

Results of Housing Survey: Spring 2001

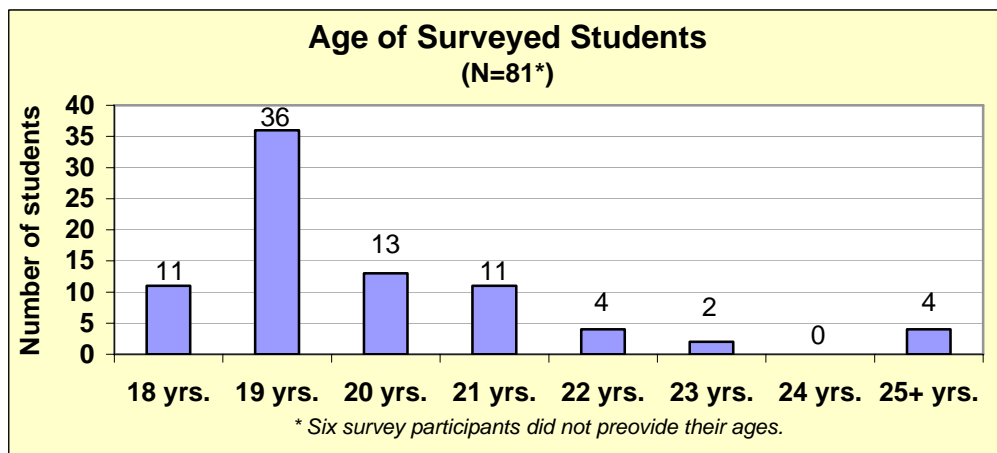
I. Introduction

During spring quarter 2001, Resident Assistants (RA's) administered a short survey to a random sample of students living in on-campus housing. The survey collected data using five-point rating scales, multiple-choice questions, a ranking section, and a field for narrative comments. Topics addressed by survey items included student demographics, satisfaction with various housing issues and services, opinions about policies, use of resources, reasons for choosing to live on-campus, prioritization of preferences in room assignment, and food purchasing habits. Housing staff developed the survey instrument, selected the sample, and devised the sampling and administration procedures. The Office of Institutional Research and Planning assisted with the data entry and analysis of the survey results. A summary of the information collected by the survey is what follows in the remainder of this report.

II. Participant Demographics

Eighty-seven students completed the Housing Survey, however, many students chose to skip some items on the questionnaire. Unless otherwise noted, the percentages provided throughout this report are the valid percentages, (i.e. they are percentages based on the number of students who responded to a particular item); the number of missing responses is provided where applicable.

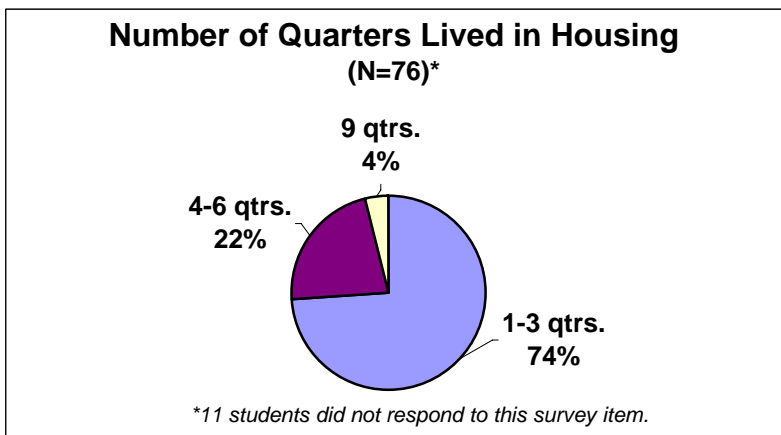
The participants ranged in age from 18 to 39, with the median age being 19. Nearly three-quarters of the respondents were twenty years old or younger.



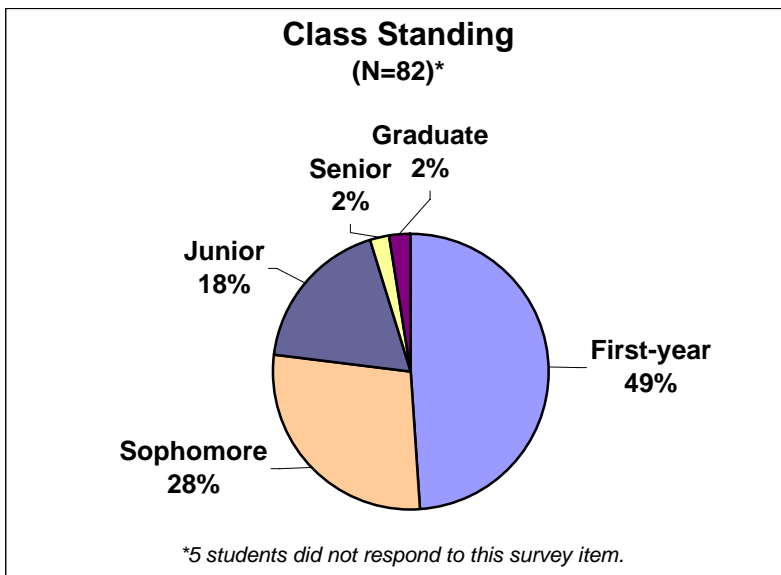
Fifty-four percent of the survey participants were female, and 46% were male. (Note: three students did not disclose their gender.)

Fifty students (59% of respondents) reported that high school was the last school they had attended, twenty (24%) had most recently attended a community college, and fifteen (18%) had last attended a four-year college. (Note: two students did not provide this information.)

