it's quite daunting.</i>

A cursory review of the survey suggests that market segments of interest and consequence exist between those who plan to apply again next year versus those who no longer will pursue EAP opportunities. Below are crosstabulations of responses that divide the response between those who plan to apply next year ("yes" or selected) against those who do not plan to apply next year ("No" or not selected) and other issues surveyed. Obviously, we want to know, are there differences (or similarities for both are informative) across

these groups (those who intend to apply next year again vs. those who do not) where we have a greater survey response -- that is to say, on those issues that students most responded to?

Table 1. I am participating on an IOP program instead. * I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year. Crosstabulation

Count

		I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.		Total
		No	Yes	
I am participating on an IOP program instead.	Not Selected	23	20	43
	Selected	2	0	2
Total		25	20	45

In this first table, we see what will be constant -- 25 students from the survey participants who did not select the response that the plan to apply for EAP next year and 20 who do plan to attend (see Total and columns "No" and "Yes". Using non-parametric Exact Tests for p values we find no statistical significance between the two groups (p=.30). All the same, it seems reasonable to assume that students participating in an IOP program are less likely to further pursue education abroad with EAP in the following year.

Table 2. I couldn't afford it. * I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year. Crosstabulation

			I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.		Total
			No	Yes	
I couldn't afford it.	Not Selected	Count	21	16	37
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	84.0%	80.0%	82.2%
	Selected	Count	4	4	8
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	16.0%	20.0%	17.8%
Total		Count	25	20	45
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

There is no statistically significant difference between the groups, which suggests that cost held a strong influence for both groups.

Table 3. I preferred to graduate instead of studying abroad. * I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year. Crosstabulation

			I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.		Total
			No	Yes	
I preferred to graduate instead of studying abroad.	Not Selected	Count	20	20	40
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	80.0%	100.0%	88.9%
	Selected	Count	5	0	5
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	20.0%	.0%	11.1%
Total		Count	25	20	45
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

The survey result demonstrates that degree obtainment was a statistically significant event (p value = .043) among students who do not plan to apply next year. This would seem to support other indicators that education abroad is often considered an impediment of degree progress.

Table 4. I couldn't get credit for classes that I needed. * I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year. Crosstabulation

			I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.		Total
			No	Yes	
I couldn't get credit for classes that I needed.	Not Selected	Count	23	17	40
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	92.0%	85.0%	88.9%
	Selected	Count	2	3	5
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	8.0%	15.0%	11.1%
Total		Count	25	20	45
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Concern for course credit was not unique to one segment or the other, and was not selected by many students. Perhaps students felt assured by the UC credit promise.

Table 5. I needed more help figuring out which program would be best for me. * I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year. Crosstabulation

			I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.		Total
			No	Yes	
I needed more help figuring out which program would be best for me.	Not Selected	Count	22	14	36
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	88.0%	70.0%	80.0%
	Selected	Count	3	6	9
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	12.0%	30.0%	20.0%
Total	Count	25	20	45	
	% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

There is no statistical significance proven ($p=.131$). Environmentally, it would seem that students who failed to apply, and are considering applying in the future, probably did need some more help figuring out which program would be best for them. It is also likely that in the mind of the respondents, those anticipating applying next year are projecting that they will need help figuring out which program will be best for them.

Table 6. The application process was too long/too difficult. * I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year. Crosstabulation

			I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.		Total
			No	Yes	
The application process was too long/too difficult.	Not Selected	Count	20	17	37
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	80.0%	85.0%	82.2%
	Selected	Count	5	3	8
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	20.0%	15.0%	17.8%
Total	Count	25	20	45	
	% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Again, there is no statistical significance between the No or Yes segments; respondent sentiment towards the application process could be considered equal across both segments. The application process was among the top 5 responses selected (unlike concern for course credit -- Cf., Table 4 above). What elements of the application process is beyond the measure of this survey. That said, some text responses (above) indicate difficulty with transcripts, social risk associated with soliciting letters of recommendation, and the appearance of an difficult application process. All are matters that invite or have simple solution.

Table 7. My parents didn't want me to go. * I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year. Crosstabulation

			I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.		Total
			No	Yes	
My parents didn't want me to go.	Not Selected	Count	20	20	40
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	80.0%	100.0%	88.9%
	Selected	Count	5	0	5
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	20.0%	.0%	11.1%
Total		Count	25	20	45
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Adverse parental influence is denied by students planning to apply in the near future. Whether parental influence is mitigated by deferring application is something that would need further investigation. Parental influence was a statistically significant event (p=.043) for students who stated that they will not be persuing future application to EAP.

Table 8. I felt uncomfortable traveling abroad given the current world situation. * I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year. Crosstabulation

			I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.		Total
			No	Yes	
I felt uncomfortable traveling abroad given the current world situation.	Not Selected	Count	24	20	44
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	96.0%	100.0%	97.8%
	Selected	Count	1	0	1
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	4.0%	.0%	2.2%
Total		Count	25	20	45
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Neither segment seems adverse to travel in a current world situation.

