

# Scholarship Extravaganza

Being Human in STEM - SCI 3900/HONOR 3990

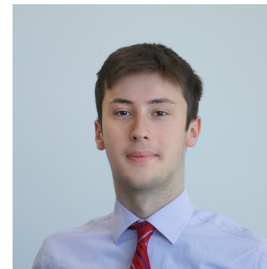
# Introductions



Isaac Lee  
(he/him)



Corinne Orton  
(she/her)



Milan Subotić  
(he/him)



Nate Brown  
(he/him)

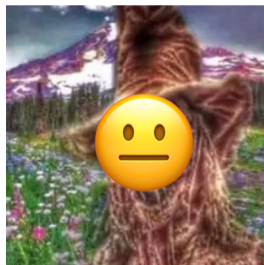


Beth  
Penderghast  
(she/her/hers)

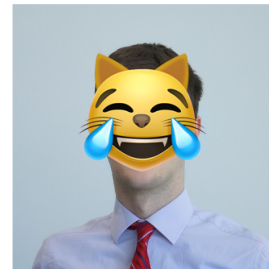
# Introductions



Isaac Lee  
(he/him)



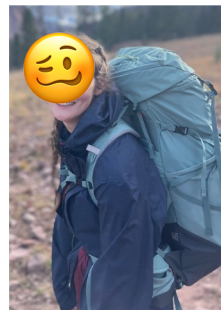
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(she/her)



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# Project motivation



01



## Our motivation

- Different GPA requirements for merit scholarships
- Access is limited
- Awareness of scholarships is low
- Departmental scholarships often are unawarded

- $\approx$  70% of college students nationally are stressed about finances
- Scholarships amount for 35% of tuition funding for students nationwide
- Over 20% of students lose scholarships at the U
- Hard to find applicable scholarships



# Scope of the project



02



# Meeting with Anthony Jones



**Executive Director of Financial Aid and Scholarships at the University of Utah**

## What we discussed:

- Issues we identified with the scholarship portal
- What the school is doing to address the issues
- Can students help?

## What we concluded with him:

- Students can have roles in solutions
- Student feedback for new portal is needed
- Student advisory committee for the Central Financial Aid Office is needed



# Old vs New Scholarship Portal



## AcademicWorks (old)

- Prone to crashes
- Confusing, redundant, long filter

I understand that this scholarship can go toward tuition or honors housing costs.

What are your plans post-graduation? (250 words max)

Words Used: 0 | Maximum Words: 300

Please indicate your declared major

College of Science Department of Math with Emphasis in Statistics

College of Engineering Data Science Program

Are you currently a Doctoral Student in Educational Leadership and Policy?

Yes

No

Are you currently at a "non-resident" status with the University of Utah?

In one to two paragraphs, please explain how you have been actively involved in the Honors College.

Words Used: 0 | Maximum Words: 300

What do you plan to do for your honors thesis? (250 words max)

Words Used: 0 | Maximum Words: 250

### An error occurred.

Sorry, the page you are looking for is currently unavailable. Please try again later.

If you are the system administrator of this resource then you should check the [error log](#) for details.

We have articles on troubleshooting issues like [high CPU usage](#) and [large memory usage](#) on our [official blog site](#).

Faithfully yours, [OpenResty](#).

