

WHAT SURPRISED STUDENTS ABOUT ON-CAMPUS LIVING?

We partnered with ACUHO-I to ask residents what surprised them about living on campus. From 38,000 early comments, students shared reflections that highlight common themes and illustrate the everyday value of on-campus housing.



Facilities

30% of comments mentioned facilities, including rooms, bathrooms, common spaces, dining, and amenities.

"I personally love to hang out in lounges when I need to focus on my work."

"How cleanly the communal bathrooms are. Props to the custodians!"

"My room was actually a bit more spacious than I thought it would be"

"I was surprised how cozy you could make your dorm and how you can make it a great environment for you and your roommate. **It's our comfort place.**"

"Using the group bathrooms is not that bad."

"How comfortable a twin XL bed can be."



Community

14% of comments mentioned community, including connections, respect, kindness, and fun.

"I expected it to be just a place to stay, but between meeting people from different backgrounds, engaging in events, and the support from the housing staff, **it genuinely feels like a second home.**"

"The importance of building a community early: Getting to know your neighbors and participating in dorm activities can make campus life more enjoyable and help you build friendships."

"All of the different other residents I would meet. I have made so many meaningful connections through on-campus housing that I did not think would be as important as they are."



Convenience

11% of comments mentioned convenience, like location, proximity to class, access, or basic ease of living.

"A meal plan option being downstairs, like you don't even have to walk outside."

"How convenient and beneficial it would be towards my education"

"**How accessible everything is.** When I first moved in, I quickly realized that I could get by just fine without needing to really leave campus (as I don't have a car)."

"All classes are within a 20 min walk"

"How close everything is. And getting lots of exercise by just walking to class"



People

Many students wrote about the importance or impact of people, including friends, roommates, and staff.

"Having a good roommate, supportive RAs, or a strong sense of community can make a huge difference. I did not expect how much small things like casual conversations in common areas or finding evening/ weekend study/walking buddies within the apartments **make campus feel more like home**"

"How it helps you a lot in making new friends but also growing up and being more organized and responsible."

"How much my RA truly cares"

"How reasonable housing staff are"

"Friendliness of staff and RAs"