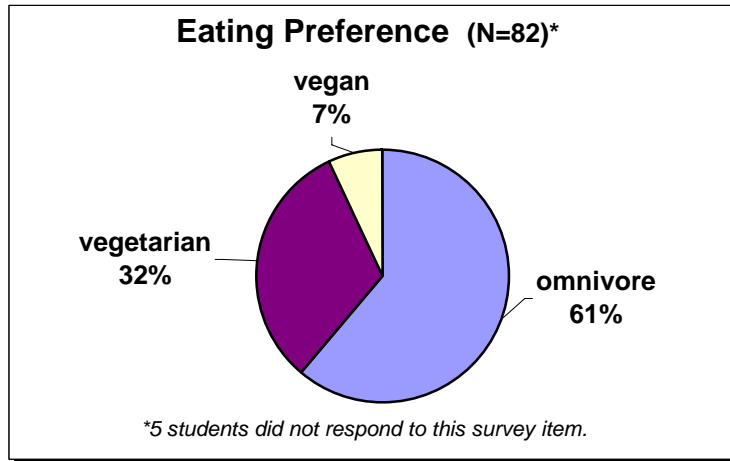
Nearly three-quarters of the students had lived in Housing for one academic year or less, the following chart depicts how long students reported living in Housing.



First-year students were the largest group of respondents according to their class standing.



With regards to eating preferences, fifty omnivores, twenty-six vegetarians, and six vegan-vegetarians completed the survey. Fifty percent of female housing residents were vegetarian or vegan, whereas only 28% of male students were vegetarian, (*this difference was significant at $p = .045$, 95% confidence*).



Of the 73 students who revealed in which building they lived, A-dorm was the most common response, representing 22% of the participants. Another 19% of those surveyed reported living in dorms B, E, or F, which were the drug/alcohol free dorms. Six percent lived in dorms G or H, (the quiet dorms), and 4% lived in the Mods. The remaining 49% were scattered throughout the other dorms in small numbers.

III. Housing Choices

The survey asked students to select the reason(s) that they chose to live on campus; five response categories were provided. Convenience was by far the most popular reason to live on campus.

Why did you choose to live on campus?*	% and Number of Students Who Selected Each Reason (N=85**)
Convenience	86% (N=73)
Friends	38% (N=32)
Cost	25% (N=21)
Parents	20% (N=17)
Activities	18% (N=15)

* Categories are not mutually exclusive, since many students selected more than one reason for choosing to live on campus.

** Two students skipped this question and did not select any reasons for choosing to live on campus.

Significantly more ($p \dots .04$) first-year students (24%) selected “Activities” as a reason they chose to live on campus, than other classes (7%). No other differences were revealed by class standing, food preference, or gender in the reasons that students chose to live on campus.

Housing residents ranked a series of nine room assignment criteria in order of importance. Their rankings were assigned weighted scores, then the weighted scores were summed to determine the order of importance for this sample of students as a whole.

Based on weighted scores, the most important room assignment criterion was the ability to choose the type of room; the ability to select particular roommates followed closely behind. Twenty-seven students rated each of these criteria as having the top importance. The following table illustrates the order of importance of the room assignment criteria to the group.

Room Assignment Criteria	Weighted Score of Importance* (N=85**)
Room preference (4-person apartment, 2-person studio, etc.)	589
Roommate preference (request to live with friends)	577
Preference for cleanliness	452
Preference for study habits	417
Preference for smoke-free housing	406
Preference for quiet housing	395
Preference for alcohol and drug free	366
Preference for food (vegan, vegetarian, omnivore)	312
Preference for First Year Experience	252

* *Weighted score for each criterion based on student rankings of importance.*

** *Two students did not complete the room assignment criteria-ranking question.*

It is important to keep in mind that the group ranking scores do not necessarily represent what was considered the most important room assignment criterion for each individual. Many of these criteria apply primarily to specific students, (e.g. non-smokers, vegetarians, first-year students, or students with strong feelings about alcohol/drug abstinence). For example, it is unlikely that a student who smokes cigarettes would place a high priority on having smoke-free housing, or that a junior-level student would place any room assignment consideration on “preference for First Year Experience.” The following table presents the room assignment criteria from another perspective. In this version of the results, the number of students choosing each criterion as the *most* important is presented.

Room Assignment Criteria	% and Number of Students Who Selected Each Criterion as the Most Important (N=85*)
Room preference (4-person apartment, 2-person studio, etc.)	27 (32%)
Roommate preference (request to live with friends)	27 (32%)
Preference for alcohol and drug free	10 (12%)
Preference for smoke-free housing	9 (11%)
Preference for food (vegan, vegetarian, omnivore)	6 (7%)
Preference for First Year Experience	5 (6%)
Preference for study habits	4 (5%)
Preference for cleanliness	3 (4%)
Preference for quiet housing	3 (4%)

* *Categories in this version are not mutually exclusive, since four students selected more than one assignment criterion as the most important; total percentage will be greater than 100%.*

When the results are viewed in this way, the abilities to select specific room types and roommates still place at the top of the priority list, but other factors shift in their apparent importance. Factors such as preference for alcohol/drug free housing, smoke-free housing, matching food preference, and First Year

Experience move higher up the priority list. It appears that although the factors may be of lesser importance for the group as a whole, when these issues do apply to students, they are very important.

Based on t-tests of mean weighted scores for the ranking variables, some differences were revealed in how various subgroups ranked the room selection criteria based on class standing and dormitory type, but no differences in room selection criteria ranking were discovered by resident gender or food preference.

First-year students rated the ability to choose a roommate at a higher average priority than other classes of students.

Room Selection Criteria*	Average priority ranking for First-year students**	Average priority ranking for all other classes combined
Roommate preference (request to live with friends)	#2	#4

* The ranking scale for this question was as follows: 1=most important through 9=least important.

** Difference in average ranking was significant at $p \dots .04$.

Residents of A-dorm (First Year Experience) assigned higher average priority to “preference for First Year Experience” than residents of other dorms. This was not surprising since A-dorm is designated as a first-year student dormitory.

Room Selection Criteria*	Average priority ranking for A-dorm**	Average priority ranking for all other dorms
Preference for First-Year Experience	#5	#7

* The ranking scale for this question was as follows: 1=most important through 9=least important.

