

Housing and Residential Engagement – Student Affairs

Step 1: Student Learning Outcome

Residents will experience a quality living and learning environment that is inclusive, safe, well maintained, and promotes health and wellness.

Step 2: Methods and Measures

A Mid-Year and End-Of-Year surveys capture students' perceptions on the quality of Housing and Residential Engagement (HRE) spaces and environment using the following indicators: 1) Inclusivity, 2) Safety, 3) Cleanliness, and 4) Overall promotion of health and wellness.

The HRE assessment committee utilizes only “agreed” and “strongly agreed” responses as a measure for quality. Utilizing these responses only and omitting the “somewhat agree” response allows HRE to identify areas of improvement more accurately about the level of quality HRE hopes to meet.

Step 3: Criteria for Success

Inclusivity: 70% of respondents will “agree” or “strongly agree”.

Safety: 70% of respondents will “agree” or “strongly agree”.

Cleanliness: 70% of respondents will “agree” or “strongly agree”.

Health and Wellness: 70% of respondents will “agree” or “strongly agree”.

Step 4: Results

The Mid-Year Survey collected a total of 228 responses, yielding almost a 12% response rate, while of the approximate 1,944 students who live on campus, 761 residents (39%) responded to the End-of-Year Survey.

NOTE: Due to health and safety concerns pertaining to COVID-19 and campus housing's Safe at Home orders, most on-campus residents moved out by March 22, 2020. Therefore, for the End of Year Survey, residents were asked to reflect on their time on campus up until March 22, 2020.

Inclusivity: The data from both surveys revealed 80% of respondents “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that the HRE environment is inclusive to their identities. Instrument specific results are as follows:

Mid-Year Survey: 84% “agreed” that the HRE environment is inclusive to their identities.

End of Year Survey: 75% (decrease of 3.9% from the 18-19 academic year) “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that HRE environment is inclusive to their identities.

Despite meeting the criteria of success for “Inclusivity”, additional analysis revealed that eleven students who selected “prefer not to disclose” for their gender identity felt that housing was significantly less inclusive of their identities than those who identified as men or women. Similarly, students who identified as Black/African American felt that housing was significantly less inclusive of their identities. Other student self-reported identities did not reveal a significant relationship.

Safety: 75% of respondents “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that HRE environment was safe in the End-of-Year survey (data not collected in Mid-Year Survey).

Cleanliness: 68% “agreed” or “strongly agreed” the HRE environment was clean (includes 59% who agreed/strongly agreed that HRE environment was clean, and 78% agreed/strongly agreed that public spaces were kept clean by custodial and maintenance staff). Data not collected in Mid-Year Survey.

Although the overall criteria regarding “Cleanliness” was not met, data revealed a majority of respondents perceived that public spaces were kept clean by custodial and maintenance staff which could imply HRE is keeping public places clean, but other spaces, such as in resident rooms, are not. HRE discussed making a distinction between “cleanliness” and “general wear-and-tear”, as some facilities in HRE are no longer new and might be considered unclean due to the worn appearance.

Health and Wellness: 59% (increase of 1.81% over prior year) of respondents “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that HRE space and environment promoted health and wellness (includes 69% agreed/strongly agreed that overall HRE promoted health and wellness and 49% agreed/strongly agreed that healthy food options were available in the HRE facilities). Data not collected in Mid-Year Survey.

Two out of the four criteria of success were not met, and of those, there was a 1% approximate decrease compared to the prior year.

Step 5: Improvement Actions

- CC/RAs will implement a community standards program to engage resident responsibility in keeping the environment clean.
- Implement specific response options to distinguish between “clean environment” to “general wear and tear”.
- Implement various healthy food option programming and visuals, and how to request alternative options from the food venues in HRE.
- Utilize data on healthy food options to collaborate with the food contractor to improve services and provide learning opportunities for students such as HRE on the Run and webinars.

- Analyze the “somewhat agree” responses and identify ways to improve based on those experiences.
- Further assess the gap in feelings of inclusivity for students’ self-reported identities. Includes adding questions in surveys, new assessment throughout the HRE experience focused specifically on inclusivity, or through focus groups.
- Open a Black Student Theme Community in fall 2021.