

**Do you know what  
to do if your  
financial aid does  
not cover your  
balance?**

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**PACIFIC**

# What is the New Freshmen Student Orientation's Financial Aid Session?

- The purpose of this session is to inform students and their families of their responsibility regarding financial aid.
- 61% of Pacific freshmen reported on the CIRP survey that they have concern about their ability to finance college.
- Day 2 of New Freshmen Student Orientation– both students and parents & families attend
- Understanding prior to registration:
  - Following the session, students will begin registration for classes and be prompted to accept financial responsibility on InsidePacific
  - Goal is to make sure that orientation guests understand both the Financial Aid and Student Accounts (tuition payment) processes prior to registering for classes
- After presentation from both departments on resources, there is time left for both students and parents to ask specific questions
- Time for additional questions and orientation leader support

# Method

1. Survey creation in collaboration between Planning and Assessment and the Financial Aid and Student Accounts offices
2. Participants consisted of students, friends and family members. n= 264.
3. Participants informed that their answers would be confidential.
4. Survey included demographic checkboxes and two open-ended questions printed on a half-sheet of paper.

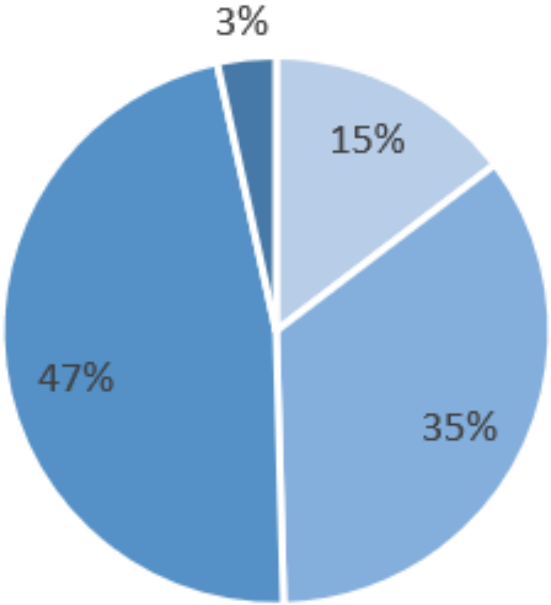
# Critical Thinking on Quantitative Topics Rubric

**Definition of competence in critical thinking on quantitative topics:** Comfort and facility with exploration, reasoning, problem solving and communicating about topics related to numerical or computational data.

<b>Score 4</b> Demonstrated proficient facility with knowledge <hr/>	<b>Score 3</b> Demonstrated accurate facility with knowledge <hr/>	<b>Score 2</b> Demonstrated basic facility with knowledge, and little or no misunderstanding <hr/>	<b>Score 1</b> Demonstrated minimal facility with knowledge or misunderstands <hr/>
-Provides accurate explanations of information and makes inferences.	-Provides accurate explanation of information	- Provides somewhat accurate explanations of information; makes minor errors.	-Attempts to explain information but draws inaccurate conclusions.
-Explicitly describes assumptions and provides compelling rationale, acknowledging that conclusions may be limited.	-Explicitly describes assumptions and provides compelling rationale	-Explicitly describes assumptions.	-Attempts to describe assumptions.

# Survey Question 1

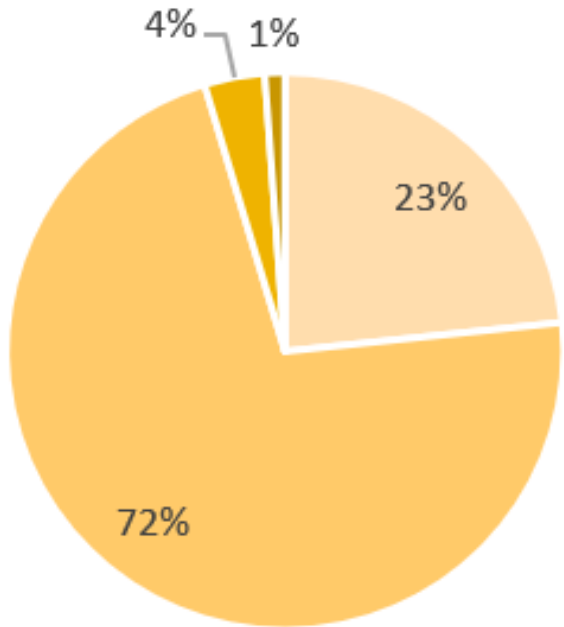
**"As a result of attending the financial responsibility session, explain the steps to take if your financial aid award does not cover your remaining balance."**



- Attempts to describe the assumptions
- Explicitly describes assumptions
- Explicitly describes and provides compelling rationale
- Explicitly describes assumptions and provides compelling rationale, acknowledging that conclusions may be limited

# Survey Question 2

"The presenter said, 'Students must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) in order for any financial aid to be renewed for the next academic year.' Please list the two requirements a student must meet to maintain SAP."



- Attempts to explain information but draws inaccurate conclusions
- Provides somewhat accurate explanations of information; makes minor errors
- Provides accurate explanation of information
- Provides accurate explanations of information and makes inferences

# Quotes from Participants

**Question 1: As a result of attending the financial responsibility session, explain the steps to take if your financial aid award does not cover your remaining balance.**

- “Take out loans” and “talk to financial aid office” were both very common – level 2
- 1/5 mentioned a specific type of loans/sources of funding (parent plus, mpn, CalGrant, unsubbed, subbed) –level 3 or 4 depending on amount of detail
- “Verification documents, loan requirements, graduation date verification” – level 4 (especially if they quantified their loan amount or interest)

**Question 2: The presenter said, “Students must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) in order for any financial aid to be renewed for the next academic year.” Please list the 2 requirements a student must meet to maintain SAP in the space below**

- 45% said “2.0 GPA” and “pass 67% of all classes” – level 2
- 45% said “2.0 GPA” and “pass 67% of all units” – level 3
- “# of classes dropped and GPA” or “passed 75% of classes” – level 1
- “Students must maintain a cumulative GPA, students must pass 67% of their cumulative attempted units” – level 4 (key is in the detail of the wording)

# Discussion

## Limitations

- Only two questions, brief amount of time

## Discussion

- Over 82% scored in the top two levels of the rubric.
- The lesser understanding of S.A.P. could be due to the complexity of the concept

## Recommendations

- Hands on activity: giving them a minute to calculate their own satisfactory academic progress in their previous school year.



Questions?