** Difference in average ranking was significant at $p \dots .01$.

Residents of dorms B, E, and F (the drug and alcohol-free dorms) also ranked some of the nine room selection criteria differently than residents of other dorms. Residents of B, E, and F gave higher priority to “preference for alcohol and drug free” and “preference for smoke-free” housing. They assigned lower priority to “preference for food.”

Room Selection Criteria*	Average priority ranking for dorms B, E, F**	Average priority ranking for all other dorms
Preference for Alcohol and Drug Free	#3	#6
Preference for Smoke Free Housing	#4	#6
Preference for food (vegan, vegetarian, omnivore)	#8	#6

* The ranking scale for this question was as follows: 1=most important through 9=least important.

** Differences in average ranking were significant at $p \dots .01$.

Residents of dorms G and H (the designated quiet dorms) assigned higher priority to preferences for quiet housing and smoke-free housing, and they gave lower priority to preferences for study habits and First Year Experience than other residents.

Room Selection Criteria*	Average priority ranking for dorms G and H**	Average priority ranking for all other dorms
Preference for Quiet Housing	#3	#5
Preference for Smoke Free Housing	#3	#6
Preference for study habits	#6	#5
Preference for First Year Experience	#9	#7

* The ranking scale for this question was as follows: 1=most important through 9=least important.

** Differences in average ranking were significant at $p \dots .01$.

IV. Living Environment Issues

Students revealed general satisfaction with most aspects of their living environment based on their agreement or disagreement with a series of statements. There were only 4 residents (5%) who did not feel safe and secure living in Housing, and 7 students (8%) who thought public areas in the Housing community are not well maintained. Only ten students (12%) found the condition of their rooms upon check-in to differ from their expectations. One aspect of the Housing environment was less well received by residents; laundry facilities failed to meet the expectations of 53% of the surveyed students.

Sample Mean	Living Environment Issues	1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Neither disagree nor agree	4 Agree	5 Strongly Agree
4.07	I feel safe and secure living in Housing. (N=87)	1%	3%	17%	44%	35%
3.92	The condition of my room met my expectations when I checked in. (N=87)	2%	9%	16%	39%	33%
3.79	The public areas around the Housing community are well maintained. (N=86)	0%	8%	30%	36%	26%
2.69	The laundry facilities meet my expectations. (N=87)	22%	31%	15%	21%	12%

* Totals for some scale items may not equal exactly 100% due to rounding.

Only two differences were discovered between means for subgroups of residents when tests were conducted on the above-mentioned variables. First-year students disagreed more strongly that laundry facilities met their expectations, as opposed to residents with other class standing.

Agree/Disagree Scale Question*	Mean for First-year students**	Mean for all other classes combined
The laundry facilities meet my expectations.	2.30	2.90

* The scale for this question was as follows: 1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neither disagree nor agree, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree.

** Differences in means were significant at $p \dots .04$.

The other significant difference was for residents of the drug and alcohol-free dorms who expressed less agreement that they felt safe and secure living in Housing than residents of other dorms.

Agree/Disagree Scale Question*	Mean for dorms B, E, F**	Mean for all other dorms
I feel safe and secure living in Housing.	3.57	4.17

* The scale for this question was as follows: 1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neither disagree nor agree, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree.

** Differences in means were significant at $p \dots .02$.

Most students (67%) reported that noise and music levels were acceptable in their areas, and thirteen students (15%) felt that noise levels were unacceptable. When they had a noise concern, over half of the students (51%) agreed that they approached the resident making the noise and asked him/her to turn it down. Twenty-five students (29%) disagreed with this statement, and most of them probably found other ways to address or ignore the situation.

Sample Mean	Living Environment Issues	1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Neither disagree nor agree	4 Agree	5 Strongly Agree
3.74	The noise and music levels are acceptable for me in my area. (N=87)	8%	7%	18%	37%	30%
3.33	I can accomplish my school work during quiet hours in Housing. (N=86)	12%	14%	23%	33%	19%
3.33	When I have a noise concern I approach the resident who is creating the noise and ask them to turn it down. (N=87)	8%	21%	21%	31%	20%
3.15	My living area is conducive to studying. (N=87)	5%	26%	32%	23%	14%

* Totals for some scale items may not equal exactly 100% due to rounding.

While 51% of the students reported being able to accomplish schoolwork during quiet hours in Housing, only 37% agreed that their living areas were conducive to studying. Conversely, 27 students (31%) revealed that their living areas were not appropriate for studying, and 22 students (26%) were unable to accomplish schoolwork during quiet hours. These numbers are high enough to warrant some consideration, although one cannot determine what other variables might have affected student responses. For example, students may not have been able to accomplish their schoolwork during quiet hours, because their workload was too great to be completed during that limited timeframe. Thus, their responses may reflect an issue of program workload, more than any opinion as to the appropriateness of current quiet hour policies. Also, since nearly one-third did not find their own living areas conducive to studying, some of them may have discovered other areas on or off campus that worked better for them. One cannot conclude whether students felt their living areas were not conducive to studying due to some aspect of the on-campus Housing environment in particular, or whether it was due to roommates, cleanliness, or other distractions that would have been present even if their living areas were off-campus.

Some additional information about studying and noise issues was revealed from statistical tests comparing the means of those questions for different subgroups of residents, the significant findings are presented in the next three tables.

When compared to residents of other dorms combined, the residents of A-dorm (First Year Experience) had significantly lower mean scores for two statements related to their ability to accomplish schoolwork in the Housing environment.

Agree/Disagree Scale Questions*	Mean for A-dorm**	Mean for all other dorms
I can accomplish my schoolwork during quiet hours in Housing.	2.81	3.55
My living area is conducive to studying.	2.44	3.40

* The scale for these questions was as follows: 1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neither disagree nor agree, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree.

** Differences in means were significant at p04.

Conversely, residents of the drug and alcohol-free dorms reported significantly higher mean scores for the same two statements related to studying.