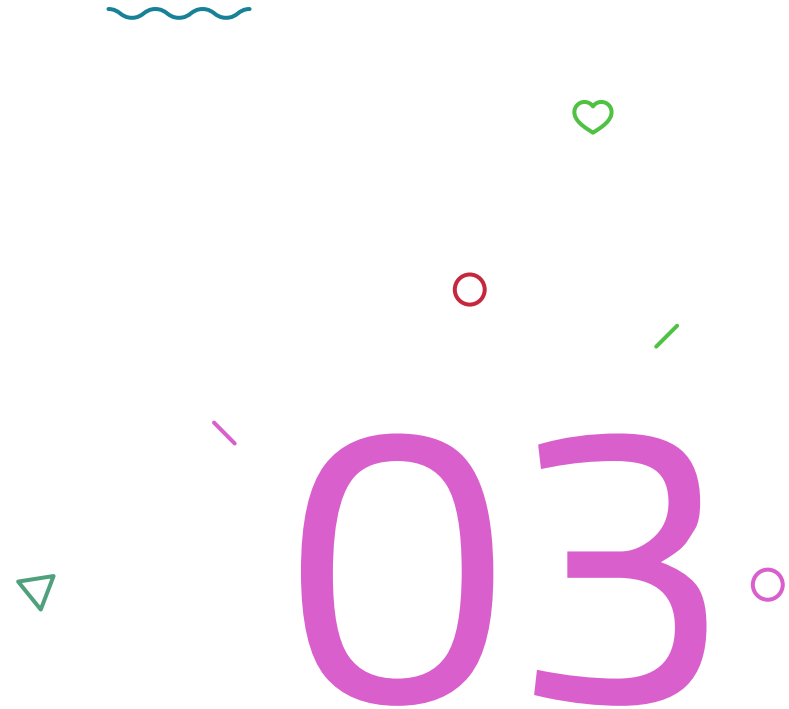
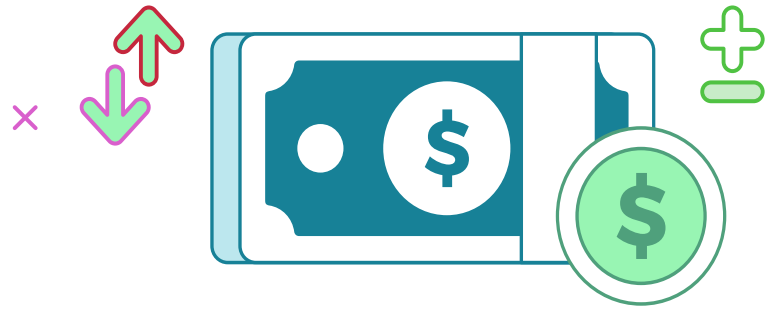
## Scholarship Universe (new)

- Better user interface
- Doesn't crash

The screenshot shows the Scholarship Universe dashboard. At the top, there's a red header with the logo and a search bar. Below the header is a green banner that says "Qualify for more scholarships by clicking here." The dashboard is divided into several sections:

- Dashboard:** A sidebar on the left with navigation icons for Dashboard, Questions, Scholarships, Applications, Awards, My Docs, and Feedback.
- Scholarship Opportunities:** A card showing "1977 Open & Future Scholarships" worth "\$1,837,929".
- Your Universe:** A funnel chart showing the progression of scholarship opportunities:
  - 44 Scholarships Needing Questions Answered To Qualify (Partial Matches)
  - 104 Scholarships You Can Currently Apply To (Matches)
  - 0 Scholarships With Applications In Progress
- Open & Future Matches:** A red funnel section showing "104 Scholarships" worth "\$125,519".
- Applied Scholarships:** A dark red section showing "1 Scholarship" worth "\$1,000".
- In Review:** A dark red section showing "0 Scholarships" worth "\$0".
- Actions Required:** A section with a dropdown menu set to "All Types" and a message "No records available." with "0 - 0 of 0 Items".

# Our event

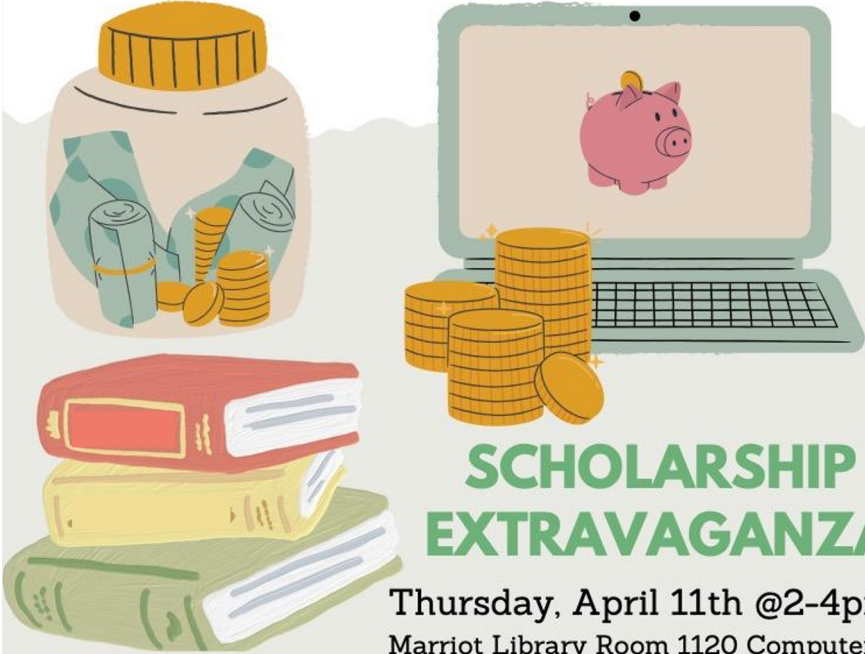


# What we did

Apr. 11, 2024:

