SUMMARY

- **Three-Quarters** of UAlbany students would still choose to go to UAlbany, given the opportunity to start over again.
- **Over two-thirds** of UAlbany students attend floor/hall meetings either always or often.
- **Half of** students participate in Residential Life’s Social Programs and Events.
- **Over half** feel that their involvement in Residential Life programming and events has provided them with skills and abilities that they will use after college.
- **9 out of 10** UAlbany students have been able to meet individuals with different interests from their own.
- **Over half** have improved their communication skills through participating in Residential Life programs.
- **Over 8 out of 10** Resident Assistants are better able to create a balance between education, work, and leisure.
- **9 out of 10** Resident Assistants are better able to help others through personal conflicts.

OBSERVATIONS: BY THE NUMBERS

84% feel that their on-campus living environment is respectful.

80% feel that their on-campus living environment is welcoming.

68% felt part of the campus community as a result of participating in Residential Life programming.

46% interact with their Resident Assistant either weekly or daily.

8% of UAlbany students currently are, or have been, a Resident Assistant.

91% improved their leadership skills as a result of serving as a Resident Assistant.

68% became aware of a new campus resource or service.

26% aspire to be an RA next year or take a leadership role in Residential Life.
68% of UAlbany students claim to **attend floor/hall/apartment meeting either always or often**, while only 49% of students from National Average Institutions attend meetings.

When asked about the most **common** way in which students **learn about programs and events** offered by Residential Life, UAlbany Students said:

- 46% Flyers/posters/banners/chalking/whiteboards in my residence hall
- 24% E-mail message/forward/listserv
- 12% From talking to my RA or other Residential Life staff

**Figure 1** below illustrates the percentage of students who when asked about **involvement in various programming and events offered by Residential Life**, said that they attend, participate in, or organize the offerings. The figure shows a comparison of UAlbany students to the National Average.

When asked what **impedes participation** in Residential Life programming and events, the top three reasons cited by UAlbany Students were:

- Not enough time/too busy
- Interferes with academic obligations (study, group work, etc.)
- Times/days of activities are not convenient
CAMPUS LIVING ENVIRONMENT

Figure 2 below illustrates the percentage of UAlbany students living in various types of on-campus housing.

![On-Campus Housing Layout](image)

18% of respondents live, or have lived, in Living-Learning Communities.

13% of respondents live, or have lived, in Themed Housing.

When asked how frequently they interact with their Resident Assistant, 45.89% of UAlbany students said they interact either daily or weekly, while 57.78% of students on the National Average experience this same level of interaction.

UAlbany students feel that their on-campus living environment is respectful (84%) and welcoming (80%).

STUDENTS’ PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

The following statements express the percent of students experiencing personal development in various areas, as a result of participating in Residential Life Programming and Events. Green percentages indicate where more UAlbany students experienced personal development than the national average, while Red percentages indicate where the National Average experienced more personal development.

- 89.05% of UAlbany students have been able to meet individuals with different interests from their own. (80.84% National Average)
- 86% have been able to meet individuals with similar interests to their own. (81.985 National Average)
- 67.58% feel part of the campus community. (73.36% National Average)
- 57.47% have gained skills/experience relevant to their academic major. (51.82% National Average)
- 54.86% have gained skills/experience relevant to their future career. (51.99% National Average)
53% of UAlbany students feel that their involvement in Residential Life programming and events has provided them with **skills and abilities that they will use after college**.

**Figure 3** below illustrates the percentages of students who experienced personal **improvements in various skills and abilities** as a result of participating in **Residential Life Programming and Events**. The figure shows a comparison of UAlbany students to the National Average.

As a result of participating in Residential Life programs and events, **68% of students became aware of a campus resource or service** with which they had not already been familiar.

In terms of **Diversity**, UAlbany students cited the follow as the **top issues they have learned** the most about/become aware of since living on campus:
- Race/ethnicity/culture
- Life experiences
- Geographic (where people grow up)
- Sexual Orientation

26% of UAlbany students **aspire to be an RA** next year or take a leadership role in Residential Life.

**RESIDENT ASSISTANTS EXPERIENCE**

8.27% of UAlbany respondents **currently are, or have been, a Resident Assistant**, compared to the 5.55% of National Average Students.
**Figure 4** below illustrates the percentages of students who experienced improvements in various areas of conflict management as their experience as a Resident Assistant. The figure shows a comparison of UAlbany students to the National Average.

![Improvements in Conflict Management as a Resident Assistant](image)

**Figure 4: Improvements in Conflict Management as a Resident Assistant**

**Figure 5** below illustrates the percentages of students who experienced personal improvements in various skills and abilities as their experience as a Resident Assistant. The figure shows a comparison of UAlbany students to the National Average.