Agree/Disagree Scale Questions*	Mean for dorms B, E, F**	Mean for all other dorms
I can accomplish my schoolwork during quiet hours in Housing.	3.93	3.26
My living area is conducive to studying.	3.79	3.05

* The scale for these questions was as follows: 1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neither disagree nor agree, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree.

** Differences in means were significant at p05.

As one might expect, mean scores for the subgroup of residents living in the designated quiet dorms were also significantly higher for the statements related to the ability to study than students living in other dorms. The analysis of means for these residents also indicated that they were more likely to address noise concerns directly with the source of the disturbance, when such situations arose.

Agree/Disagree Scale Questions*	Mean for dorms G & H**	Mean for all other dorms
I can accomplish my schoolwork during quiet hours in Housing.	4.50	3.32
My living area is conducive to studying.	4.25	3.13
When I have a noise concern I approach the resident who is creating the noise and ask them to turn it down.	4.50	3.26

* The scale for these questions was as follows: 1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neither disagree nor agree, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree.

** Differences in means were significant at p05.

V. Housing Community Issues

Over half of the housing residents (58%) agreed that they felt involved in and connected to their community, and only 16% disagreed.

Sample Mean	Housing Community Issues	1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Neither disagree nor agree	4 Agree	5 Strongly Agree
3.60	I feel involved and connected in my community. (N=87)	7%	9%	26%	32%	25%
3.53	I am a member of a diverse group and I feel Housing is a supportive environment. (N=85)	6%	8%	37%	26%	24%
3.36	Housing is providing the correct amount of social, recreational, and educational programming for Housing residents. (N=86)	4%	15%	33%	40%	9%

* Totals for some scale items may not equal exactly 100% due to rounding.

Exactly half of the respondents agreed that they were members of a diverse group and found Housing to be a supportive environment. There were 14% of the students that disagreed with this statement, but it is unclear if they did not consider themselves members of a diverse group, or if they did not feel that Housing was a supportive environment.

Statistical analysis revealed a difference in the way one subgroup of residents responded to this question. Residents of the drug and alcohol-free dorms had stronger disagreement with this statement than residents of other dorms.

Agree/Disagree Scale Question*	Mean for dorms B, E, F**	Mean for all other dorms
I am a member of a diverse group and I feel Housing is a supportive environment.	2.92	3.73

* The scale for this question was as follows: 1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neither disagree nor agree, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree.

** Differences in means were significant at $p \dots .02$.

Forty-two students (49%) concurred that Housing was providing the right amount of organized activities, and one-third of them had no opinion about this issue. Sixteen residents (19%) did not feel that the correct amount of social, recreational, and educational programming was provided by Housing, but questions remain about whether they feel too much or too little was provided and to which of the program types they were referring.

Residents of the designated quiet dorms had a significantly lower mean score for the statement that the correct amount of programming was being provided by Housing, and it is worth noting that all of the quiet dorm residents rated this question as “neither disagree nor agree.”

Agree/Disagree Scale Question*	Mean for dorms G & H**	Mean for all other dorms
Housing is providing the correct amount of social, recreational, and educational programming for Housing residents.	3.00	3.43

* The scale for this question was as follows: 1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neither disagree nor agree, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree.

** Differences in means were significant at $p \dots .01$.

VI. Intent to Return to Housing

When asked if they would be living in Housing next year, 49 students (59%) replied affirmatively, and 34 (41%) will not be returning to Housing. (Note: 4 students did not answer this question). Those who were not planning to return, were asked to choose from a list of reasons why they were not returning. The cost and the need for more privacy were the most common reasons selected.

If you will not be returning to Housing, why not?*	% and Number of Students Who Selected Each Reason (N=34)
Cost of room	59% (N=20)
Need more privacy	44% (N=15)
Campus rules/regulations	21% (N=7)
Housing condition	18% (N=6)
Graduating	6% (N=2)

* Categories are not mutually exclusive, since many students selected more than one reason for choosing to move off campus.

Statistical analysis of student intent to return to Housing next year provided some indication that residents of A-dorm were more likely to return than residents of other dorms, however, the observed significance of

this relationship was borderline at $p=.075$, 93% confidence. Eighty-one percent of the A-dorm residents planned to return to Housing, whereas 57% of other residents intended to return. No other differences in this variable were discovered based on student gender, class standing, or food preference.

VII. Use of Housing Services

The frequency with which Housing residents utilized specific Housing resources varied considerably. Forty-seven of the surveyed students (55%) used ResNet services, and half of the students participated in live music events at the Housing Community Center. Only 20 students (23%) reported using the Fishbowl Technology Center, 18 students (21%) used the planning calendar provided in the Housing Handbook, and only 15 residents (18%) reported using the Prime Time Academic Advising Office.

Sample Mean	Use of Housing Services	1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Neither disagree nor agree	4 Agree	5 Strongly Agree
3.43	I use the services provided on ResNet. (N=86)	13%	14%	19%	27%	28%
3.28	I participate in the Live Music events in the HCC. (N=87)	15%	12%	23%	32%	18%
2.46	I use the Fishbowl Technology Center in A building. (N=87)	28%	26%	23%	18%	5%
2.09	I use the planning calendar in my Housing Handbook. (N=86)	54%	17%	8%	8%	13%
1.94	I have used the Prime Time Academic Advising office in A building. (N=87)	53%	22%	8%	13%	5%

* Totals for some scale items may not equal exactly 100% due to rounding.

Some significant differences were identified with regards to the use of Housing services and resources. Fewer first-year students than other classes agreed that they used ResNet services; and similarly fewer residents of A-dorm than other dorms used ResNet.

I use the services provided on ResNet.*	
Mean for First-year students**	2.97
Mean for all other classes combined	4.00
Mean for A-dorm**	2.75
Mean for all other dorms	3.73

* The scale for this question was 1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neither disagree nor agree, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree.

