



STUDENT



IMPACT

REPORT



FY 2023



Student Housing & Residential Life
Division of Student Affairs



Overview

Student Housing & Residential Life's (SHRL) Impact Report for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 showcases the University of Houston's (UH) commitment to student success and satisfaction, whole-person development and fostering a sense of community for all residents. The SHRL team consisted of 53 full-time staff and 360-plus student employees who worked to implement programs and initiatives designed to empower and support UH residents. This report highlights outcomes experienced by UH residents during FY 2023.



UH Residence Halls

Seven residential areas and two partner properties provided support to students through a number of organized events, shared facilities and programmatic efforts aimed at foster social interaction, belonging, engagement and academic success.



BAYOU OAKS: OPENED: 2003 – BED CAPACITY: 490



COUGAR VILLAGE I: OPENED: 2010 – BED CAPACITY: 1,178



COUGAR VILLAGE II: OPENED: 2013 – BED CAPACITY: 1,144



COUGAR PLACE: OPENED: 2013 – BED CAPACITY: 799



MOODY TOWERS: OPENED: 1970 – BED CAPACITY: 1,092



THE QUAD: OPENED: 2020 – BED CAPACITY: 1,197



UNIVERSITY LOFTS: OPENED: 2009 – BED CAPACITY: 984

PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP COMPLEXES ON CAMPUS:

CAMBRIDGE OAKS
OPENED: 1991
BED CAPACITY: 634

CULLEN OAKS
OPENED: 2001
BED CAPACITY: 879

Resident Engagement Model

Active engagement is a critical component of a student's success. SHRL's educational priority is for residents to engage in learning experiences that promote academic success and connection to a diverse community using the following learning goals:

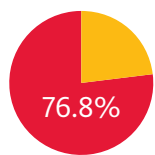
Learn: Residents will be able to cultivate co-curricular learning experiences that promote increased competence in critical thinking, ethical development and the lifelong pursuit of knowledge.

Discover: Residents will engage with one another in open and civil communities, understand their personal identities and become involved in campus life.

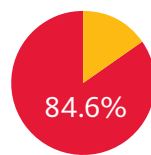
Empower: Residents will experiment with innovative strategies to develop the confidence to pursue life-long goals and aspirations.

Survey Data Benchmarks

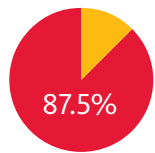
SHRL's assessment staff distributed a satisfaction survey via SkyFactor to 6000-plus residents to gain feedback on engagement and student success measures in campus residence halls. The insights gleaned from the survey highlight the positive impacts of on-campus living on our residents' academic and social experiences.



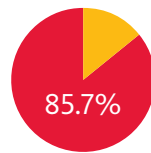
76.8% of residents indicated that their on-campus housing experience improved their ability to make meaningful connections with other students in their classes.



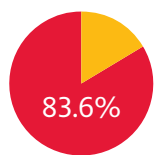
84.6% of residents indicated feeling a strong sense of belonging to the institution due to their on campus housing experience.



87.5% of residents indicated that living on campus significantly contributed to their learning experience.

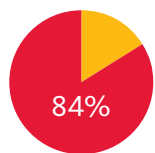


85.7% of residents indicated that living on campus positively contributed to their academic performance.

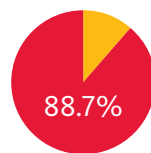


83.6% of residents indicated that their on campus housing experience positively influenced their decision to return to UH for the 2023-24 academic year.

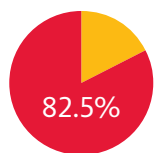
Life Skills: From fostering stronger interpersonal relationships to enhancing conflict resolution, cooperation and social connections, UH residents find a supportive environment for personal growth within campus residence halls.



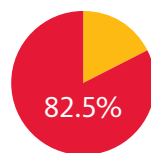
84% of residents indicated that they were able to improve interpersonal relationships by living in on-campus housing.



88.7% of residents indicated that living on campus enhanced their ability to live cooperatively.



82.5% of residents indicated that living on campus enhanced their ability to resolve conflicts.



