

UC Berkeley Living/Learning Survey

Learning and personal development occur through transactions between students and their environments broadly defined to include other people (faculty, student affairs staff, peers), physical spaces, and cultural milieus. ~1993 ACPA Student Learning Imperative

Background Information

In the spring of 2002, the first of its kind Living/Learning Survey in the University run residential communities of UC Berkeley was launched. The Office of Student Development (OSD) and the Office of Student Research (OSR) collaborated to create a survey to answer questions about the effect of our residential programs and services on the development of students living in those communities. This approach was a departure from the previous surveys that focused on resident satisfaction with programs, facilities, and other housing services. Although previous surveys were useful, they did not provide clues about how our programs and services affected students' development.

Undergraduate Characteristics

On average 95% of the incoming freshmen and one third of new transfer students live in University run housing their first year. The UC Berkeley freshman to sophomore retention rate is 96% with a 4.5-year graduation rate of 68%. The six-year graduation rate is 84%.

The Survey

Within this five-year cross-sectional study, our collaboration with the Office of Student Research gives us the opportunity to run a one-year longitudinal study each year on two measures of adjustment. Each summer, newly admitted freshmen and transfer students are asked to complete the New Student Survey. We ask a selected set of questions from that survey thereby providing a first year pre/post dataset. These questions ask students to assess of their own level of preparedness prior to coming to Cal and to gauge their level of concern

about a variety of issues related to their first year. This effort may give us insight into how we might make a difference during their first year.

The resulting survey is web-based and in 2004 consisted of 27 quantitative and eight open-ended questions. Sixteen of the quantitative questions have been repeated in each of the three annual administrations of the survey. This stable set of questions will provide the information for the five-year cross-sectional study. The remaining questions change from year to year and allow flexibility to explore time sensitive topics. In 2003, this section focused on technology usage of residents. In 2004, respondents were asked marketing questions on the topic of housing preferences.

Standard marketing practices were used to promote participation. These included an e-mail invitation to participate, posters, table tents, enticing financial incentives for the participants and for hall staff, and two targeted e-mail reminders. The survey usually runs for approximately three weeks and in 2004, the response rate was 41%.

Living/Learning Survey, Spring 2004

Your Preparation for Cal

1. For each of the following areas, please assess how well prepared you were when you enrolled last fall for what has been required of you as a Berkeley student?

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Effective study strategies & skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Writing effective essays and papers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reading with comprehension and speed	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Skills to do well in math & math-related courses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Making effective oral presentations, speaking skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Desktop computer skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Internet, web skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Using the library, accessing research information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Time management skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Managing your finances	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ability to handle stress	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ability to cope with a competitive atmosphere	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall preparation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Your Experience Now That You Are Here

2. Please indicate the extent to which you have personal concerns about each of the following statements.

	Very Concerned	Somewhat Concerned	Not that Concerned
Financing my education at Berkeley	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Finding affordable housing while I am a student at Berkeley	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Getting into my first choice major	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Getting the kind of academic advising I need	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Getting the career and professional advising that I need	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Getting the personal counseling I need	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Being able to balance academic and social activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Being able to make the kind of friends I want	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Being away from family and friends, being homesick	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Being able to maintain good health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Being able to cope with the expectations of parents and family	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My personal safety in and around the city of Berkeley	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Being overwhelmed with all the things that I am expected to do	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. If you have personal concerns about any of the following statements, please indicate the extent to which you were able to find help within the University community (the University community includes the residential living environment and University services like advising, health services, career services, etc.)

	Not a concern	Didn't look for help at Cal	Found the help I needed at Cal	Found some help at Cal	Looked for help at Cal but didn't find any
Financing my education at Berkeley	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Finding affordable housing while I am a student at Berkeley	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Getting into my first choice major	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Getting the kind of academic advising I need	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Getting the career and professional advising that I need	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Getting the personal counseling I need	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Being able to balance academic and social activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Being able to make the kind of friends I want	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Being away from family and friends, being homesick	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Being able to maintain good health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Being able to cope with the expectations of parents and family	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My personal safety in and around the city of Berkeley	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Being overwhelmed with all the things that I am expected to do	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. What major do you hope to graduate in at Berkeley?