** Differences in means were significant at $p \dots .01$.

In addition, residents of the quiet dorms had a mean of 2.00 for use of the Fishbowl Technology Center in A-dorm, which was lower than the mean of 2.52 for residents of other dorms ($p=.001$, 99% confidence). With regards to use of the planning calendar, female residents had a higher mean of 2.41 versus a mean of just 1.62 for male residents ($p=.008$, 99% confidence).

VIII. Relations with Staff

Students revealed that their relations with staff have been generally positive. Eighty-five percent agreed that Housing front office staff members have been respectful and helpful, and no one disagreed. Eighty-four percent of the students reported respectful and helpful relations with Housing Facilities staff, and only 2% disagreed.

ResTech employees were described as helpful by 46% of the housing residents, (but it is worth noting that the large number of students (39%) who neither disagreed nor agreed with that statement affected the low percentage). Since “not applicable” was not an available option in the survey, some of those who report neutrality for this item, may not have had encounters with ResTech staff. There were 16% of the respondents who felt that ResTech staff had not been courteous or helpful.

Relations between Housing residents and Police Services were somewhat less favorable. Forty-one percent of the students have been comfortable with their interactions with police, but 32% have not.

Resident Assistants have made an effort to introduce themselves to their assigned students (92%), and the majority of students (88%) reported that they know their RA. Most of the students (70%) have talked with their RA at least once in the past two weeks, and 81% would feel comfortable approaching their RA’s with problems or concerns.

Sample Mean	Staff Relations Issues	1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Neither disagree nor agree	4 Agree	5 Strongly Agree
4.56	My RA has made an effort to introduce him/herself to me. (N=87)	1%	0%	7%	25%	67%
4.34	The Housing Front Office staff are respectful, courteous, and helpful. (N=87)	0%	0%	15%	36%	49%
4.30	The Housing Facilities staff are respectful, courteous, and helpful. (N=87)	0%	2%	14%	36%	48%
4.30	I know my Resident Assistant (RA). (N=87)	2%	3%	6%	39%	49%
4.24	If I have a problem/concern, I would feel comfortable contacting my RA. (N=87)	1%	5%	14%	30%	51%
3.92	My RA and I have talked at least once in the last two weeks. (N=87)	9%	14%	7%	16%	54%
3.44	The ResTech staff are respectful, courteous, and helpful. (N=85)	4%	12%	39%	29%	17%
3.03	I am comfortable with my interactions with Evergreen Police Services. (N=87)	22%	10%	26%	25%	16%

* Totals for some scale items may not equal exactly 100% due to rounding.

Mean responses showed some significant variance between subgroups for some of the staff relationship statements. For example, male residents were less comfortable with their interactions with Evergreen Police Services than female residents.

Agree/Disagree Scale Question*	Mean for Female Residents**	Mean for Male Residents
I am comfortable with my interactions with Evergreen Police Services.	3.27	2.67

* The scale for this question was as follows: 1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neither disagree nor agree, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree.

** Differences in means were significant at $p < .05$.

Means for first-year students demonstrated less agreement that ResTech staff members were respectful, courteous, and helpful.

Agree/Disagree Scale Question*	Mean for First-year students**	Mean for all other classes combined
The ResTech staff are respectful, courteous, and helpful.	3.21	3.64

* The scale for this question was as follows: 1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neither disagree nor agree, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree.

** Differences in means were significant at $p \dots .05$.

Mean scores for vegetarians (including vegans) implied that they were more comfortable approaching their RA's if they had a concern, than the resident omnivores. Note: this difference was not explained by the gender bias related to food preference alone, since no significant difference was found for this statement based on gender.

Agree/Disagree Scale Question*	Mean for Vegetarian Residents**	Mean for Omnivorous Residents
If I have a problem/concern, I would feel comfortable contacting my RA.	4.50	4.04

* The scale for this question was as follows: 1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neither disagree nor agree, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree.

** Differences in means were significant at $p \dots .02$.

Finally, residents of dorms G and H (the quiet dorms) were less likely to have talked with their RA's at least once in the past two weeks versus residents of other dorms.

Agree/Disagree Scale Question*	Mean for dorms G & H**	Mean for all other dorms
My RA and I have talked at least once in the last two weeks.	2.50	4.12

* The scale for this question was as follows: 1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neither disagree nor agree, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree.

** Differences in means were significant at $p \dots .02$.

IX. Housing Policies

Several of the survey questions addressed Housing policy issues. The majority of the surveyed students supported current door locking and smoking policies. Sixty-three percent of the students concurred with the current exterior door locking policy, and 56% felt that the current smoking policy was working. Sixty-three percent of the respondents would not support a ban on tobacco smoking in all rooms in Housing.

Sample Mean	Housing Policy Issue*	1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Neither disagree nor agree	4 Agree	5 Strongly Agree
3.49	The current exterior door locking policy is acceptable. (N=86)	17%	6%	14%	36%	27%
3.51	The current smoking policy is working. (N=87)	14%	10%	20%	24%	32%
2.20	Tobacco smoking in Housing should be banned in all rooms. (N=87)	48%	15%	16%	10%	10%

* Totals for some scale items may not equal exactly 100% due to rounding.

Female residents and residents of the quiet dorms showed greater support than other students for the current exterior door locking policy in place in Housing.

The current exterior door locking policy is acceptable.*	
Female residents**	3.80
Male residents	3.13
Mean for dorms G & H (quiet dorms)**	4.25
Mean for all other dorms	3.53

* The scale for this question was 1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neither disagree nor agree, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree.

** Differences in means were significant at p05.

Residents of the drug and alcohol-free and quiet dorms both revealed stronger support of a ban on smoking in all rooms in Housing.

Tobacco smoking in Housing should be banned in all rooms.*	
Mean for dorms B, E, & F (drug/alcohol-free)**	3.29
Mean for all other dorms	1.88
Mean for dorms G & H (quiet dorms)**	4.25
Mean for all other dorms	2.03

* The scale for this question was 1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neither disagree nor agree, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree.

