

## WHO LIVES THERE

Floor communities can vary from predominately first-year students, to predominately non-first year, and anywhere in-between. Most floor communities are made up of all males or all females; however there are some co-ed floors. The number of residents on a floor ranges from 30 to 60 residents. Some floors are part of a designated living-learning residential program; some are designated as alcohol or smoke free, or quiet. Most residents have roommates, though many floors have some rooms designated for single occupancy. Almost all of the MSU first-year students live in undergraduate residence halls. Half of all sophomores, one-fifth of all juniors and less than one tenth of all seniors live in undergraduate halls.

## WHAT IS PROVIDED

Each student room is furnished with two beds, two desks and one dresser and one closet. Students bring MANY personal items, which must be contained in a 12' by 12' room. About half of the floors have a single large community bathroom. The other half feature suites where two rooms (housing two students each) are connected by a shared bathroom. Most floors have rooms that line both sides of one long corridor. Many floors have a study room, or a bike storage room. There is only one hall which does not require that residents have a meal plan (Williams). All other residents are required to have one of the meal plans, giving them access to any cafeteria on campus.



## MENTORS ON THE FLOOR; PROFESSIONALS IN THE HALL

Each floor is a small community, made up of both residents who return from the previous year, and students who either are new to MSU, or who have transferred to the floor from another on or off-campus location. Every floor has a Resident Mentor, who is knowledgeable about resources and supports, committed to student success, and who works to develop a sense of community among the residents of the

floor. Mentors must have a 2.75 cumulative GPA to apply for and keep their positions. (The average Mentor GPA for Fall 2005 was 3.41). They receive room and meals for their work.

Living in the hall, in addition to Mentors, are several part-time graduate-level staff, and one full-time professional staff member with at least a master's degree and experience in student affairs, psychology, social work or a related field.

## 325 COMMUNITIES

The residence hall living experience takes place primarily on these floors. That means that there are 325 small communities within the 24 residence halls. Though the floors share many common design elements, each floor is a unique mix of individuals with different points of view, interests, personalities, maturity levels, backgrounds, cultures, and personal values.



## WHAT DO STUDENTS THINK ABOUT LIFE IN THE RESIDENCE HALLS?

### THEY FEEL SAFE

96% said it was physically safe; 92% felt it was emotionally safe

### GET ALONG WITH OTHERS

92% reported that residents generally liked each other and 88% thought residents respected one another

### SET AND FOLLOW AGREED-UPON NORMS

88% report that residents have set community standards and 78% said that residents followed them

### LIKE LIVING THERE

86% said they liked living in their residence hall floor.

### FEEL IT IS GENERALLY QUIET

74% said it was quiet enough to study and 78% said it was quiet enough to sleep

### SOCIALIZE TOGETHER

51% said that the floor socialized together

### DON'T ALL NEED A MENTOR

41% reported that they personally did not need a Mentor

### ARE INVOLVED WITH THE FLOOR

28% stated that they personally chose not to be involved with their floor community

### HAVE FEW CONFLICTS

Less than 10% reported that conflicts occurred on the floor between groups (8%) or individuals (9%)

*Data is from the November 2005 "Floor Community Survey" (N=7603) conducted in undergraduate residence halls at Michigan State University. Percentages represent the combined total for "All the Time" and "Most of the Time."*

In November 2005, all students living in undergraduate residence halls (not Owen, Van Hoosen or University Apartments) (N=14,177) were invited to participate in a survey about the on-campus living experience and the work of the Resident Mentor. Fifty-four percent (54%) responded (N=7603). There were twenty-two items in the area entitled "Life on the Floor". For each statement, students were asked to respond on a five-point scale; "Never", "Rarely", "Sometimes", "Most of the Time", or "All of the Time".

To explore some of the differences between groups, various statistical comparisons were conducted. Group size was a condition for inclusion. Percentages are provided on the final page for the purposes of non-statistical comparison. Significance was determined by using analysis of variance (Anova) with LSD post-hoc comparisons and independent sample t-tests. The analyses are not shown here. Items noted below were significantly at the  $p < .05$  level.