- Held an event open to all students at the U
- Students tested the Scholarship Universe portal and then filled out a feedback form
- Students were incentivized with food and the possibility to win an Amazon gift card
- We had 33 people show to the event


**HELP US TEST A NEW SCHOLARSHIP PORTAL FOR A CHANCE TO  
WIN PRIZES BY  
APPLYING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS!**



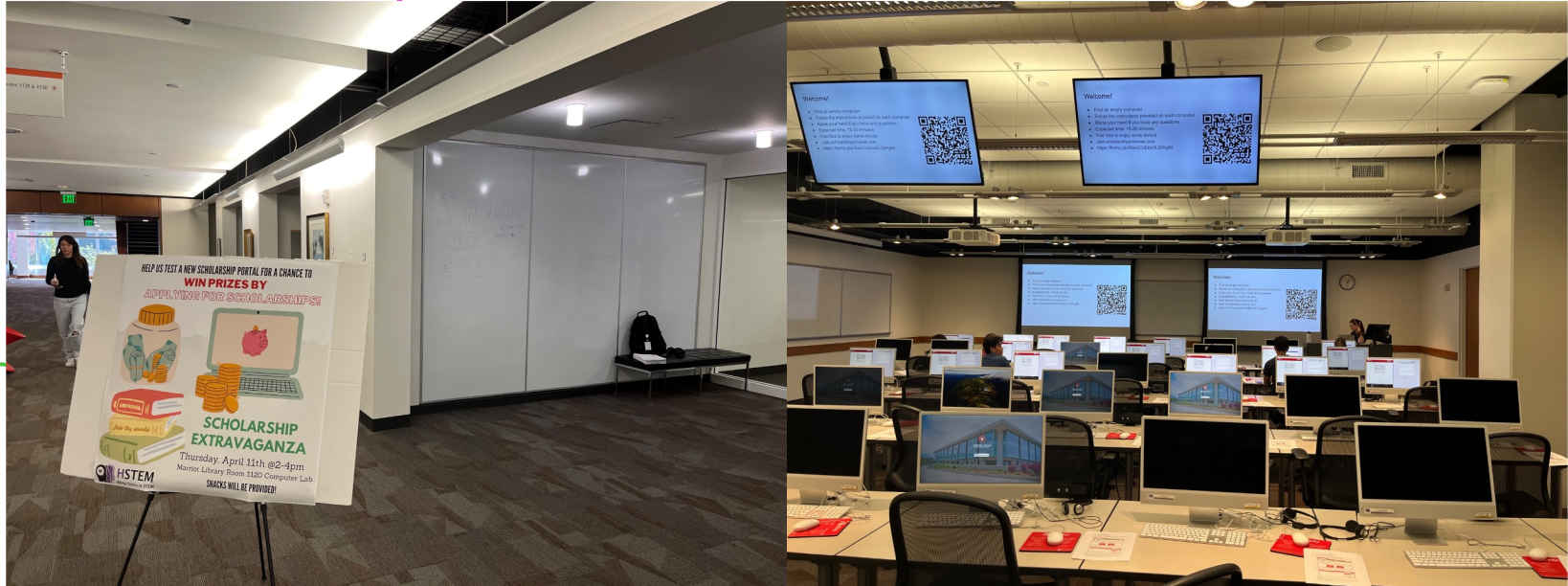
