

Counting College Students

Whether you live on or off campus or at home with family, you need to be counted in the 2020 Census. You should count yourself where you live and sleep most of the time, even if you are temporarily staying elsewhere.

Student Housing Facilities

If you live in student housing—on or off campus—U.S. Census Bureau employees will work with a representative from your building to ensure you are counted in the 2020 Census.

College, university, and seminary student housing includes residence halls, apartments where students enter “by the bed” leases (i.e., single-liability leases), and fraternity and sorority housing recognized by the college or university.

The point of contact for your student housing facility may distribute the census questionnaire to your room for you to complete, or the school will provide the Census Bureau with directory information about you.

Even if you are away from your student housing due to your school being temporarily closed due to COVID-19, you will be counted at the student housing where you usually live.

Private Residences

If you live in an off-campus residence that is not specifically for college students—such as a private house or apartment—you should respond to the 2020 Census online, by phone, or by mail. The Census Bureau will send an invitation in the mail to your household to respond to the census starting in mid-March 2020.

You should count yourself at your off-campus address even if you go elsewhere for school breaks or if you are temporarily staying elsewhere, including with your parents, if your school is closed due to COVID-19.

Statistics from the 2020 Census will impact funding for critical college student programs including:

- > School safety.
- > Mental health services.
- > Student wellness programs.
- > Federal Pell Grant Program.
- > Adult education grants.
- > Agriculture, science, and engineering education.
- > Medicaid.

Your college community can use census statistics to:

- > Support community initiatives.
- > Demonstrate need to help nonprofit organizations and advocacy groups.
- > Decide whether to expand college facilities.

Note: Relatives you may stay with during school breaks or during temporary school closures should not count you in their census questionnaires.

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For more information:

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One person from your shared apartment or house should fill out the census questionnaire on behalf of your household and include information on everyone who lives there. If you are not sure whether your roommate has already responded for you, please respond and include everyone who normally lives with you at school. We have tools to unduplicate your responses. We would rather eliminate duplicates than miss you or your roommates entirely.

If you live off campus with your family throughout the school year, your family should count you on its census questionnaire.

International Students

International students living in the United States should follow the appropriate guidance for their housing situation. College students who are living outside the United States while attending college on April 1, 2020, are not counted in the census.

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