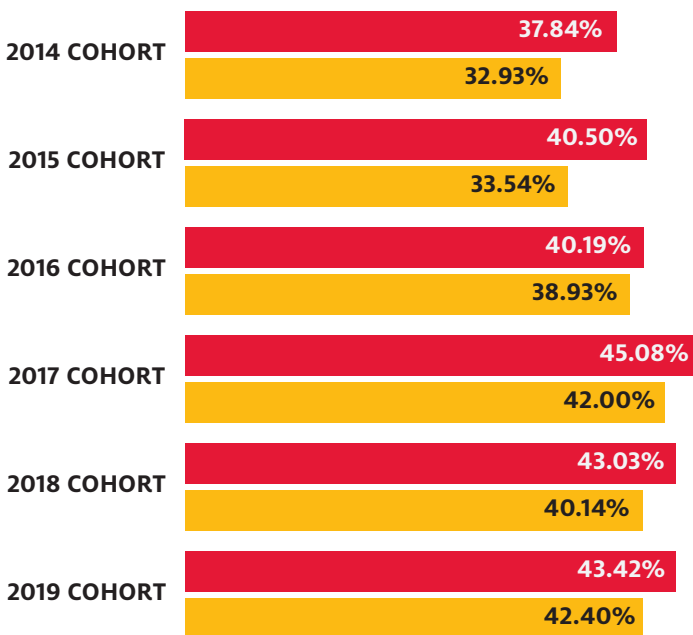
82.5% of residents indicated that living on campus enhanced their ability to meet people.



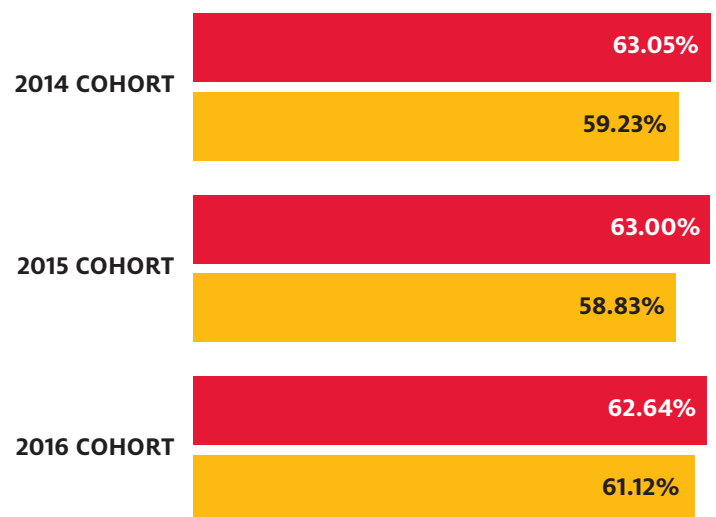
Graduation Rates

Beginning with the 2014 cohort, SHRL residents have outpaced commuter students for 4 and 6-year graduation rates.