** Differences in means were significant at p01.

The current smoking policy was not as highly endorsed by residents of A-dorm compared to other residents.

Agree/Disagree Scale Question*	Mean for A-dorm**	Mean for all other dorms
The current smoking policy is working.	2.69	3.75

* The scale for this question was as follows: 1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neither disagree nor agree, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree.

** Differences in means were significant at p02.

X. Food Service Issues

Survey respondents were asked to select a statement that best described their budget situation and how it affected their food purchasing habits. Slightly more than half of the students (53%) selected the statement

that money was somewhat an issue, and that food preference was balanced against the reality of available funds. Thirty-eight percent revealed more serious budgetary concerns, and 9% did not have budgetary constraints that affected their food buying options.

Which of the following best describes your lifestyle when it comes to purchasing food on campus and off campus?	% and Number of Students Who Selected Each Reason (N=85*)
Lack of money is an issue. I'm on a shoestring budget and I must be careful when purchasing meals/food.	38% (N=32)
Money is somewhat of an issue. I'm on a budget and I must balance my food preference with my wallet.	53% (N=45)
Money is not an issue. I would gladly pay the price for meals/food I prefer.	9% (N=8)

* Two students skipped this question.

First-year students were less likely (24%) to choose the “Lack of money is an issue” statement versus other classes combined (50%). This difference was significant at $p=.015$, 98% confidence. First-year students appear to have less prevalent concerns about limited budgets governing their food choices. The difference relates more to their class standing than to which dorm they reside in, since no difference was found when this issue was explored for A-dorm residents versus residents of other dorms. There were also no differences revealed by gender or food preference.

Housing residents were asked to estimate the amount they spent on food at the grocery store per week and the amount spent on food each quarter. Quite a few students had difficulty with these questions, as revealed by their responses. Since weekly food purchases from the grocery store should have been included in the broader “total food per quarter” question, one would anticipate that the *minimum* estimate for quarterly food costs would have been ten times the estimate provided for their weekly grocery bill. This was not true for more than one-third (39%) of the responses from the 70 students who answered both estimate questions. The following table provides some summary measures of the group responses to these two questions. Statistical analyses revealed no significant differences in either of these measures by gender, class standing, eating preference, or dormitory type.

Estimated Food Expenditures	Range	Mean
How much do you currently spend on food at the groceries store per week? (N=78)	\$0 - \$300	\$55.73
How much do you currently spend on food each quarter (include meal plan, groceries, eating out, etc.)? (N=73)	\$20 - \$1100	\$405.18

On-campus food buying habits were also explored by the survey. Ninety-one percent of the surveyed students purchase coffee and/or snacks on campus at least once a week, and 85% buy lunch in the CAB at least once a week. Seventy-six percent of the Housing residents buy food on campus after 8 PM at least once a week, despite the fact that few options are available on campus after 8 PM. Most of the respondents (75%) also reported buying food on campus before 10 AM at least once a week.

Sample Mean	On-campus Food Purchasing Habits*	0 times per week	1 time per week	2 times per week	3 times per week	4 times per week	5 times per week
2.27	How many times per week do you purchase coffee and/or a snack on campus? (N=86)	9%	30%	17%	22%	9%	12%
1.85	How many times per week do you purchase food after 8 PM on campus? (N=78)	24%	30%	9%	17%	15%	5%
1.77	How many times per week do you purchase lunch in the CAB? (N=79)	15%	38%	17%	22%	3%	6%
1.45	How many times per week do you purchase food before 10 AM on campus? (N=76)	25%	40%	16%	9%	7%	4%

* Totals for some scale items may not equal exactly 100% due to rounding.

All of the on-campus food purchasing frequency questions showed significant differences in means for A-dorm residents vs. other dorm residents.

On-campus food purchasing habits	Average times per week for A-dorm*	Average times per week for all other dorms
Purchase coffee and/or a snack	3.1	1.9
Purchase food after 8 PM	3.1	1.3
Purchase lunch in the CAB	2.5	1.6
Purchase food before 10 AM	2.0	1.2

* Differences in average weekly purchases were significant at $p \dots .05$.

The A-dorm differences are not entirely explained by the prevalence of first-year students residing in A-dorm, since only a borderline difference in one of the frequency questions was discovered when tests were conducted based on class standing. First-year students purchase food on campus after 8 PM an average 2.26 times per week, as compared to other classes who purchase food after 8 PM an average of 1.56 times per week ($p=.061$, 94% confidence). No other significant differences in on-campus food buying habits were found with regards to gender or eating preference.

Forty-four students (52% of the respondents) said they would be interested in purchasing at least one of the meal plan alternatives presented in the following table.

Meal Plan Alternatives	% and Number of Students Who Replied "Yes" (N=85*)
Would you be interested in purchasing an optional meal plan?	11% (N=9)
Would you be interested in purchasing a debit card based meal plan, useable at all food location, including the HCC?	51% (N=43)

* Two students skipped each of these questions.

Forty-one respondents were not interested in either of the options. Thirty-five students expressed interest only in the debit card plan usable across campus locations, but they were not attracted to the optional meal plan. Eight students thought both meal plan options might interest them; and one student was drawn only to the optional meal plan, not the debit card plan.

Statistical tests revealed that significantly more A-dorm residents (94%) thought debit card plan sounded interesting, as compared to residents of the other dorms combined (39%). In a separate test, 72% of first-year students expressed interest in the debit plan, but only 29% of the other classes were interested. Both of these differences had observed significance of $p \dots .01$, 99% confidence. No other significant differences were discovered with regards to meal plan options by gender or food preference.

Of the 44 students who expressed an interest in one of the two meal plan options, 42 of them selected a categorical estimate of how much per quarter they would purchase. No significant differences were discovered in this measure by class standing, gender, or food preference.