![Personal Improvements from Experience as a Resident Assistant](image)

**Figure 5: Personal Improvements from Experience as a Resident Assistant**
Resulting from the experience of being a Resident Assistant:

- **84%** have gained skills/experience **relevant to their future career**.
- **81%** are better able to **articulate their career goals**.
- **93%** have gained skills/experiences that they will **use after college**.
- **72%** have gained skills/experience **relevant to their academic major**.
- **82%** are better able to create a **balance between education, work, and leisure**.

**DECIDING FACTORS**

When deciding to attend this institution, the following housing considerations were most important to students:

- Cost of room and board
- Types (single, double, suite, apartment style, etc.) of housing available
- Size of room/suite/apartment
- Availability of housing on campus
- Quality of housing facilities (updated, appealing, etc.)

When asked if they could start over again, **76%** of students said they still would have chosen to go to UAlbany.

**METHODOLOGY & DEMOGRAPHICS**

Findings are based on the 2010 Residential Life survey completed by **1572** University at Albany students between **November 15 and December 10, 2010**. The survey was developed in association with the Association of College and University Housing Officers (ACUHO) and was administered electronically through StudentVoice by the Office of the Vice President for Student Success at UAlbany.

**Respondents were:**

- **Mostly women** (66% women, 34% men).
- **Diverse** (59% white, 12% African American/Black, 10% Asian/Pacific Islander, 9% Hispanic/Latino).
- **Representative** of different class years (35% freshman, 28% sophomore, 21% juniors, 15% seniors).
- **Full-time** students (99.5% full time students).
- **Active** in Campus Life (68% being a member of at least one student club or organization this semester).

**QUESTIONS**

Please direct any questions concerning this assessment brief to:

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APPENDIX A: PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS (36 participating institutions)

1. Augustana College (South Dakota) - Consortium: Residence Life
2. Baldwin-Wallace College - Consortium: Residence Life
3. Belmont University - Consortium: Residence Life
4. Buffalo State College - Consortium: Residence Life
5. Butler University - Consortium: Residence Life
6. Canisius College - Consortium: Residence Life
7. Clarke University - Consortium: Residence Life
8. College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University - Consortium: Residence Life
9. Colorado College - Consortium: Residence Life
10. Colorado State University - Consortium: Residence Life
11. Columbus College of Art & Design - Consortium: Residence Life
12. Denison University - Consortium: Residence Life
13. DePauw University - Consortium: Residence Life
14. Eastern Connecticut State University - Consortium: Residence Life
15. Eastern Illinois University - Consortium: Residence Life
16. Eastern Michigan University - Consortium: Residence Life
17. Evergreen State College - Consortium: Residence Life
18. Gonzaga University - Consortium: Residence Life
19. Grinnell College - Consortium: Residence Life
20. Kalamazoo College - Consortium: Residence Life
22. Louisiana State University - Consortium: Residence Life
23. Loyola University-New Orleans - Consortium: Residence Life
24. Macalester College - Consortium: Residence Life
25. Maryland Institute College of Art - Consortium: Residence Life
26. Massachusetts College of Art - Consortium: Residence Life
27. Mount St. Mary's University IPEDS: 163462 - Consortium: Residence Life
28. North Dakota State University - Consortium: Residence Life
29. Otterbein University - Consortium: Residence Life
30. Pratt Institute - Consortium: Residence Life
31. Sam Houston State University - Consortium: Residence Life
32. School of the Art Institute of Chicago - Consortium: Residence Life
33. Southern Methodist University - Consortium: Residence Life
34. Southern Utah University - Consortium: Residence Life
35. Spring Hill College - Consortium: Residence Life
36. St. Bonaventure University - Consortium: Residence Life
37. Suffolk University - Consortium: Residence Life
38. Towson University - Consortium: Residence Life
39. Transylvania University - Consortium: Residence Life
40. University at Albany - Consortium: Residential Life
41. University of Alabama - Consortium: Residence Life
42. University of Alaska - Anchorage - Consortium: Residence Life
43. University of Delaware - Consortium: Residence Life
44. University of Florida - Consortium: Residence Life
45. University of Illinois at Chicago - Consortium: Residence Life
46. University of Nebraska-Lincoln - Consortium: Residence Life
47. University of Nevada, Las Vegas - Consortium: Residence Life
48. University of New Hampshire - Consortium: Residence Life
49. University of North Carolina Asheville - Consortium: Residence Life
50. University of North Carolina at Greensboro - Consortium: Residence Life
51. University of North Dakota - Consortium: Residence Life
52. University of Puget Sound - Consortium: Residence Life
53. University of Texas at Austin - Consortium: Residence Life
54. University of Texas at Brownsville - Consortium: Residence Life
55. University of Wisconsin-Parkside - Consortium: Residence Life
56. Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University - Consortium: Residence Life
57. West Chester University - Consortium: Residence Life