Table 9. I didn't want to give up other personal commitments (e.g. friends, clubs, work, boyfriend/girlfriend, etc.) * I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year. Crosstabulation

			I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.		Total
			No	Yes	
I didn't want to give up other personal commitments (e.g. friends, clubs, work, boyfriend/girlfriend, etc.)	Not Selected	Count	24	18	42
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	96.0%	90.0%	93.3%
	Selected	Count	1	2	3
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	4.0%	10.0%	6.7%
Total		Count	25	20	45
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Personal commitments do not seem to have played a large influence within either segment, though several students specified events such as GPA, political interests, & employment (two as a "RA") above.

Table 10. Other: Please specify below. * I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year. Crosstabulation

			I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.		Total
			No	Yes	
Other: Please specify below.	Not Selected	Count	15	17	32
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	60.0%	85.0%	71.1%
	Selected	Count	10	3	13
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	40.0%	15.0%	28.9%
Total		Count	25	20	45
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

When the threshold of statistical significance is elevated above .05, p values that come close, but that are above this value, have a greater than 5% chance of producing an associated error for significance where there is none. But such instances reflect a "measured hunch" rather than a blind guess. What the p value measures in this instance was the inability of the survey to have "provided" appropriate or defining responses for participants. In this instance $p=.064$, and so it suggests that perhaps we could have done something better in anticipating the responses for those who are not planning on applying in the future.

Other specified reason for not applying by students who did not indicate that they will apply for EAP next year.
<i>I got hired as an RA</i>
<i>I'm not sure if I can still go considering my work committment and I did not want to go through the EAP program that I was looking into because I did not want to live with the host family. I have to look into an IOP program, but it's too late for next ye</i>
<i>I felt that I became interested in EAP a little too late. I really wanted to apply to Pharmacy this school, and hopefully be able to attend interviews this fall, but that would not be possible if I had done the London Semester Program (What I really want</i>
<i>Disorganization in application process.</i>
<i>I did apply but the program that I was applying for was canceled. (EAP Japan: Waseda University</i>
<i>I choose to return as a Resident Advisor for Middle Earth Housing.</i>
<i>I was not able to get a transcript from the community college that I attended in order to finish the application.</i>
<i>the barcelona summer program was cancelled</i>
<i>i just returned from abroad an the application was due the week that i moved back. i didnt have enough time nor thought it polite to asks my profs for another letter of rec the first time i saw them.</i>
<i>The application SEEMED too long and difficult. I realize now it is not, but I was intimidated. I felt rushed to plan my entire year, but I do greatly regret it now. I did finally come in and am applying for another program, however.</i>

Table 11. More information on available classes abroad. * I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year. Crosstabulation

			I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.		Total
			No	Yes	
More information on available classes abroad.	Not Selected	Count	19	10	29
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	76.0%	50.0%	64.4%
	Selected	Count	6	10	16
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	24.0%	50.0%	35.6%
Total	Count	25	20	45	
	% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Students who have potentially deferred application to a future year ("Yes" segment) perhaps needed more information on classes abroad, and might be anticipating that they will need more information about classes abroad. But there is no statistically significant difference between the two groups. In short, all survey participants felt strongly that they needed more information regarding course availability. What is more, if all questions are assessed together, this issue ranks as the third most selected survey option.

Table 12. More information about the programs abroad (other than classes). * I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year. Crosstabulation

			I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.		Total
			No	Yes	
More information about the programs abroad (other than classes).	Not Selected	Count	23	15	38
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	92.0%	75.0%	84.4%
	Selected	Count	2	5	7
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	8.0%	25.0%	15.6%
Total		Count	25	20	45
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Given the relatively low response to this matter, and the lack of statistically significant difference between the two segments, it seems that EAP has sufficiently informed students of program matters outside of course availability.

Table 13. More information on what requirements classes taken abroad would count towards my UCI degree. * I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year. Crosstabulation

			I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.		Total
			No	Yes	
More information on what requirements classes taken abroad would count towards my UCI degree.	Not Selected	Count	19	9	28
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	76.0%	45.0%	62.2%
	Selected	Count	6	11	17
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	24.0%	55.0%	37.8%
Total		Count	25	20	45
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Degree requirements and course articulation is statistically significant ($p=.034$). It makes sense that students no longer considering applying would be less motivated by this event. All the same, that nearly a quarter of the "No" segment selected this issue, it is obviously a strong event for both segments. Ultimately, this survey option ranked second only to the option in question 1, "I'm planning to apply (or not) next year."

Table 14. More information on financial aid and scholarships. * I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year. Crosstabulation

			I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.		Total
			No	Yes	
More information on financial aid and scholarships.	Not Selected	Count	19	11	30
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	76.0%	55.0%	66.7%
	Selected	Count	6	9	15
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	24.0%	45.0%	33.3%
Total		Count	25	20	45
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Though not statistically significant in difference between segments, the high response rate indicates the strength of concern among students regarding financial aid and study abroad.

Table 15. More access to/an appointment with a CIE Staff Counselor. * I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year. Crosstabulation

			I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.		Total
			No	Yes	
More access to/an appointment with a CIE Staff Counselor.	Not Selected	Count	24	17	41
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	96.0%	85.0%	91.1%
	Selected	Count	1	3	4
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	4.0%	15.0%	8.9%
Total		Count	25	20	45
		% within I'm planning to apply for an EAP program next year.	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Access to CIE staff was not a problem for either market segment.