### LIVING-LEARNING PROGRAMS

(1349 in a program; 4637 not in a program; and 1617 no answer)

**Students in residential Living-Learning programs reported a greater sense of community, greater involvement on the floor and a stronger priority on academic success.**

One of the purposes of living-learning programs at MSU is to enrich students' academic experiences and facilitate their successful

transition to college. The floor communities in Living-Learning programs have a large number of residents living together who share similar academic interests, take some classes together, and who interact both inside and outside of the classroom.

#### Focus on Academics

Student in Living-Learning programs to a greater degree than students not living in a Living-Learning program reported that:

- **Academic success is a major priority of residents**

#### Sense of Community

Students in Living-Learning programs to a greater degree reported:

- **I like living on the floor**
- **The floor feels like a safe place to me (emotionally)**
- **The floor feels like a safe place to me (physically)**
- **Residents show respect for one another**
- **Residents follow the community standards**
- **Residents attend community meetings**
- **The floor socializes together regularly**
- **The floor has regular community meetings**
- **Residents talk directly to one another about issues**
- **Residents keep the floor clean and undamaged**

Students NOT in a Living-Learning program were more likely to report:

- **I personally don't need a Mentor on the floor**
- **By my own choice, I am not involved with what goes on, on the floor**

### MEN AND WOMEN

(2836 Men; 4553 Women)

Although there was no difference in the degree to which both men and women reported that **residents generally like each other**, men were significantly more likely than women to report that:

- **The floor socializes together regularly.**
- **Residents attend community meetings**
- **Residents follow the community standards**
- **Residents show respect for one another**
- **Residents talk directly to one another about issues**



A higher percentage of men than women reported:

- **I personally don't need a mentor**
- **By my own choice, I am not involved with what goes on, on the floor.**

Men, more than women, reported that:

- **Programs are offered on the floor**
- **Programs I am interested in are offered on the floor**
- **The floor is quiet when I want to sleep**
- **The floor is quiet when I want to study**
- **The floor feels like a safe place to me (emotionally)**
- **The floor feels like a safe place to me (physically)**

Women were more likely to report that:

- **Residents have set community standards**
- **The floor has regular community meetings**
- **Residents keep the floor clean and undamaged**

**Men, more than women, were positive about the social and academic atmosphere of the floor. They felt safer, and reported stronger relationships between residents.**

### INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

(111 International; 7178 Non-International)

Non-International students reported, to a greater degree than International students, that

- **The floor feels like a safe place to me (emotionally)**
- **The floor feels like a safe place to me (physically)**
- **Residents keep the floor clean and undamaged**
- **The floor is quiet when I want to sleep**
- **The floor is quiet when I want to study**



- **Residents have set community standards**
- **Residents generally like each other**
- **I like living on the floor**
- **By my own choice, I am not involved with what goes on, on the floor**

**International students felt less comfortable on the floor than their non-International peers. At the same time, they were less likely to say that they were not involved with what goes on, on the floor.**

## FRESHMEN, SOPHOMORES AND A COMBINED GROUP OF JUNIORS & SENIORS

(3786 Freshmen; 2399 Sophomores; 1148 Juniors and Seniors)

Freshmen, to a greater degree than non-Freshmen, reported:

- **The floor has regular community meetings**
- **The floor socializes together regularly**
- **Residents keep the floor clean and undamaged**



Freshmen were significantly lower in rating that :

- **The floor is quiet when I want to sleep**
- **The floor is quiet when I want to study**

Sophomores, to a greater degree than others, reported that:

- **The floor feels like a safe place to me (emotionally)**

Juniors and Seniors were the lowest in reporting that:

- **Residents have set community standards**
- **Residents attend community meetings**
- **Residents follow the community standards**
- **Floor issues are discussed at community meetings**
- **Programs are offered on the floor**
- **Programs I am interested in are offered on the floor**
- **I like living on the floor**

The Juniors and Seniors were also lowest on:

- **I personally don't need a Mentor on the floor**
- **By my own choice, I am not involved with what goes on, on the floor**

Not surprisingly, upper class students were less involved on the floor, participated in fewer floor-based activities, and expressed less need for the resources provided by the Resident Mentor.