Major 

4a. Other, please specify:

5. How sure are you that this is the major you really want?

Very Sure

Somewhat Sure

Not Very Sure

Not at all Sure

6. The following questions should be answered from the perspective of your life in the residential community. The residential community includes the residence halls and the Academic Centers. Within my residential community:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I can turn to my peers for help with non-academic issues.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I can turn to hall staff for help with non-academic issues.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My peers do not take responsibility for maintaining a welcoming community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have found the diversity of ideas to be valuable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have found the cultural/ethnic diversity to be valuable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I do not feel that I am valued by the hall staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

My peers encourage me to do my best at Cal.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I do not like to engage in discussions about information I get from classes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The atmosphere is welcoming of all kinds of diversity (ability, race, gender, sexual orientation, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am satisfied with the level of diversity-related programs and services offered.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The residential environment is not conducive to studying.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attending cultural events with my peers is something I value.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If faculty regularly presented seminars or other programs, I would attend them.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hall staff have encouraged me to attend cultural events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is not important to me that I participate in the governance of the residential community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conversations with peers encourage me to consider different points of view.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The residential environment is intellectually stimulating.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. Within my residential community:

	Very Often	Often	Sometimes	Once or Twice	Never
I have attended events that included faculty.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I have had the opportunity to meet with or talk to a professor or professors.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have participated in activities that allowed me to contribute to my residential community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have participated in activities that allowed me to contribute to the campus community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have participated in activities that allowed me to contribute to the community outside of campus.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I engage in meaningful discourse with people whose social or cultural background is different from mine.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have conversations with my peers or the hall staff about career choices.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have asked the staff for help with academic problems.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have asked my peers for help with academic problems.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. On average what percent of your study time is conducted in a residence hall or academic center?

75 to 100 %

50 to 74%

25 to 49%

Less than 25%

9. Most people on my floor/suite:

- Study much more than I do
- Study more than I do
- Study about as much as I do
- Study less than I do
- Study much less than I do

10. On average I study:

- More than 30 hours per week
- Between 21 - 30 hours per week
- Between 16 to 20 hours per week
- Between 10 to 15
- Less than 10 hours per week

11. Which of the following organizations/groups have you been involved in while living in the residential community? (Check all that apply)

- RHA (Residence Hall Assembly-composed of representatives from each residential area)
- Hall Association (Student government system in each residential building or area)
- Overnight Host Program
- Peer Review Board
- CalSO (Cal Student Orientation)
- Art or Performance group(s)
- Academically oriented organization(s)
- fraternity/sorority

- Religious group(s)
- Media or publications group(s) (KALX-FM, Daily Cal, etc.)
- Intramural team
- Ethnic or international organization(s)
- On campus political/social action group
- Honor group
- Environmental group(s)
- Service group(s)
- Off-campus organization(s)
- Student Government (ASUC, Departmental/Campus Committees)
- Other

About The Academic Centers

12. How often have you used the following Academic Center Services/Programs?

	Very Often	Often	Sometimes	Once or twice	Never
Tutoring/Study Sessions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Computing Centers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Academic Center Study Space	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Peer Advising (either in the DC or in the Academic Center)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Common Class Lists	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RA sponsored academic programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

13. What significant benefits do you think you've gained as a result of using the services of the Academic Center? (Check all that apply)

- Have not used any of the services (go to question #15)
- Improved grades
- Improved study skills
- Able to set up or join a study group
- Found employment in the Academic Center
- Other benefit
- No significant benefit

14. There are many reasons why students do not use Academic Center services, or participate in Academic Center programs. For each service/program you do not use, which of the following were significant reasons why you did not use the service or participate more often? (Check all that apply)

	Never heard of it	Have no need for it	Used the on-campus version of it	Did not find it to be effective	Times have been inconvenient	Location is inconvenient	Other
Tutoring/Study Sessions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Computing Centers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Academic Center Study Space	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Peer Advising (either in the DC or in the Academic Center)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Common Class Lists	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

RA sponsored academic programs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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**15. Which of the following services in the Chavez Center do you use?
(Check all that apply)**

- Tutoring/Study sessions
- Advising services
- Transfer student programs

Other Campus Living Issues

16. Please rate the impact of construction on:

	Big Problem	Problem	Minor Problem	No Sweat
Sleeping	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Studying	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Socializing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Overall quality of life	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

17. Please rate the effort the University has made to ease the situation of having a construction project close to where you live.