How much per quarter would you purchase?	% and Number of Students Who Selected Each Category (N=42*)
Less than \$300 per quarter	12% (N=5)
\$300 per quarter (\$30/week)	64% (N=27)
\$600 per quarter (\$60/week)	24% (N=10)
\$800 per quarter (\$80/week)	0%

** This question only applies to students who indicated an interest in one or more of the meal plan options presented by the survey. Two students expressed an interest in a plan, but did not select an estimated spending amount.*

XI. Student Comments

The survey provided a field for Housing residents to provide comments; thirty-two students (37%) took advantage of this opportunity. Narrative responses are presented below by topic.

Community/Housing Environment

- Community style living works with me and my friends. We share our houses, food, cigarettes, and time. We also respect each other's space when working. There is always noise, but we live on a college campus – it's to be expected. I can still get my work done.
- I thought that Housing was a good experience for my first year.
- Quiet hours need to be enforced better. I don't like telling people to lower their music at 2 AM; I've had a problem with it.
- My first two quarters I lived in A-dorm; this was not a good experience. I was almost never able to go to sleep or study without earplugs and usually found "community," and active support towards it, to be nonexistent.
- The study lounge would be more useful as a social space. No one uses it towards schoolwork. Also, people are stealing food from the fridge and leave messes around the kitchen – very untidy and stinks!
- Throughout the year, I have been disappointed at the lack of enforcement for any alcohol and drug policy. The fact that ADF and quiet housing (B-dorm) was placed in the closest building to the First Year Experience (A dorm) was not the most logical idea in my mind.
- I wish that Housing was more strict about illegal drug use and smoking.

Activities

- They should have bands play in the Rec Center, on the field, and in the community center every weekend. We should be able to have bonfires on the field.
- Students should be encouraged to learn how to live on their own, which includes shopping for groceries, cooking, etc. Maybe Housing could support carpool grocery trips, cooking workshops – instead of encouraging students to buy meal plans which are overpriced, overly convenient, but not educational – knowing where your food comes from, how to cook basic meals, is important.
- 420 kicked ass!
- Don't force activities upon a floor. Let them introduce them, if a floor says nothing, they are living fine on their own.
- I wish Housing would offer more events.
- [Re: ResTech] No LINUX support – why not? At least a basic info flyer/web page.

Housing Facilities

- We should be able to paint the walls.
- My exterior door is messed up and sticks.
- Everyone litters – the campus could be cleaner. The Rec Center needs a hot tub really bad. Our apartments should have decks.
- Co-ed sauna.
- Housing needs a swing set! If I have to make this a mission I will.
- Mods are temporary housing that have been up for the last 30 years. They are too expensive with no Internet and far from campus. Mods should be pet-friendly. I have a plan written up if you wanna read it.
- Doing laundry is like a war here.
- 75 cents for 45 minutes in the dryer is not long enough.
- Laundry facilities are too expensive and don't work.
- Get new laundry machines!
- [Re: Fishbowl Technology Center] We want the camera back.

Staff

- The maintenance people are great – they're quick, efficient, and knowledgeable.
- The people in the Fishbowl aren't accommodating (except for one woman). There were a few of them lounging around and when I asked for assistance, they said I could make an appointment for a week and a half later. They even treated me as though I was dumb and asked if I turned the printer on or plugged it in. It was asked in a very condescending manner. (My printer wasn't installed properly).

- I feel that Police Services should try harder to be a part of our community rather than “bullying” students. I feel that their presence on campus is very negative, and I feel that they don’t really care about the students.
- Don’t like parking patrol – everything else in Police Services seems OK.
- [Re: Police Services] Perez is bad, get him out of our existence.
- The police make me feel uncomfortable on campus, because they carry guns and take advantage of access to student housing.
- Though I’m happy to be employing people in the Housing “Justice” system, I think they could do a better job of making their own choices based on specific situations, rather than on the “rules” or common/popular ideals present on campus. I do appreciate my RA though very much, and I’d recommend him for any form of honorable recognition. Thank you.
- The only things I really like are the fact that I’m finally getting my mail on time and my wonderful RA.
- Our RA has been an integral part of my lovely and happy experience in Evergreen Housing.

Exterior Door Locking Policy

- The doors perhaps should be unlocked during the day.
- Don’t lock the exterior doors. It’s a pain in the ass when you have a load of stuff in your hands and you have to find the right key to open the door.
- The people who beat on the exterior door at night are annoying.
- I wish that you didn’t need a key or key card to get into A-D dorm.

Smoking Policies

- [Re: banning smoking in housing] NO WAY! We need our smokes!
- I also hope that smoking will not be prohibited. If that happens, I will leave Housing.
- Don’t put up any more smoking tents! You cut down a tree!
- Cigarettes cost too much in the Branch, and as someone without a car, I feel I’m being ripped off.

Food Service

- NO MANDATORY MEAL PLANS!
- We should have better food on campus!
- Food service sucks.
- Everything is closed after 8 PM on campus.
- I would buy more, if 24 hour food existed here.
- Deli is too expensive; The Subterranean is good.
- Greenery food is awful.

- Food sucks; everything (most options) are covered in grease and meat, and I feel sorry for anyone who purchased a meal plan.

Other Miscellaneous Comments

- Yay Evergreen!
- Geoducks rule!!!
- POKE SMOT!
- This is a good survey; I hope you take my comments to heart, because I feel that my opinions match that of many of my peers. Thank you.