**SCHOLARSHIP  
EXTRAVAGANZA**

Thursday, April 11th @2-4pm  
Marriot Library Room 1120 Computer Lab

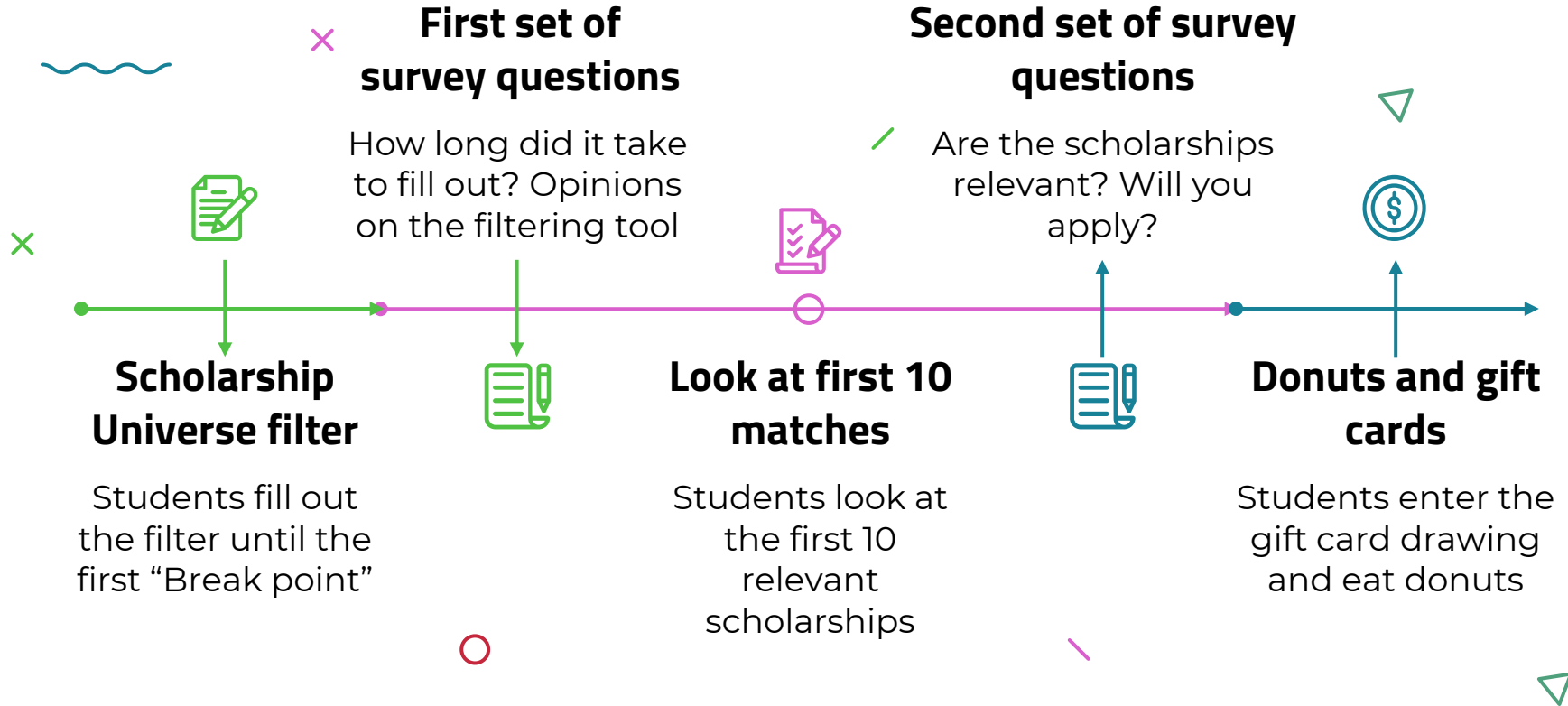
**SNACKS WILL BE PROVIDED!**

 **HSTEM**  
Being Human in STEM

# Photos from the event



# How the event worked



# Data Analysis/ Discussion



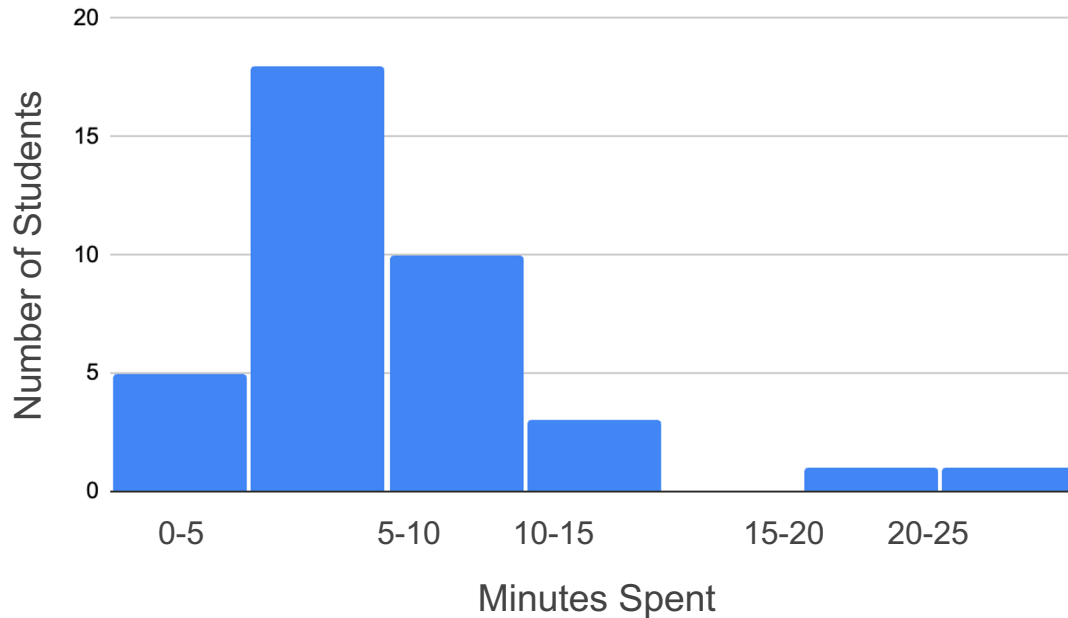
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# Filtering: Efficiency