## WHITE, BLACK, CHICANO/HISPANIC AND ASIAN AMERICAN STUDENTS

(5930 White, 455 Black, 132 Chicano-Hispanic and 296 Asian American Students)

Both Black and Chicano/Hispanic students, significantly more than White students, reported that:

- **Academic success is a major priority of residents**

Chicano/Hispanic students reported to a greater degree than other groups that:

- **The floor is quiet when I want to sleep**
- **The floor is quiet when I want to study**
- **Residents show respect for one another**

Students of color reported feeling less emotionally safe, and that there were conflicts between groups on the floor. They also reported, to a greater degree than White students, that academic success was a major priority of residents.

Blacks, to a greater degree than Whites, reported that:

- **The floor has regular community meetings**
- **Residents attend community meetings**
- **There are conflicts between groups on the floor** (more than both Whites and Asian Americans)

Whites, significantly more than Blacks and Asian Americans, reported that;

- **The floor feels like a safe place to me (emotionally)** and Whites, more than Blacks reported that:
- **The floor feels like a safe place to me (physically)**
- **I personally don't need a Mentor on the floor**



Chicano/Hispanics and Asian Americans were more likely than Blacks or Whites to report that

- **By my own choice, I am not involved with what goes on, on the floor**

## FULL RESPONSES TABLE, BY GROUP

To look at responses another way, the following table is attached. The percentage of responses which were either "Most of the Time" and "All of the Time" are reported for the following groups:

**Class Level** – Freshmen (N=3786), Sophomores (N=2399) and a combined group of Juniors and Seniors (N=1148)

**Race-Ethnicity** – White (N=5930), Black (N=455), Chicano/Hispanic (N=132), Asian American (N=296) and Bi or Multiracial (N=158)

**Gender** – Men (N=2836) and Women (N=4553)

**Citizenship** – International Students (N=111) and Non-International students (N=7178)

**Living-Learning Program** – No Program (N=4637), Lyman Briggs (N=484), James Madison (N=406), Smaller Programs (including ROSES, RISE, ROIAL, La Casa, Connections) (N=143) and a combined group of Honors College students and Academic Scholars (N=316)

<b>LIFE ON THE FLOOR</b>									
<i>PERCENT ALL OR MOST OF THE TIME</i>									
	<b>All</b>	International Student	Non-International	White	Black A/A	Chicano/ Hispanic	American Indian	Asian American	Bi or Multiracial
	<b>N= 7603</b>	111	7178	5930	455	132	28	296	158
<b>ACADEMICS</b>									
Academic success is a major priority of residents	<b>69%</b>	69%	69%	69%	74%	77%	57%	71%	60%
The floor is quiet when I want to study	<b>74%</b>	64%	74%	75%	70%	75%	63%	70%	66%
The floor is quiet when I want to sleep	<b>78%</b>	71%	78%	78%	76%	86%	64%	78%	70%
<b>FORMAL ACTIVITIES</b>									
Programs are offered on the floor	<b>61%</b>	58%	61%	61%	61%	70%	52%	60%	61%
Programs I am interested in are offered on the floor	<b>41%</b>	41%	41%	41%	38%	42%	33%	43%	36%
The floor has regular community meetings	<b>61%</b>	60%	61%	60%	67%	60%	36%	61%	58%
Residents attend community meetings	<b>58%</b>	57%	58%	58%	64%	61%	50%	59%	59%
Residents have set community standards	<b>88%</b>	73%	88%	89%	88%	88%	76%	89%	87%
Floor issues are discussed at community meetings	<b>75%</b>	67%	75%	75%	77%	72%	73%	77%	78%
<b>RESIDENT RELATIONS</b>									
Residents follow the community standards	<b>78%</b>	73%	78%	78%	72%	80%	69%	75%	76%
Residents talk directly to one another about issues	<b>60%</b>	61%	60%	61%	60%	60%	57%	53%	58%
There are conflicts between groups on the floor	<b>8%</b>	10%	8%	8%	8%	11%	0%	10%	7%
There are conflicts between individuals on the floor	<b>9%</b>	14%	9%	9%	11%	11%	22%	9%	8%
Residents show respect for one another	<b>88%</b>	81%	88%	88%	86%	91%	85%	88%	82%
Residents generally like each other	<b>92%</b>	86%	93%	93%	89%	94%	88%	93%	86%
The floor socializes together regularly	<b>51%</b>	49%	51%	51%	51%	50%	57%	52%	48%
Residents keep the floor clean and undamaged	<b>81%</b>	72%	81%	82%	77%	83%	67%	78%	75%
<b>NON-INVOLVEMENT</b>									
By my own choice, I am not involved with what goes on, on the floor	<b>28%</b>	29%	28%	27%	29%	37%	33%	37%	33%
I personally don't need a Mentor on the floor	<b>44%</b>	30%	44%	45%	34%	38%	60%	38%	43%
<b>PERSONAL</b>									
The floor feels like a safe place to me (emotionally)	<b>92%</b>	78%	92%	93%	90%	89%	82%	93%	89%
The floor feels like a safe place to me (physically)	<b>96%</b>	89%	97%	97%	95%	95%	82%	96%	91%
I like living on the floor	<b>86%</b>	76%	86%	86%	86%	88%	70%	86%	81%

