

Res Hall Advantage

Copious amounts of caffeine, scoliosis-inducing backpacks and schedules with less wiggle room than a New York subway all help to define the standard American college student.

No university-goer's experience is quite complete, however, without full submersion into on-campus living. While you may associate the stereotypical dorm scene with noisy, cramped and less-than-pleasant-smelling quarters with that inconsiderate roommate who blasts indie British punk playlists at 3 a.m., living in the residence halls is a unique, four-year window of opportunity to reside in community with your peers.

Just consider these following reasons to give the bunk-and-ramen way of life a try:

Automatic community:

Setting foot on campus soil as a pitiful, quivering freshman can be daunting enough without trying to assemble a new friend group from scratch. When you commit to the dorm life, you're surrounded by swarms of other students all feverishly seeking any friendly face they can find. When it comes to meeting people in the residence halls, you have no choice—you will encounter people who reside two feet from you in every direction right outside your threshold.

(Free)dom

We all know that everything comes with a price. Even the “free” toys in those kids' meals are sneakily included in the overall fast food cost. Surely college is no exception, but as a dorm-dweller, you no longer have to bother worrying about purchasing trash bags, sorting out those pesky water and electricity bills, or supplying your own stash of toilet paper. In fact, life in the residence halls is (sort of) like an all-expense-paid vacation.

Academic abode

Choosing the dorm life is pretty much a guaranteed ticket to enhanced academic performance. According to a San Diego State University study, students living on campus consistently outshine their off-campus counterparts in both GPA and graduation rate. The University of Iowa conducted research with similar results, concluding that students living in the dorms were twice as likely to make the dean's list.

Primed to participate

We have all heard countless times the importance of getting involved in activities beyond the classroom walls. But let's face it—once a student has abandoned on-campus living, the chances that they'll stay plugged into other clubs and organizations drastically decreases. Take it from personal experience—once I moved off campus for my senior year, the extracurriculars that once filled my non-studying hours quickly evaporated along with the futons and community bathrooms.