4-YEAR GRADUATION RATES



6-YEAR GRADUATION RATES

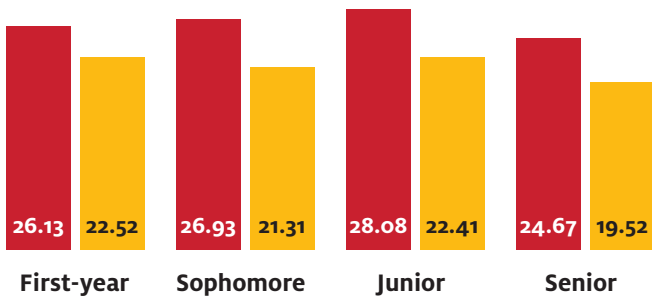


● Residents 1+ years ● Commuters

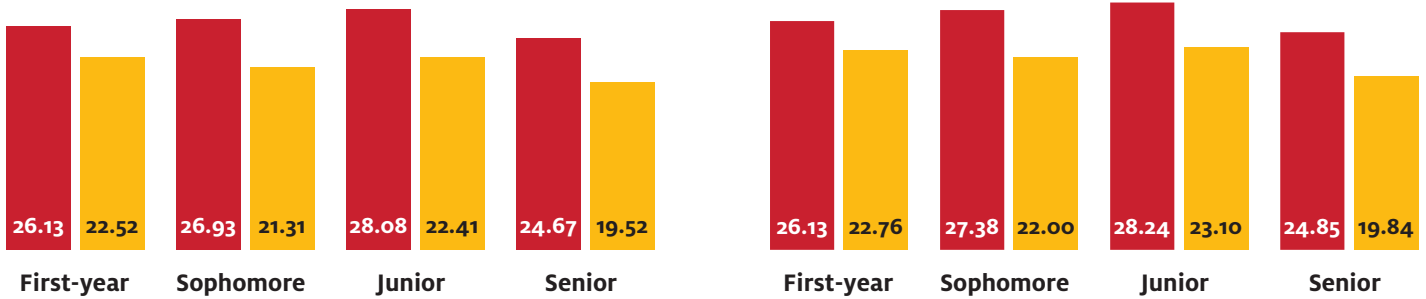
Credit Hours

Since the 2016-2017 academic year, SHRL residents completed 4.39 more credit hours than their commuter counterparts.

