



2020 CENSUS: THE BASICS

**BE COUNTED!
BE REPRESENTED!
FILL OUT THE
2020 CENSUS**

The Census is conducted every ten years in the United States. Mandated under Article 1, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution, the Census provides data necessary to determine how people will be represented in state and federal government. The purpose of the Census is to get an understanding of the population within the United States. The framers of the Constitution also meant for the Census to provide a form of political empowerment of the people over government.

More info: JMU.edu/civic



Why the Census Matters (in brief)

The number of residents in states determines congressional representation. The data gathered from the Census is used to redraw Congressional and state legislative districts, school districts, and voting precincts. Census data also guides decisions on how to distribute funding by the federal government. JMU students are counted in Harrisonburg. A complete count is important because it will guide decisions about our campus voting precinct, in addition to other decisions like bus routes in Harrisonburg and attracting businesses to the area. Faculty and students also use census data in research, so a complete count is important for using evidence and drawing accurate conclusions.

Quick Facts

- 2020 is the first time households can complete the Census online.
- You are counted in the location you spend majority of your time. Even if you live with your guardians during holidays and breaks, you will be counted at JMU.
- Students who live in residence halls are part of what the Census Bureau calls "Group Quarters" (meaning your residence is owned or managed by an outside entity that provides housing and/or resources to residents).

Where You Count

- **ON CAMPUS** If you live on campus or in JMU-owned housing, JMU will include you in "Group Quarters." You will work with someone at JMU on an arranged day to fill the Census. Also, tell your guardians not to count you in their household.
- **OFF CAMPUS** If you live off-campus one (1) person from your household will fill out the Census. You will get a postcard in the mail around March 2020 inviting you to fill out the form online or by phone. Talk to your roommates about the Census and make sure everyone in your unit is counted. If you have an uncomfortable roommate situation....tough, but talk to your roommates. It's important that you're counted in Harrisonburg.
- **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS** If you're an international student studying in the U.S. this spring, you will be counted in the Census.
- **COMMUTER** If you're a commuter you are counted where you live. If you live with a guardian, they count you. If you live on your own, please fill out the form where you live!
- **STUDY ABROAD** If you are going to be studying abroad in Spring of 2020 you will NOT be counted in the 2020 Census. Don't fill it out, don't worry about it, see you in 2030.