



Alfred University

Student Affairs Division

Residence Life Winter Survey

This Campus Labs survey was administered in a web format over Winter break 2015 to all students who live on campus. There were 374 respondents. 25% lived on an all-male floor, 38% lived on an all-female floor, and 48% lived in a coed community. Additionally, 52% of respondents lived in a corridor-style hall, 24% lived in the suites, 13% lived in the apartments, and 12% were residents of special interest housing. This is a local survey and we now have five years of comparative data to look at.

Key Findings

- 75% of our students reported that they consider AU to be a “home away from home.” The reasons were primarily centered around feelings of community, a welcoming atmosphere, faculty and staff, and feeling cared for. 25% said no, for reasons including homesickness, dissatisfaction with facilities, specific bad experiences, and a general feeling that “school is school,” not home.
- Safety remains a highly rated aspect of campus life. Students tend to feel safe in their rooms and surrounding areas.
- A majority of students have attended at least one residence hall program, with about a quarter attending 5+ programs.
- A solid majority of students feel comfortable going to the RA for help. A slight majority know, or feel comfortable, going to their RD for help.
- Students in special interest houses are the most satisfied with their overall residential experience, followed by residents of apartments, suites, then corridor-style halls.

Safety-related factors (out of 4):

- I feel safe in my room (3.72)
- I feel my possessions are secure in my room (3.51)
- I feel safe in the areas surrounding my residence hall (3.49)

Student connection with each other:

70% report feeling at least moderately connected to others. 74% report that as a result of living on campus, they feel part of the campus community.

“How important were the following housing considerations when choosing to attend AU?”

- Visually appealing bathrooms, cooking facilities, study lounges and laundry machines are considered quite important. The latter two are also fairly well rated.
- Video and board games are growing in popularity as opposed to pool, ping-pong, etc., which are now seen as less important.

Facilities and operations

A majority of students are satisfied with:

- Cleanliness of their halls
- Temperature controls
- Work order process and timeliness of repairs

Students are more dissatisfied with:

- Outdated furniture
- Lack of cooking facilities
- Bathroom facilities (in some halls)

Mental and Physical health

- Almost 25% of respondents consider themselves to be living with mental illness including depression, anxiety, ADD/ADHD and bipolar disorder. A majority of these students report that this affects their ability to connect with other students.
- 2% of respondents reported that they are living with a physical disability.