- Outstanding effort
- Good effort
- Fair effort
- Terrible effort

18. Please comment on any aspect of the construction in your unit.

19. How important have each of the following features of residential living been to you?

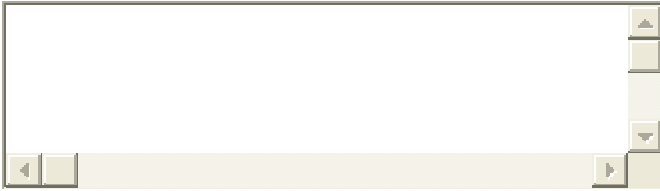
	Not that important	Important	Very Important	The most important thing
Access to high speed Internet	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A feeling of security	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Living close to campus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Meeting new friends, being a part of the community, social support	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Not having to cook	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall residential community experience (including programs & faculty support)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other important feature (please describe below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

19a.

20. When you look back on the time in your residence hall, are your memories:

- Very positive
- Somewhat positive
- Somewhat negative
- Very negative
- Not memorable one way or the other

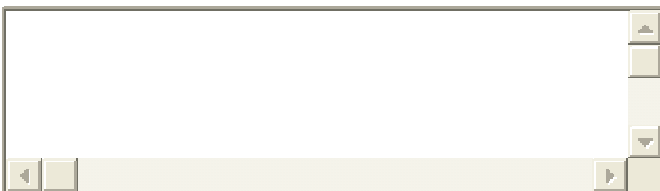
20a. Please explain why.



21. What best describes your housing decision for next year?

- Will not be enrolled at Cal
- Was easy decision to stay in the residence halls
- Was difficult decision to stay in the residence halls
- Was easy decision to move off campus
- Was difficult decision to move off campus
- Other (please explain below)

21a.



22. In making your decision about where to live next year, what priority did each of the following have?

	Not that important	Important	Very Important	The most important thing
Close proximity to campus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Affordability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Security	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Access to High speed Internet	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cable TV	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Convenient to public transportation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Having my own room	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quality of the living space	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please explain below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

22a.

23. Which of the following, if available, would make you want to stay in the residence halls? (Check all that apply)

- A guarantee to get my first choice in housing options
- The same housing cost as this year
- An optional meal plan rather than a required plan

Other (please explain below)

23a.

Over the next two years, different configurations of new housing and apartment style living will be made available to students.

24. Do you think you would seriously consider this new housing for yourself?

No (please go directly to questions #29)

Maybe

Probably

Definitely

25. Which of the following, if available, would significantly increase the likelihood of your choosing the new housing? (Check all that apply)

50 free meals at a residence hall or campus eatery

A guarantee of no rent increase during my stay

A ten-month lease (instead of a 12-month lease)

A furnished apartment

A guarantee of my first choice in housing

None of these

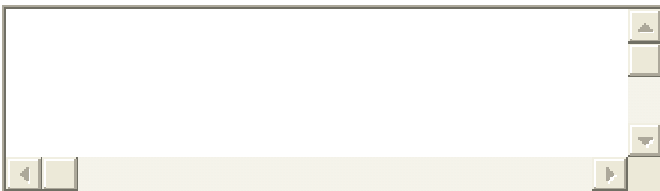
26. If you considered living in this new campus housing, what kind of meal plan, if any, to use at a residence hall or campus eatery would you be interested in buying?

- Would not be interested in a meal plan
- Would choose plan of 4 meals per month (average: 1 per week)
- Would choose plan of 20 meals per month (average: 5 per week)
- Would choose plan of 40+ meals per month (average: 10+ per week)

27. The following features are included in campus apartments but not necessarily in off-campus apartments. For you, which of these features would make it worthwhile to pay slightly more for a campus apartment as opposed to an off-campus apartment. (Check all that apply)

- Utilities
- Occasional janitorial service
- Basic cable
- Academic support programs
- Computing support
- Security
- Live-in staff support
- My own private room
- Other (please explain below)

27a.



28. Suppose sharing a room in a campus housing apartment costs \$800 a month. How much additional money per month would you be willing to pay in order to have a private room?

- Less than \$100
- \$100
- \$200
- \$300
- \$400
- \$500
- More than \$500

29. Please offer any comments or suggestions regarding on-campus housing options

Congratulations! You have just completed the Living/Learning Survey and you will be entered into a drawing to be one of 4 lucky students who will have a \$500 credit added to their Cal 1 Card. For a list of locations that accept the 1 Card, please go to

http://calphotoid.berkeley.edu/cal1card_index.htm