



## FAQ Template for College and University Students

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*This is a template. Please adapt it to include the specifics of your campus. The information below addresses questions that college students, in particular, might have about the census. For additional information about the census, visit the [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov) and see [factsheets here](#).*

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### **When is Census Day?**

Wednesday, April 1, 2020. The day will be marked with events across the country, but the most important thing to remember about this date is that you should respond to the census with information about where you live most of the time as of April 1st.<sup>1</sup>

### **Who participates?**

Individuals living in every household in the U.S. are legally required to submit information for everyone living in their household as of Census Day. This includes houses, apartments, townhomes, and any other dwellings.<sup>2</sup> College students living in dorms or other on-campus housing are usually counted by their school.

### **How do we participate?**

In March 2020, the U.S. Census Bureau will send postcards or letters to every household with a link to complete the census online. Should you lose the postcard with the web link, you will still be able to respond online if you provide your address. While responding online is the preferred method, participants will also be able to submit a paper version or call the Census Bureau and provide responses over the telephone. Households that do not respond will receive reminders in the mail. In time, a Census Bureau enumerator will go to homes where responses have not been submitted and ask for responses at the door. Owners or managers of apartment buildings<sup>3</sup> are required to assist enumerators in gaining access to the doors of apartment units when needed.

### **What if I live on campus?**

--Campus-specific information here--

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<sup>1</sup> <https://2020census.gov/en>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/13/221>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/program-management/planning-docs/2020-oper-plan.pdf>

### **What if I live off-campus?**

You are responsible for completing the census if you live in an apartment, house, townhome, or any other type of off-campus housing. Households with roommates living together should communicate with one another to make sure everyone's information is accurately included on one census form (online, phone, or paper) before submitting. Even if another address is listed on your driver's license, I.D., voter registration, or even your school records (such as your family's address), you should still be counted where you live during the school year and not at another address.<sup>4</sup> If you have family filling out the census at a different address, be sure to communicate with them to make sure they know that you will be counted where you live during the school year.

### **Where should I be counted if I don't live in the area year-round?**

You should be counted where you are living the majority of the time throughout the calendar year, as of April 1, 2020. Since the school year encompasses most of the calendar year, you should be counted where you live during the school year and not at another address you may have on record elsewhere.

### **Will the census be made available in multiple languages?**

In addition to English, the census will be accessible, in all formats, in 12 other languages: Spanish, Chinese (Simplified), Vietnamese, Korean, Russian, Arabic, Tagalog, Polish, French, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, and Japanese. Questionnaire assistance will also be made available online and by telephone (which will include both Mandarin and Cantonese). A language glossary, along with both video and printed guides, will also be produced and distributed in a total of 59 different languages.<sup>5</sup> Enumerators that are taking down responses at peoples' doors will also have a printed language identification card to help participants identify the primary language that they speak, which in turn will help the enumerators point participants towards resources produced in that language. Unfortunately, the census will not be available in Somali, Hmong, and Oromo.

### **Why should we participate?**

The federal government allocates almost \$900 billion annually to states and local governments based on their census data to fund programs like the school lunch program, Pell grants, special education funding, housing vouchers, and Medicaid.<sup>6</sup> From this, Minnesota receives almost \$15.5 billion annually.<sup>7</sup> On a per person basis, that is \$2,796/year or almost \$28,000/person/decade. Seats in the U.S. House are allocated based on population numbers taken from the census and businesses make decisions on where to invest or expand based on the data. The majority of demographic data used in research and analysis, including the information used in your own college courses, comes from the census.

### **Do I have to put my name on my census form?**

No.

### **Who gets to see my census responses?**

It's illegal for anyone but the Census Bureau to use your information or share your personal census responses. [You can learn more about the details here.](#) This means that the Census Bureau would not be allowed to share an individual's census information with a local housing authority or a federal agency like ICE.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2015/05/20/2015-12118/2020-decennial-census-residence-rule-and-residence-situations>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www2.census.gov/cac/nac/meetings/2018-06/kim-language-services.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://mn.gov/admin/demography/census2020/why-important/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://gwipp.gwu.edu/counting-dollars-2020-role-decennial-census-geographic-distribution-federal-funds>

## Is a census worker coming to my house or apartment?

Many do not feel comfortable talking to someone from Census at their door. Fortunately, you can reduce the chance of a census worker coming to your home if your household responds to the census online before enumerators begin going door-to-door.

## How can I get involved?

Work for the Census:

The U.S. Census Bureau is hiring! Census field jobs are a great gig-economy position that offers flexible hours and good [pay](#). You will likely work near your home and it does not require access to a vehicle. The requirement is that you have to be 18+, a U.S. citizen, and able to pass a criminal background check. To learn more about jobs with the Census Bureau, go to [www.2020census.gov/en/jobs](http://www.2020census.gov/en/jobs)

Volunteer Locally:

The census always relies heavily on volunteers seeking to make an impact and gain civic engagement experience. There is likely a Complete Count Committee (CCC) near you that you can be a part of. To find your nearest CCC, visit <https://mn.gov/admin/demography/census2020/get-involved/>.



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- To learn more about the 2020 Census, visit <https://mncampuscompact.org/what-we-do/initiatives/2020-census-resources/> or <https://mn.gov/admin/2020-census/> and follow @MN2020Census on Twitter.