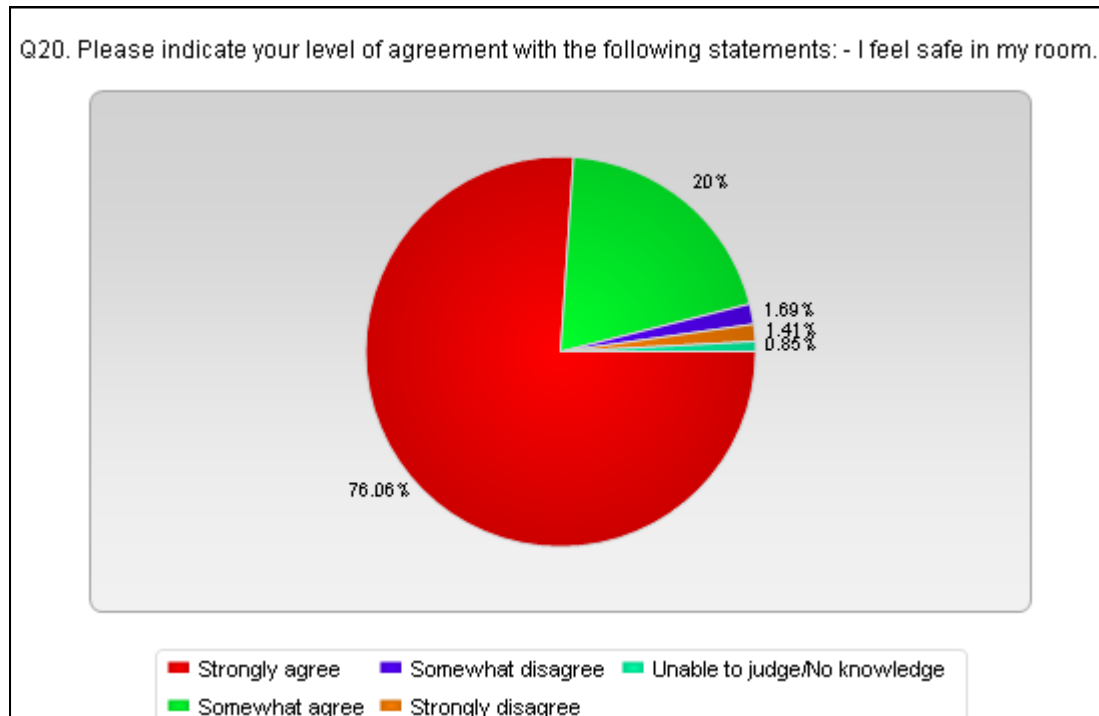
Diversity and perspective

Students report the most growth and learning in the areas of race/ethnicity/culture, general life experiences, geographic diversity, gender and sexual orientation. There was less growth the learning in the areas of religion and ability.

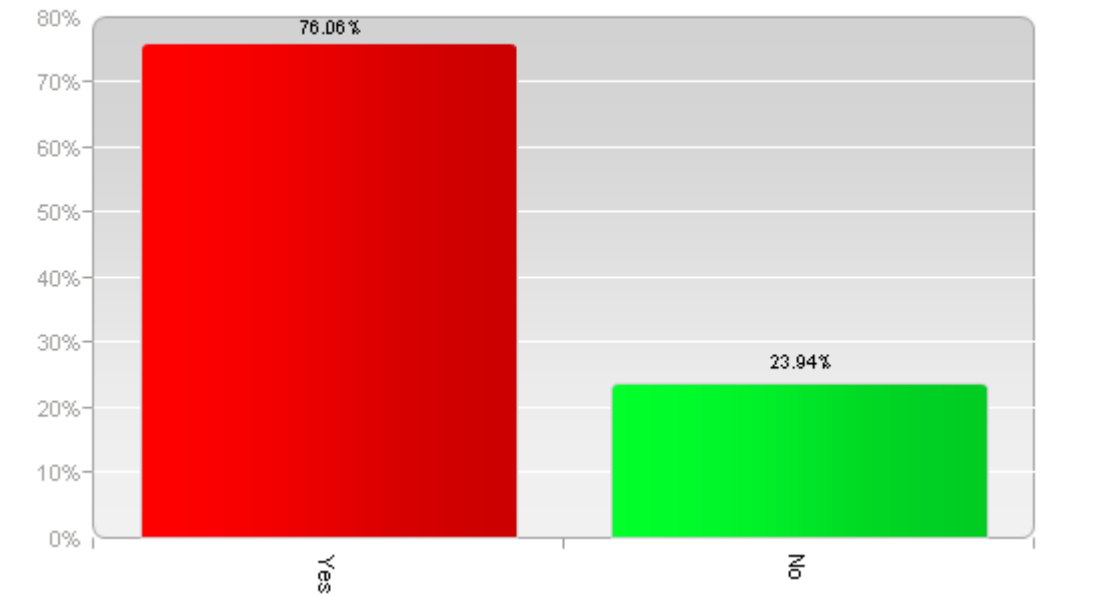
- 70% agree that they have been challenged to think differently about their own views and perspectives.
- 69% agree that they have come to appreciate differing views.
- 57% have noticed a change in their own views and perspectives.

Value development

As a result of living on campus, a majority of students have developed their values related to strategies to be physically and mentally healthy, and their own sense of personal responsibility. Fewer students reported development related to sustainability, and the lowest rate of development was in regard to spiritual beliefs.



Q88. Do you feel like Alfred University is a home away from home for you?



Summary and Action Steps:

The perception of safety in residence halls continues to receive high ratings year after year; students feel safe in their rooms and believe their belongings are secure. We will continue to advocate for safety enhancements in and around our residence halls, and we will be implementing new programs to educate residents on community awareness.

We will continue to provide education on how to successfully live with others, including communication, compromise and resolution.

The number of students struggling with mental health difficulties is consistent with other surveys conducted within the division. Residence Life will increase our ability to offer support via partnerships with the counseling center, health & wellness education, Center for Academic Success, international student

programs and through in-hall programming.

Findings related to RD relationships were a bit discouraging. We believe a move to professional RDs would reverse that trend and provide more time for the RDs to be in their halls getting to know their residents in a way that our graduate RDs can't.

76% of our respondents say that Alfred University is a home-away-from-home. As a residential campus, this percentage is acceptable but we will strive to raise it. While, as students note, school can rarely take the place of home, we can work on helping students connect with each other, and we can continue to advocate for some of the amenities that would make their "home" feel more comfortable.