TIME SPENT (min)



**Avg time: 9 min 40 sec,  
Med. time: 8 min**

**3 outliers: 19, 26, and 30  
minutes**

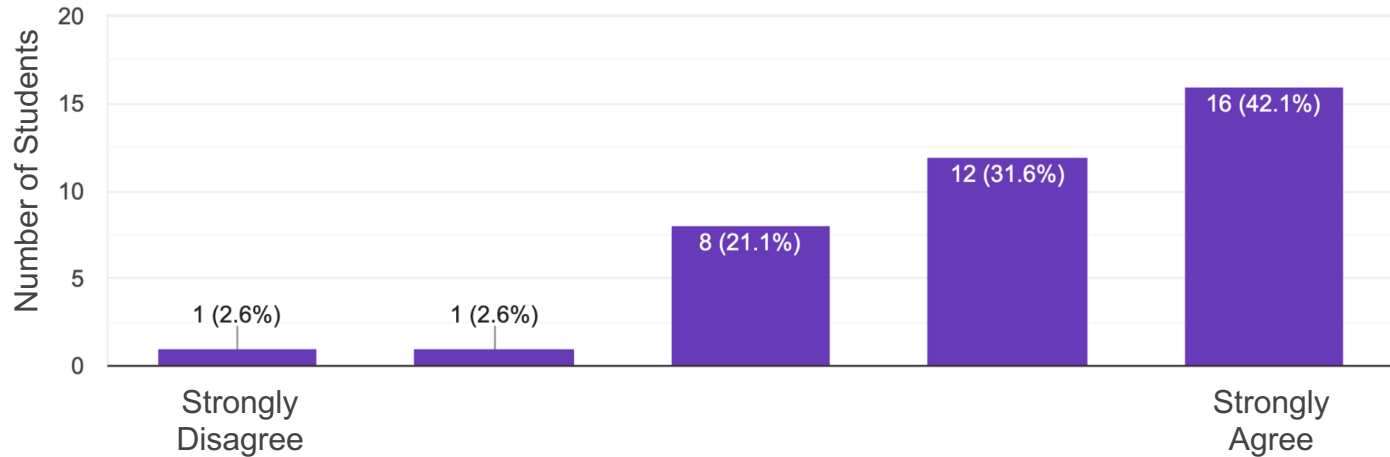
Scholarship Universe  
filtering time was  $\frac{1}{3}$  that  
of Academic Works on  
average



# Filtering: Was the Required Time Appropriate?

About 74% of students agreed that the time to answer the questions was appropriate.

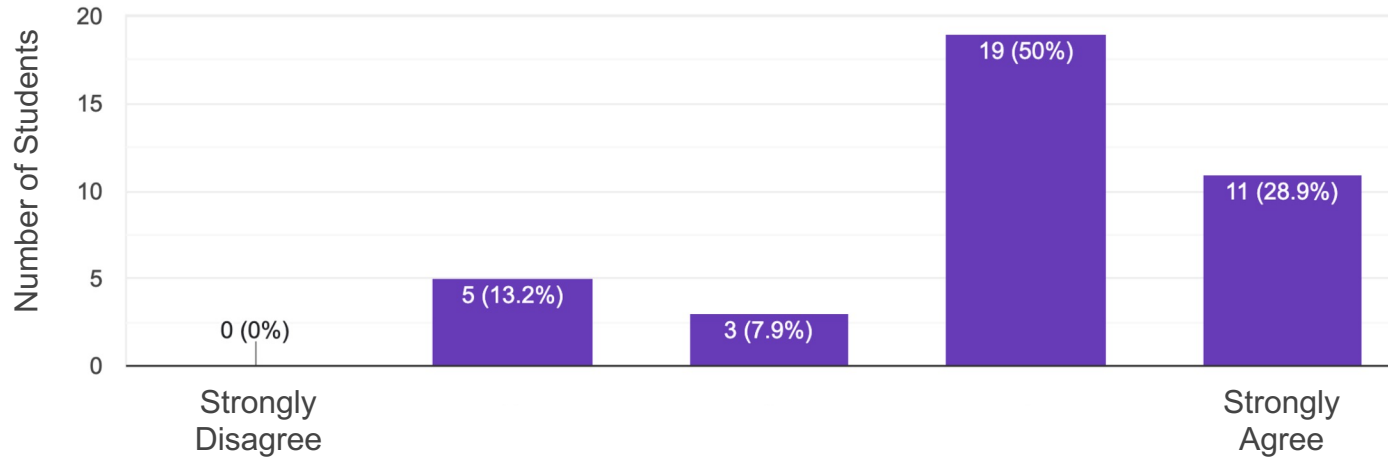
The time it took to answer the questions felt appropriate.