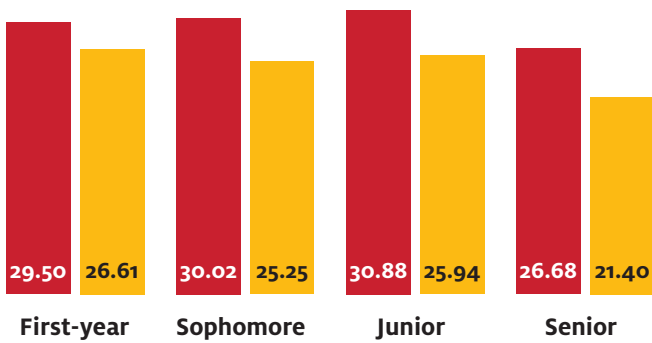
2016-2017



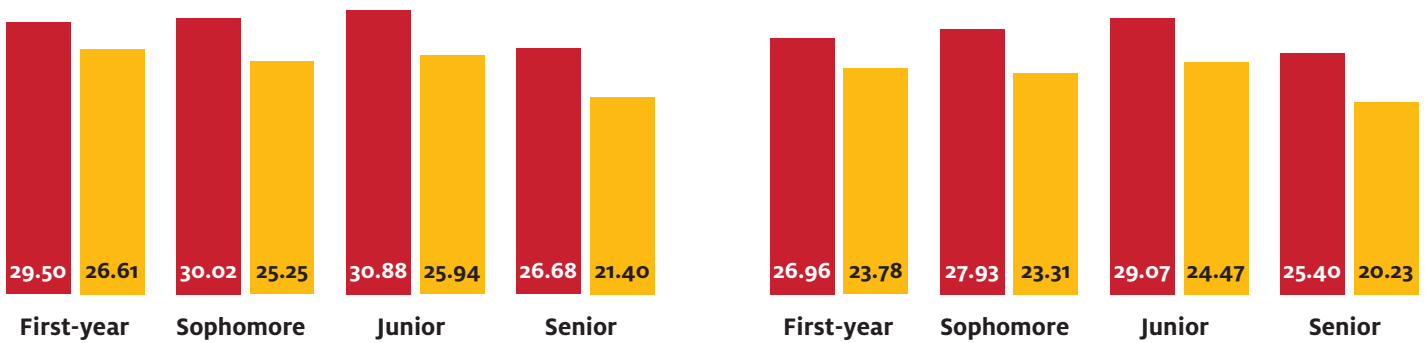
2017-2018



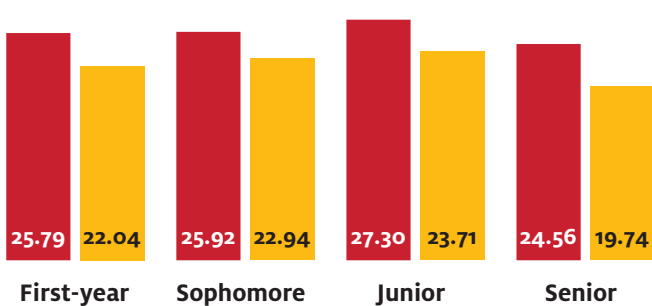
2018-2019



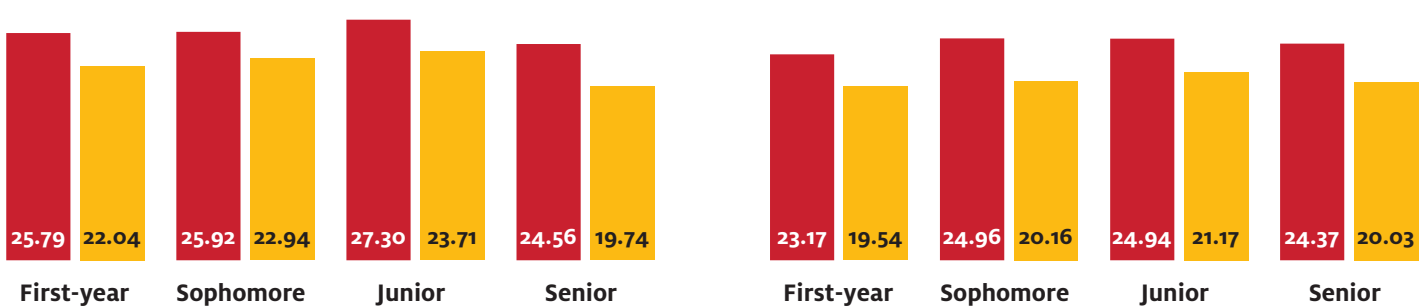
2019-2020



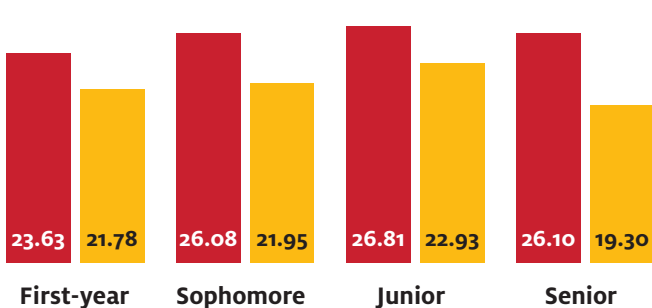
2020-2021



2021-2022



2022-2023



● Residents ● Commuters

Departmentwide Impact on Student Success

Comprised of three professional units (i.e., Housing Operations & Outreach, Marketing & Communications and Residential Life), SHRL staff worked with a number of internal and external partners to provide a range of services to residents. This collective approach to student success resulted in a surge in room renewals, increased occupancy, impactful academic interventions and more.

Housing Operations & Outreach

Goals to increase access to on-campus housing were achieved with a focus on key partnerships with areas such as Enrollment Services, Admissions, Facilities & Construction Management and academic units. Highlights from FY 2023 include the following:

- *Housing applications increased by 14% and prompted expansion of first-year housing to Moody Towers – South.*
- *Six hundred and twenty-six students utilized the newly implemented Housing Standby List, which presented students with the opportunity to request a preferred room type after the Room Self-assignment Period.*
- *In its inaugural year, 432 students utilized an online process for students to appeal select housing charges. If an appeal is denied, it is automatically routed to the Housing Appeals Committee, which is comprised of students and staff who are not otherwise affiliated with SHRL. This change not only provided a secondary review of a student's appeal request but also helped to ensure an equitable review process.*
- *Over \$4.2 million was spent to renovate and maintain residential areas.*

Additionally, the Conference & Guest Housing programs offered accommodations for groups seeking quality lodging in an academic setting, catering to a range of events from athletic camps and business meetings to organizational functions. The programs not only provided top-notch accommodations at a competitive price, but also made financial contributions to the community. From revenues generated in FY 2023, SHRL contributed \$26,592 to the Cougar Experience Scholarship fund to support on-campus housing expenses for eligible college students at UH.



Marketing & Communications

With the goal to increase communication and outreach to residents at UH, the SHRL Marketing & Communications unit worked to impact student success in several ways during the FY 2023 academic year. A full-time graphics designer was hired to help produce visually appealing marketing materials that would excite residents about participating in Resident Appreciation events, financial literacy workshops, Trivia and Game Night events, resume building and networking activities, and community-led study halls.