XII. Summary of Highlights

- **Sample Demographics**
 - ◆ 87 residents completed the survey.
 - ◆ About three-quarters of them had lived on-campus for one year or less.
 - ◆ About half were first-year students.
 - ◆ 54% were female.
 - ◆ Nearly 40% of the residents were vegetarian or vegan-vegetarian.
- **Reason to Live on Campus**
Convenience was the number one reason that students chose to live on campus.
- **Room Selection Criteria**
When selecting a room, the abilities to choose a specific type of room and a specific roommate were the highest priority criteria to the residents.
- **Intent to Return to Housing**
59% thought they would live in Housing again next year. Cost and need for privacy were the primary reasons given by those who will not return.
- **Housing Community Issues**
 - ◆ 58% of the residents felt involved and connected in their community.
 - ◆ 50% were members of a diverse group and found Housing to be a supportive environment.
 - ◆ 49% thought Housing provided the right amount of programming for residents.
- **Use of Housing Services**
 - ◆ 55% used ResNet services.
 - ◆ 50% participated in live music events in the HCC.
 - ◆ 23% used the Fishbowl Technology Center.
 - ◆ 21% used the planning calendar in their Housing Handbook.
 - ◆ 18% used the Prime Time Advising Office.

- **Living Environment Issues**

Students most strongly *agreed* that:

- ♦ they felt safe and secure living in Housing (78%)
- ♦ the condition of their rooms was what they expected upon check-in (72%)
- ♦ noise levels were acceptable (67%)
- ♦ public areas around Housing were well maintained (62%)

Students most strongly *disagreed* that:

- ♦ laundry facilities met their expectations (53%)
- ♦ their living areas were conducive to studying (31%)

- **Staff Relations**

Relations between residents and Housing staff were positive; over 80% of the residents reported respectful and helpful relationships with their RA's, Front Office staff, and Facilities staff. ResTech staff were somewhat less well received, with only 46% agreement and 16% disagreement that their relations had been positive. 32% of the students were not comfortable with their interactions with Evergreen Police Services.

- **Housing Policy Issues**

- ♦ 63% of the residents felt the exterior door locking policy was acceptable; 23% disagreed.
- ♦ 56% of the students thought the current smoking policy was working; 24% disagreed.
- ♦ 20% would support a ban on smoking in all rooms, but 63% would not agree with such a ban.

- **Food Budget**

When purchasing food, students balance their food preferences against the realities of their budgets. Students reported spending an average of \$55.73 per week on food at the grocery store. They reported an average of \$405.18 in food expenses per quarter.

- **On-campus Food Purchasing Habits for Housing Residents**

- ♦ coffee and/or snack: average 2.27 times per week
- ♦ food after 8 PM: average 1.85 times per week
- ♦ lunch in the CAB: average 1.77 times per week
- ♦ food before 10 AM: average 1.45 times per week

- **Meal Plan Option**

Very few students (11%) would be interested in purchasing an optional meal plan, however, a debit card meal plan useable at all campus locations would interest 51%.

- **Significant Differences by Gender**

Female residents were more likely than males:

- ♦ to be vegetarian or vegan
- ♦ to use the planning calendar in the Housing Handbook
- ♦ to approve of the exterior door locking policy
- ♦ to feel comfortable about their interactions with Police Services.

- **Significant Difference by Eating Preference**

Vegetarian/vegan residents felt more comfortable about approaching their RA's if they had a problem or concern.

- **Significant Differences by Class Standing**

First-year students were *more* likely than students from other classes:

- ◆ to be interested in a debit card meal plan
- ◆ to select “Activities” as a reason they lived on campus
- ◆ to assign a high priority to “roommate preference” when ranking room assignment criteria.

First-year students were *less* likely than students from other classes:

- ◆ to report that a very limited budget governed their food purchases
- ◆ to use ResNet services
- ◆ to agree that ResTech staff were respectful, courteous, and helpful.
- ◆ to agree that laundry facilities met their expectations.

- **Significant Differences for A-dorm Residents**

Residents of A-dorm (First-Year Experience) were *more* likely than residents of other dorms:

- ◆ to be interested in a debit card meal plan
- ◆ to plan to return to Housing next year
- ◆ to assign a high priority to “First-Year Experience” when ranking room assignment criteria
- ◆ to report higher frequencies of food purchases on campus.

Residents of A-dorm (First-Year Experience) were *less* likely than residents of other dorms:

- ◆ to agree that the current smoking policy was working
- ◆ to use ResNet services
- ◆ to be able to accomplish schoolwork during Housing quiet hours
- ◆ to report their living areas were conducive to studying.

- **Significant Differences for Residents of Drug and Alcohol-free Dorms**

Residents of dorms B, E, & F were *more* likely than residents of other dorms:

- ◆ to be able to accomplish schoolwork during Housing quiet hours
- ◆ to report their living areas were conducive to studying
- ◆ to support a ban on tobacco smoking in all room in Housing
- ◆ to assign a high priority to “Alcohol and Drug-free” when ranking room assignment criteria
- ◆ to assign a high priority to “Smoke-free Housing” when ranking room assignment criteria.

Residents of dorms B, E, & F were *less* likely than residents of other dorms:

- ◆ to agree that they were members of a diverse group and feel Housing was supportive
- ◆ to report feeling safe and secure living in Housing
- ◆ to assign a high priority to “food preference” when ranking room assignment criteria.

- **Significant Differences for Residents of Designated Quiet Dorms**

Residents of dorms G and H were *more* likely than residents of other dorms:

- ◆ to be able to accomplish schoolwork during Housing quiet hours
- ◆ to report their living areas were conducive to studying
- ◆ to approve of the exterior door locking policy
- ◆ to approach a fellow resident directly when they had a noise concern
- ◆ to support a ban on tobacco smoking in all room in Housing
- ◆ to assign a high priority to “Quiet Housing” when ranking room assignment criteria
- ◆ to assign a high priority to “Smoke-free Housing” when ranking room assignment criteria

Residents of dorms G and H were *less* likely than residents of other dorms:

- ◆ to agree that Housing provided the right amount of programming for residents
- ◆ to report that they had talked with their RA at least once in the past two weeks
- ◆ to use the Fishbowl Technology Center
- ◆ to assign a high priority to “First-Year Experience” when ranking room assignment criteria
- ◆ to assign a high priority to “preference for study habits” when ranking room assignment criteria