# Filtering: User Interface Experience

80% of students felt that the user interface was easy to navigate.

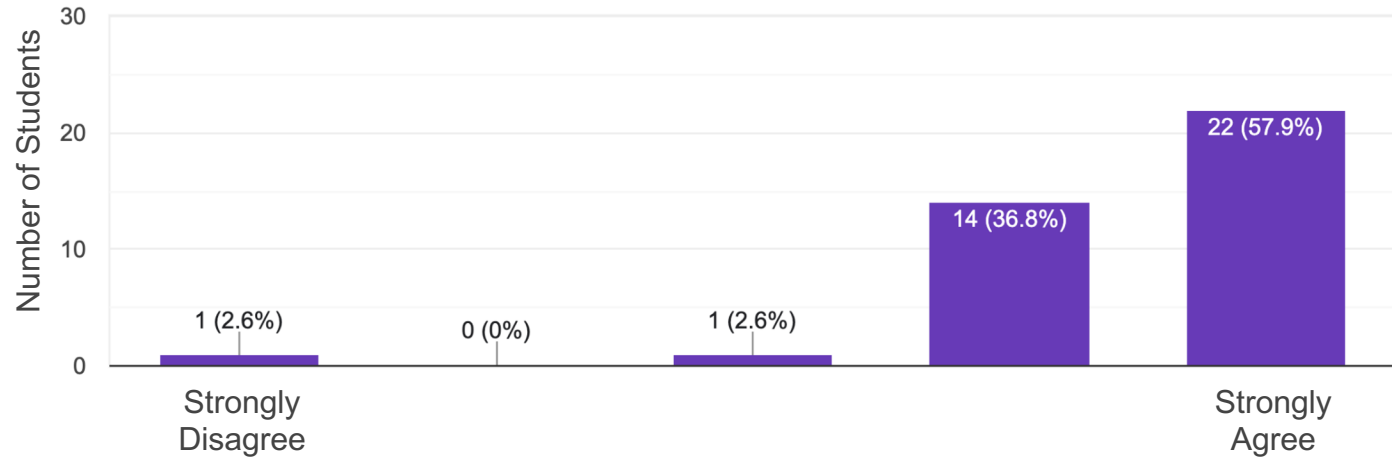
**The user interface was easy to navigate.**



# Filtering: Clarity of Questions

95% of students felt that the questions they were asked were clear.

