



Census 2020 FAQ Article for College Publications

Every 10 years, people across the country fill out the Census in order to have an accurate count of all people living in the United States. The Census helps determine California's congressional districts and provides resources such as funding for some student financial aid, healthcare, housing, transportation and other important student services.

Help us inform California community college students, faculty, staff and administrators about the importance of completing the Census by answering 10 frequently asked questions. You can send this article to student reporters, faculty advisors and other on-campus media personnel charged with sharing news with your student body.

The following document includes an article that we encourage you distribute to California community college publication contacts and newsrooms.

California Community College Students At Risk Of Being Undercounted in Census 2020

College students are amongst the hardest to count groups during Census time and recent worldwide events have made it even more difficult. As students remain home during COVID-19 shelter-in-place declarations, it is more challenging than ever for Census information to reach students and encourage them to fill out their Census form.

The impacts of undercounted students will make a sizable difference to college students and their communities. A complete count of every member of the California Community Colleges community would ensure our colleges receive their share of federal resources, such as some financial aid, healthcare and transportation funding as well as proper representation by congressional leadership. These results will last 10 years.

Misinformation and a misunderstanding about the importance of the Census are two major barriers to completing Census forms. To set the record straight, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office pulled together 10 important questions and answers to help students and their families fill out the Census form and ensure they are counted.

Here's what students need to know:

1. What is the Census?



Every 10 years, people across California fill out the Census in order to have an accurate count of all people in the United States. This count is used for many different purposes including California's funding for some financial aid, health care, housing, transportation, and other important student services. The Census also helps to reassign seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, ensuring our share of representation in Washington, D.C.

2. Why does the Census matter?

Your response helps ensure more than \$675 billion in federal funds is directed each year to the right places in your community in support of financial aid, health care, transportation and much more. The Census distributed this funding solely based on Census data it receives. A complete and accurate count is also critical for determining how many representatives each state will have in Congress.

3. How can I fill the Census out?

It has never been easier to complete the Census, whether online, over the phone or by mail – all without having to meet a Census taker. Complete the Census form online at my2020census.gov or by phone at 800-923-8282. The Census form is available online, by mail and by [phone in 13 different languages](#). When completing the Census form, use the 12-digit Census ID provided on the invitation your household received in the mail.

4. I don't have my Census ID. What should I do?

You can still complete the Census without a Census ID. Visit californiacensus.org for more information.

5. How long will it take to complete?

The Census form only has 9 simple questions and should take less than 10 minutes to complete for each person living in your household.

6. Where should I be counted?

In general, you should count yourself where you live and sleep most of the time as of April 1, 2020. If you were a college student whose campus was closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, you should count yourself where you would have lived as of April 1, 2020.

Students who would have lived in on campus housing will be included in the count by campus administrators. Students who would have lived off campus should be counted at that location, not the location they relocated to due to the pandemic. Be sure to count all roommates or housemates that reside together at the same address.

For more details about specific situations visit californiacensus.org or call 800-923-8282.



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7. Who should be counted?

If you are completing your household's form, make sure to count any children, including newborns, who usually live and sleep at your home – even if they're not your own. If they split time evenly between two households, count them where they are on April 1, 2020. If you have recently moved, count yourself at your new address if you moved in by April 1, 2020. If you are a renter, count yourself where you live even if you don't own the home.

8. Does the Census ask about immigration or citizenship status?

No, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that immigration and citizenship status will not be asked in the Census.

9. Will my information be shared?

No, your Census data is safe, protected, confidential and will not be shared with the federal government or any other organization.

10. What can I do to help spread awareness?

You can help explain the importance of the Census to your peers and let them know why it's so important that they fill out it as soon as possible for this once in a decade opportunity. Please visit californiacensus.org for more information.

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