

# Resident Access Patterns

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Overview -

The 2020-2021 academic year was severely impacted for residential students due to the on-going Covid-19 Pandemic. Federal guidelines and state mandates limited the number of residents who could gather. Over 50% of classes moved to an online or hybrid format. Fall athletics were cancelled and most traditional programming was moved online or limited to just a handful of students who could attend at a time.

Housing and Residence Life sought to determine if social restrictions and changes to a “traditional” college experience would be evident in the way students accessed the residence halls. To determine this, we examined the access records for the first two weeks of the fall 2020 semester and compared them to the first two weeks of fall 2019. We wanted to determine the following:

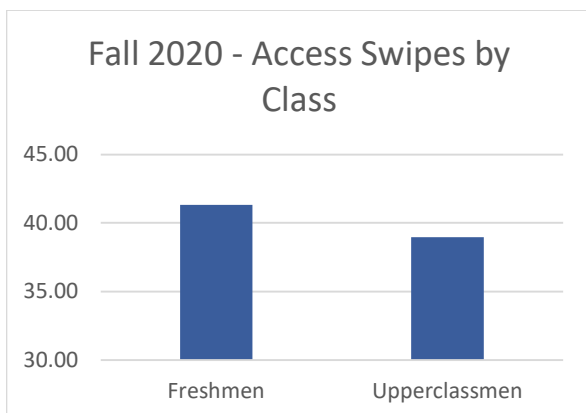
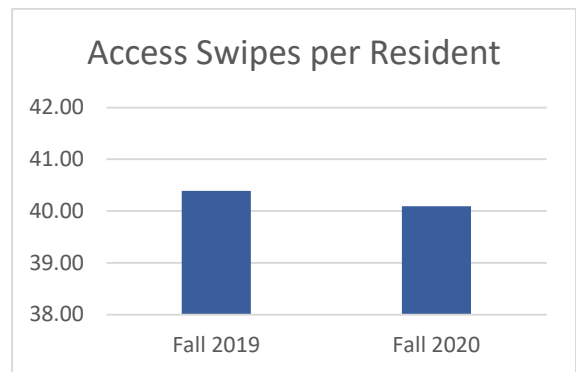
- Were there changes to how often students accessed the residence halls?
- Was there a difference in access between first-year freshmen and upperclassmen students?

### Highlights

There was a significant decline in the number of residential students from 2019-2020 to 2020-2021 (5,686 v 4,019). This was accounted for in the assessment, but it’s also possible that this decline also might have slightly affected the number of times a resident needed to swipe their ID to access the hall. With more students, there were likely times that one resident would swipe their card, but another may enter the hall with them. This small possible variance can’t be accounted for.

Despite this change in population, individual resident access swipes over the compared two-week period was virtually unchanged (2019 – 40.39. 2020 – 40.09). This was slightly unexpected. With the reduction of in-person classes, athletic events, and limitations of all in-person gatherings, one would have expected for this to impact how often residents are leaving the halls.

Anecdotally, this may show that the overall experience of residential students has not changed completely. Residents are still coming and going from the residence halls with pre-Covid frequency.



Additionally, we sought to determine if access patterns varied between first-year freshmen and upperclassmen residents. Using the data from Fall 2020, we determined that freshmen students accessed the hall slightly more than upperclassmen students (41.32 v 38.95). This could be due to first-year freshmen students finding their way around campus and settling into a routine, compared to upperclassmen who have experience navigating campus.

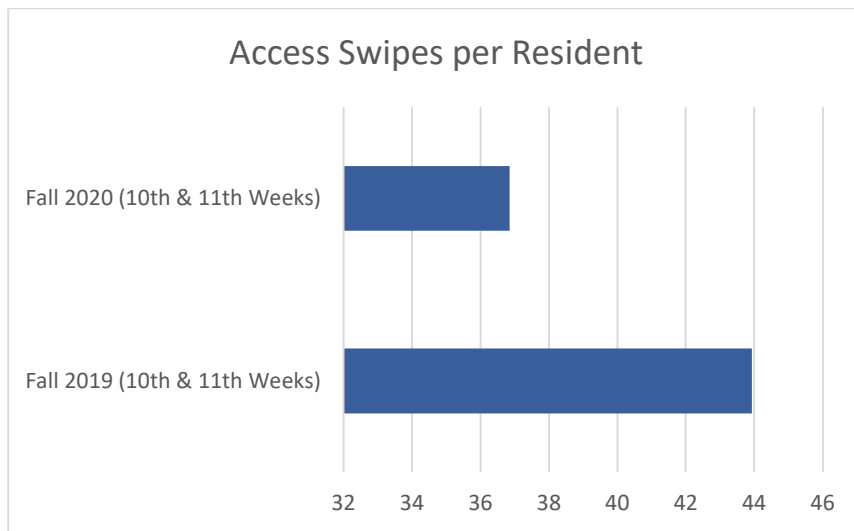
## Future Implications

Perhaps the most important takeaway from this assessment is that the pandemic has not altered the frequency in which residential students are coming and going from the residence halls. Despite the changes to their experience, they are still getting out and exploring campus, meeting with friends, and finding ways to connect. This is important to keep in mind as we look to provide programs, opportunities for floormates to interact, and new and creative ways to provide residential students with meaningful experiences.

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## Updated Assessment

Anecdotal evidence suggested that resident access may have dropped off throughout the course of the Fall 2020 semester. For this reason, we again compared data from 2019, instead this time looking at the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> week of the semester.



This comparison showed a considerable difference in how often residents were accessing the hall later in the semester compared to a similar time period in 2019 (43.93 in 2019 v. 36.85 in 2020). Again, the difference in swipes for the first two weeks of 2019 and 2020 was negligible. This shows, as the semester progressed, there was a change in how often students were accessing the halls. This suggests that Covid restrictions and limited options for in-person gatherings did have an impact on how often residents entered and exited the halls.

The decline in access might also indicate a reduction in the number of classes meeting face-to-face. While the initial breakdown of classes was 48% remote, 8% hybrid, and 44% face-to-face, there were indications that many face-to-face classes moved to remote instruction completely or at least met face-to-face less often as the semester progressed.

This information is particularly useful for residence life staff, as it suggests a bigger impact on residents than was seen earlier in the fall. For the Spring of 2021, this knowledge will impact how in-hall staff seek to connect with residents and the overall program HRL offers.

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