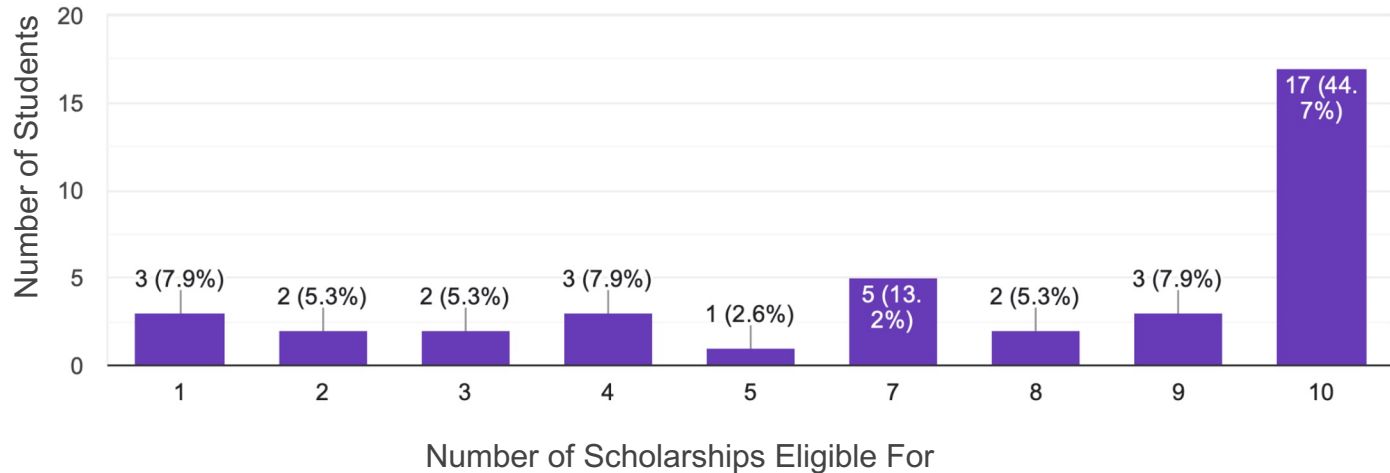
**The questions were clear.**



# Scholarships: How Many Were Applicable?

71% of students were eligible for at least 7 of the 10 “most relevant” scholarships they matched with.

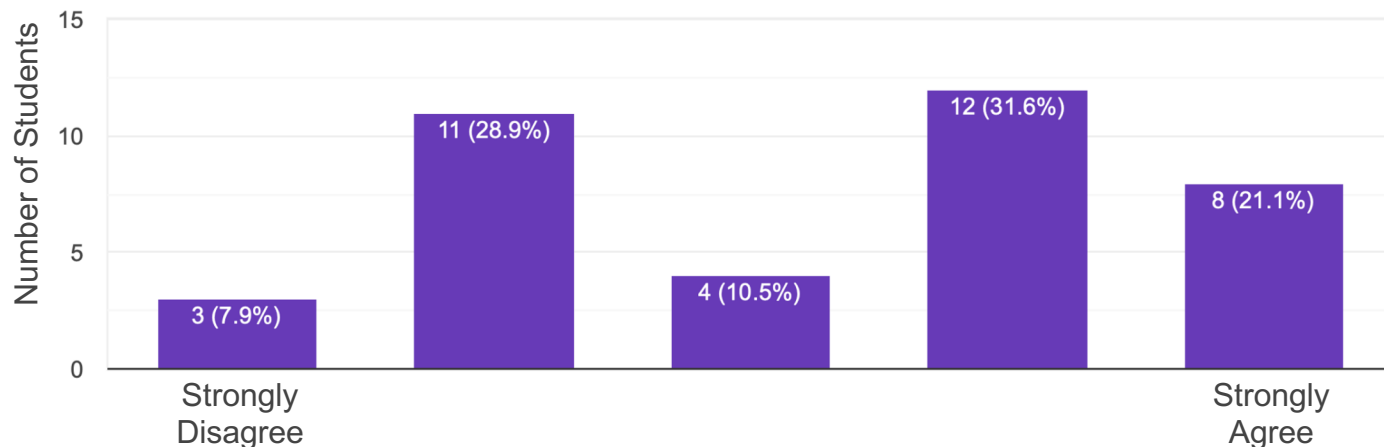
**Of the first 10 scholarships shown, how many are you eligible for?**



# Scholarships: How Many Will You Apply To?

53% of students were either likely or extremely likely to apply to the scholarships recommended to them.

