

It's time. Make yourself count.

Census 2010



College Students and the 2010 Census

Q. How does the census benefit students, colleges, and local communities?

A. The census count affects the distribution of educational funding, provides statistics that form the basis for demographic research, helps employers understand where the next generation of workers is coming from, and more.

An accurate census of colleges and universities also helps the communities where campuses are located receive their fair share of federal program funds for maintaining roads and public transit, hiring police officers, and other important social services.

In addition, the Census Bureau considers college students to be excellent candidates for hundreds of thousands of temporary jobs. Recruiting for 2010 census jobs has begun at Local Census offices across the country. Peak workload will take place in Spring 2010. For more information, see www.2010censusjobs.gov.

Q. Where should college students be counted?

A. The general rule is that people are counted where they are regularly living as of April 1, 2010.

- Students who live on campus should be counted there, not at their parents' home.
- Students who live off-campus in an apartment or shared housing should be counted at that address.
- Students who live at home with their parents should be counted there like any other resident of the household.

Q. Who should be counted?

A. Every 10 years, as mandated by the Constitution, the census counts everyone living in the United States, regardless of citizenship or legal status.

Every student who is living in the U.S. on April 1, 2010 should be counted, including foreign students. Students who are not living in the U.S. as of April 1 – such as students spending a semester or year overseas – will not be counted.

Q. How are college students counted?

A. Students who live off-campus will be counted like everyone else. They should be included on the census form that is sent to their residence in March 2010.

Students who live on-campus are counted through a special program called Group Quarters Enumeration. Census officials will work with college and university officials in advance to make plans for census takers to visit campuses in April and early May 2010. Students will fill out a special census form (called an Individual Census Report) that they can place in a sealed envelope and return to census workers. Census Bureau staff may supplement these forms with information from a college's administrative records if they believe there has been a problem with participation. All administrative record information is kept strictly confidential under federal census laws.

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Q. [What keeps students from being counted twice?](#)

A. Clear instructions to parents and students should minimize the number of students who are listed both at home and on campus. In addition, the Census Bureau has back-up procedures designed to identify students who have been included in two places and to make corrections before results are tabulated.

Q. [What can communities and community-based organizations do to help ensure that college students are appropriately counted at their college-town residences?](#)

A. Community leaders can work with campus administrators and student leaders to help make sure that all students who live in their communities are counted accurately. Community and campus leaders can work together to distribute "Be Counted" information on campus, host student events, and set up a census information center.