A new video feature titled “Coogs on the Street” (COTS) debuted to university community in October 2022, drawing attention to support resources (i.e., LAUNCH, CAPS, Women and Gender Resource Center, etc.) available to both on-campus and commuter students. This video feature also included support staff who offered an overview of services provided in their respective offices. COTS-branded T-shirts were also secured to hand out to participating students to help bring awareness to the video series. Additionally, the “In the Loop” video series forged ahead with a total of 30 episodes, aimed at helping students connect with engagement opportunities hosted by the university partners.

In late fall 2022, the SHRL MarCom unit launched a comprehensive marketing campaign for Priority Room Selection, which aimed to save current residents the standard \$99 Housing Agreement fee for early signup.

“Coog House News,” an electronic newsletter for on-campus residents, made its debut via the department’s website in Spring 2023. This resource aims to feature developments of particular interest to residents including Faculty-in-Residence (FIR) programming, staff updates, building maintenance projects, support resource updates and community happenings.

COOGS HOUSE NEWS

OCTOBER 2023



2023 COOG CRIBS ROOM DESIGN CONTEST
PRESENTED BY
STUDENT HOUSING & RESIDENTIAL LIFE!

2023 COOG CRIBS ROOM DECORATION COMPETITION
Hey, Coogs! The Coog Cribs Competition is back! Do you have the coolest room on campus? Did you and your roommates deck out your living room? Enter the 2023 Coog Cribs Competition to see how you stack up, win prizes and most importantly, bragging rights. This year, we have introduced four categories to highlight your creativity.

HOME SWEET HOME
This is a judges' choice category. We want to see what makes your space uniquely YOU. Submissions will be evaluated based on use of space, use of color and reflection of personality.

COUGAR PRIDE
“Cougar Pride” is a judges' choice category. Show us how your room embodies the Cougar Spirit. Whether you have incorporated school colors, Houston memorabilia or Weeks of Welcome freebies, we want to see rooms that shout UH. Submissions will be evaluated based on commitment to the category, creativity, and use of space.

BEST LIVING ROOM
“Best Living Room” is a judges' choice category. Your common area is THE space for your fellow Coogs to hang out. If your living space clearly reflects a team effort and is frequently visited by friends, step into the spotlight. This category is for UH residents who share a common living area (Bayou Oaks, Cougar Place, The Quad and University Lofts). Submissions will be evaluated based on creativity, use of space and reflection of group interests.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE
Winners in this category will be determined by social media engagement. The People's Choice submissions will be posted on Student Housing & Residential Life's Facebook page and Instagram stories (contestants will receive an email when submissions are posted). The room that gets the most combined likes between platforms by 8 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 20 will win.

Submit your room before **11:59 p.m. on Oct. 17**. Visit the Coog Cribs webpage to learn more
<https://uh.edu/housing/contests/2023-coogs-cribs-contest>



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WE WEAR RED ON FRIDAYS!