<b>LIFE ON THE FLOOR</b>										
<i>PERCENT ALL OR MOST OF THE TIME</i>	No LL Program	Lyman Briggs	James Madison	Smaller Programs	Honors and Scholars	Men	Women	First-Year	Sophomore	Juniors and Seniors
	4637	484	406	143	316	2836	4553	3786	2399	1148
<b>ACADEMICS</b>										
Academic success is a major priority of residents	66%	78%	73%	72%	83%	67%	70%	70%	69%	66%
The floor is quiet when I want to study	73%	77%	76%	69%	79%	74%	73%	71%	77%	77%
The floor is quiet when I want to sleep	78%	79%	78%	71%	84%	81%	76%	76%	80%	79%
<b>FORMAL ACTIVITIES</b>										
Programs are offered on the floor	61%	59%	55%	58%	61%	64%	59%	63%	60%	57%
Programs I am interested in are offered on the floor	41%	43%	42%	38%	33%	46%	37%	42%	41%	35%
The floor has regular community meetings	60%	66%	55%	62%	70%	56%	63%	63%	58%	57%
Residents attend community meetings	56%	66%	64%	49%	74%	68%	52%	61%	57%	51%
Residents have set community standards	88%	87%	90%	86%	92%	86%	89%	89%	89%	85%
Floor issues are discussed at community meetings	74%	75%	75%	71%	78%	74%	75%	75%	75%	73%
<b>RESIDENT RELATIONS</b>										
Residents follow the community standards	77%	80%	79%	70%	90%	81%	75%	79%	78%	74%
Residents talk directly to one another about issues	59%	62%	68%	54%	67%	69%	54%	60%	61%	61%
There are conflicts between groups on the floor	8%	6%	10%	11%	5%	11%	7%	7%	9%	8%
There are conflicts between individuals on the floor	9%	8%	12%	8%	7%	11%	8%	9%	10%	9%
Residents show respect for one another	87%	91%	87%	87%	95%	91%	85%	88%	88%	88%
Residents generally like each other	92%	94%	92%	89%	96%	95%	91%	92%	93%	93%
The floor socializes together regularly	50%	58%	53%	59%	57%	69%	40%	54%	48%	48%
Residents keep the floor clean and undamaged	79%	87%	87%	77%	88%	75%	84%	83%	79%	78%
<b>NON-INVOLVEMENT</b>										
By my own choice, I am not involved with what goes on, on the floor	29%	22%	28%	23%	24%	31%	26%	24%	29%	37%
I personally don't need a Mentor on the floor	45%	35%	45%	42%	42%	49%	40%	38%	47%	57%
<b>PERSONAL</b>										
The floor feels like a safe place to me (emotionally)	92%	94%	92%	89%	93%	94%	91%	91%	93%	92%
The floor feels like a safe place to me (physically)	96%	98%	97%	97%	98%	97%	96%	97%	97%	96%
I like living on the floor	85%	88%	88%	86%	89%	90%	83%	86%	87%	84%