**I am likely to apply for some of these scholarships.**

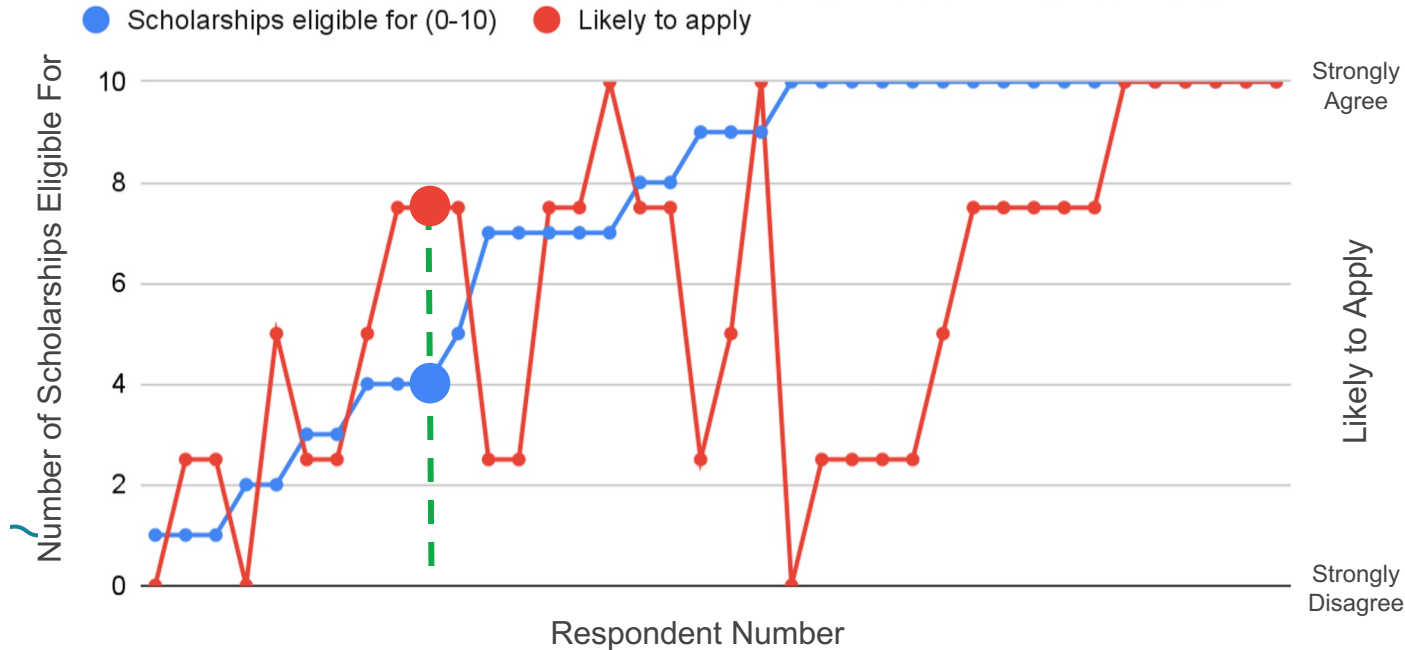


# Matched Scholarships



- Students with more matches were more likely to apply
- 35% of students with 10 eligible scholarships did not feel likely to apply

## Number of Eligible Scholarships vs. Likely to Apply



# Conclusion and Suggestions



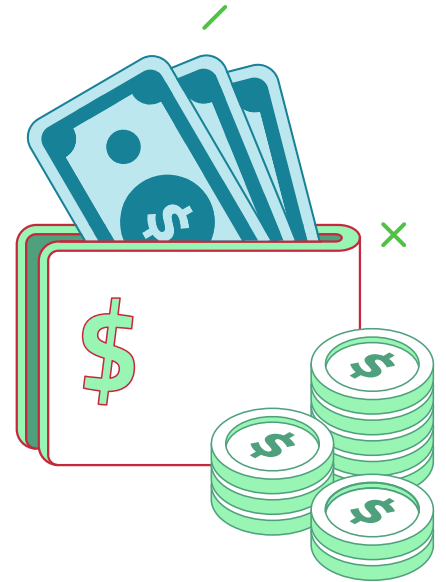
05

# How is Scholarship Universe Doing?

We found that it is more effective than the current portal for connecting students to scholarship opportunities

Improvements from the previous portal:

- Less time to filter
- Easier to use
- Questions more relevant





# Suggested Improvements from the Survey



## Eliminate repetitive questions

Residency questions in particular



## Add more scholarship information

Add scholarship descriptions so students don't have to go to another site



## Shorten long lists

Alphabetized lists for religious organizations, professional groups, etc



## Non-listed information

Allow students to add information that may not be in a list



## Cater to international students








Many international students are asked unclear questions



# Our Recommendations

<p><b>Have professors promote departmental scholarships in their classes</b></p>	<p><b>dates, application processes, application questions between departments or colleges</b></p>	<p><b>Line of communication between students, admin via a student advisory committee</b></p>
<p>Go to professors' office hours</p>	<p>Look for sources of funding both internally and externally- U of U FWC</p>	<p>Provide feedback for application processes—this helps admin!</p>

○  
**Students**  
**Faculty**

-  **Dashboard**
-  Questions
-  Scholarships
-  Applications
-  Awards
-  My Docs
-  Feedback

# Thanks!

Special thanks to Anthony Jones for meeting with us during the FAFSA fiasco

And special thanks to the Financial Wellness Center for advertising our event!

## Any questions?