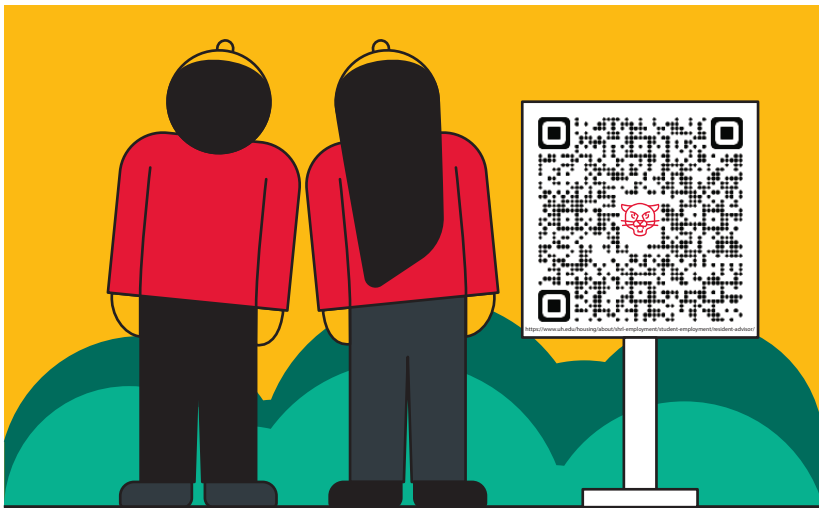
Residential Life

In the 2022-2023 academic year, Residential Life witnessed a return to in-person activities, supported by the Resident Advisor (RA) team through one-on-one interactions and resident participation in activities. The team received nearly 500 student applications for RA positions, with many citing their RAs as the inspiration for their interest, showcasing a strong commitment to student success. There were over 360 student staff members, underscoring the significant impact of this dedicated team on fostering a supportive living and learning environment. Concurrently, the Faculty-In-Residence (FIR) program enhanced the intersection of students' academic and residential learning experiences. For the 2023-2024 academic year, a total of six FIRs contributed to this enriching environment.

During the 2022-2023 academic year, Residential Life received approval to introduce a new initiative aimed at enhancing student wellbeing and support. The implementation of this initiative is scheduled to get underway during the 2023-2024 academic year with a five-member team, who will focus on conflict resolution, students with complex personal or academic concerns, and connecting students to on-campus resources.

LOOKING FOR A REWARDING ON-CAMPUS JOB EXPERIENCE?

APPLY TO BE A RESIDENT ADVISOR WITH
STUDENT HOUSING & RESIDENTIAL LIFE!



Positions are available in SEVEN residential communities for the 2023-2024 academic year. For a snapshot of the RA position, you are encouraged to attend the following events:

1. **Informational sessions: (Attend one of three offerings)**
 - Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 6 p.m.
 - Thursday, Jan. 19 at 6 p.m.
 - Monday, Jan. 23 at 4:30 p.m. (virtual)
2. "What RAs Say" panel, Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023 (The Quad Multipurpose Room)

To apply for an RA position, log in to [AccessUH](#) and click the Myhousing icon. Questions? Scan the QR code, or email Griselda Quezada, program coordinator for Selection and Training, at gquezad4@central.uh.edu.



Student Housing & Residential Life
Division of Student Affairs



**STUDENT SUPPORT
& WELLBEING**

Staff Testimonials



Aislyn Avery, M.A., M.Ed.
Residential Life Coordinator – Cougar Village II

"Cougar Village II had the overall goal of creating an inclusive, comforting, and supportive environment for our students. Our goal, through programming, was to focus on whole-person development. Cougar Village II hosted programs that enhanced residential engagement, promoted whole-person development and supported academic efforts. Aiding students on their academic journey is always the focus when programming, but we also included opportunities for their personal and professional growth. Each program focused on our students discovering or learning something new and finding ways to empower themselves and others."



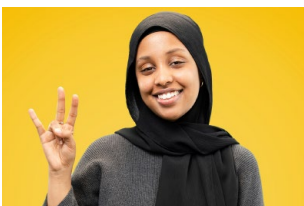
Jerrod A. Henderson, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor Chemical Engineering

FIR, Cougar Village II
"My goal is to provide students with a variety of opportunities to engage with the FIR Program. For example, taking a holistic approach, I develop programs in at least 4 domains (e.g., academic, cultural, wellness, and social). Past programs have included connecting students to learning abroad through Taco Tuesdays, visits to Blaffer Art museums, exposing students to the Guaranteed 4.0 Learning System and fitness walks."



Kandace Kendall, MS.Ed.
Assistant Director, Residential Life

"We created programs for students to learn to meditate, destress and practice self-love. RAs and Residential Life Coordinators were consistently checking in on students' well-being and mental health through weekly one-on-one interactions."



Fatuma Baharun
Resident Advisor, Cougar Place

"Experiencing my first semester at home during the pandemic highlighted the impact of campus living on my academic journey. Joining Hall Council opened doors to various campus organizations, providing vital connections and support. Living on campus, I discovered diverse study spaces that positively influenced my academic success."

Conclusion

SHRL staff are dedicated to supporting a diverse community that nurtures student success in living-learning spaces. By prioritizing meaningful relationships, fostering engagement and embodying an ethic of care, SHRL staff continue to provide an unrivaled residential experience. Partnerships with other campus departments have significantly impacted the staff's ability to shape environments where both residents and student staff can thrive academically and personally.



