

What is the 2020 Census?

Every 10 years, the U.S. Census Bureau counts every person living in the U.S. as mandated in the Constitution. The count begins in mid-March and lasts through the summer.

What questions are on the 2020 Census?

The Census is a simple and confidential [9-question survey](#) that takes less than 5 minutes to complete. Questions include your name, address, gender, race, and age. *The 2020 Census does not ask about your citizenship status or for your social security number, bank details, payment, or a donation.*

How should I complete the questions on residence?

In general, count yourself at the U.S. residence where you live and sleep most of the time.

Tips on the Residence Question for Students

- Students who usually live in University Housing. Count yourself at SJSU, even if you are temporarily living elsewhere due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- International and undocumented students. Count yourself at the U.S. residence where you live and sleep most of the time.
- Students enrolled in study-abroad programs. If you are living outside the U.S. on Census Day, April 1, 2020, do not count yourself in the stateside census. If you are back in the U.S., count yourself at the U.S. residence where you live and sleep most of the time.
- Students who are homeless or housing insecure. If you do not have a usual residence, count yourself where you are on Census Day, April 1, 2020.

How do I complete the questions on race, ethnicity, and gender?

Spartans should self-identify regarding race, ethnicity and gender. Your responses won't be cross-checked with any other information you may have provided on other documents, including your birth certificate or driver's license.

How will 2020 Census data be used?

The data are used to produce statistics that inform:

- Distribution of billions of dollars in federal funds to state and local governments,
- Plans for public safety and location of new schools and hospitals,
- Business and nonprofit leader decisions on where to open businesses and offices,
- Determining how many seats each state gets in the House of Representatives, and
- Boundaries of the congressional and state legislative districts based on population shifts.

Are my 2020 Census responses confidential?

Your responses to the Census are protected by law and cannot be shared with, or used by, any other government agencies. Answers cannot be used for purposes of law enforcement, determining eligibility for government benefits, immigration enforcement. Census data will never be shared with your landlords.

Why does the 2020 Census matter?

For every person left uncounted, California could lose up to \$1,000 per person each year for the next ten years. Completing your Census form helps ensure California receives funding for health care services, parks, and roads that support your local community.

How can I help promote the 2020 Census?

You can help build 2020 Census engagement in a number of ways, such as

- Sharing this SJSU 2020 Census Guide through newsletters, websites, and other digital channels.
- Encouraging others to complete the 2020 Census during your classes or meetings.
- Post on social media using #SJSUCounts with images of your census story