

How does your Student Housing Application measure up?

Since student information collected from Student Housing Applications is used to match roommates at many universities, are the universities asking the right questions? This document was created for the purpose of circulating the Validated University Student Housing Application Question Elements to universities for the betterment of education and for all students subject to university housing. These Question Elements were validated by Student Housing Experts that represented twenty universities from large, small, public, and private schools.

The following information is part of the Dissertation entitled “**Development and Validation of the University Student Housing Application and Student Matching and Placement Methodology**” by Aaron Dishno Ed.D. Copyright January 2011, all rights reserved.

Dissertation Abstract

Development and Validation of the University Student Housing Application and
Student Matching and Placement Methodology

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Every year, on-campus student housing at colleges and universities throughout the United States populates with over 2.6 million students, many of which are first-time freshmen. To students in housing, finding the right roommate can decrease the effects of homesickness, minimize roommate conflict, and help build long-lasting relationships. Research has shown that these roommate connections have significant impact in academic achievement and student retention. Some students arrive at universities with a predetermined roommate selection, while the majority of the students require some assistance. Roommate selection begins with the completion of the student housing application. The application information provides the basis for student matching and placement into on-campus housing. When processed, the student information is synthesized to create roommate matches by manual review, software automation, or feed roommate search websites. Regardless of the matching or placement methodology in use, there is a lack of consistency between university student housing application question elements for the students to complete. In addition, little is disclosed by housing administration software vendors about the methodology used to produce roommate matches from the student information. This causes sporadic results in measuring the effect student matching has on academic achievement and retention.

This Delphi research study developed a baseline student housing application validated by housing administrator experts that can be used by any university in the United States. Furthermore, an accepted method of student matching and placement methodology was developed, documented, and tested in a software prototype entitled the HousingCaddy. The combination of the application and placement methodology serves as a baseline where variations of the housing application question elements and placement methodology can be documented and the academic achievement and retention results can be measured to validate future improvements.

The full dissertation based on a ten year study of University Student Housing is available at:

<http://www.edupros.net/cms/EduProsProducts/eBookDissertation.aspx>

Validated Student Housing Application

Question Element	Type of Question	Examples of Answers	
Section 1 – General Information			
1	Application Year	Select	4 digit year
2	Application Term	Select	Quarter, semester, or other term
3	Student ID	Fill in the blank	Student ID or Social Security Number
4	Student Name	Fill in the blank	First, middle, and last name
5	Student Email	Fill in the blank	
6	Student Gender	Fill in the blank	Allows for male, female, or other
7	Student Date of Birth	Fill in the blank	
8	Permanent Phone	Fill in the blank	
9	Permanent Address	Fill in the blank	Address, city, state, zip code, and allow foreign addresses
10	Temporary Phone	Fill in the blank	
11	Temporary Address	Fill in the blank	Address, city, state, zip code, and allow foreign addresses
12	1 st Emergency Contact Name	Fill in the blank	First and last name
13	1 st Emergency Contact Phone	Fill in the blank	

14	2 nd Emergency Contact Name	Fill in the blank	First and last name
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15	2 nd Emergency Contact Phone	Fill in the blank	
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If under 18 years of age

16	Parent or Guardian Name	Fill in the blank	First and last name
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17	Parent or Guardian Phone	Fill in the blank	
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18	Parent or Guardian Address	Fill in the blank	Address, city, state, zip code, and allow foreign addresses
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Section 2 – Degree / Program Information

19	Major (Field of Study)	Select	List of programs available at selected university
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20	Prefer Roommate with Similar Major?	Select	Yes or no
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21	Class Status	Select	First time freshman, freshman, sophomore, junior, senior, teaching credential, graduate, research
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Section 3 – Housing Request Information

22	Are you a Returning Student?	Select	Yes or no
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23	If so, what is your Current Room Assignment?	Fill in the blank	
24	1 st Roommate Request Name	Fill in the blank	First and last name
25	1 st Roommate Student ID	Fill in the blank	
26	2 nd Roommate Request Name	Fill in the blank	First and last name
27	2 nd Roommate Student ID	Fill in the blank	
28	3 rd Roommate Request Name	Fill in the blank	First and last name
29	3 rd Roommate Student ID	Fill in the blank	
30	Housing Request, Select a Residence Hall	Select	List of buildings available at selected university
31	Do you have a preference for Living, Learning, or Thematic Living Areas? (Subject to Availability)	Fill in the blank	
32	Do you Require Special Accommodations or have a Medical Condition that should be considered during Room Assignment?	Select	Yes or no

33	Provide Special Accommodation or Medical Condition Details	Fill in the blank	
34	Meal Plan Choice	Select	List of meal plans at select university and option to opt out

Section 4 – Preference Information

35	Interests and Preferences	Checkbox list	Academics, athletics / working out, art / photography, beach, campus leadership, crafts / design, computers, intramural sports, intercollegiate sports, journalism / reading / writing, ministry / community service / volunteering, movies, music groups, nature / outdoors / animals, skiing / snowboarding, student government, video games, other
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36	Do you Smoke or Use Tobacco Products?	Select	Yes or no
37	Do you Snore?	Select	Yes or no
38	How do you Keep Your Room?	Select	Very clean (spotless), clean, somewhat clean (reasonable), pick up once in a while, not very clean (messy is ok)
39	When do you Prefer to Go To Bed?	Select	Before 10PM (early to bed), before midnight, after midnight (late to bed)
40	When do you Prefer to Wake Up?	Select	Before 8AM (easy riser), after 8AM (late riser), sleeps late, sleeps all day
41	How do you Rate Yourself?	Select	Quiet (introverted), enjoy chatting, very talkative (outgoing, extraverted)
42	Select your Study Habits	Checkbox list	Morning study, afternoon study, evening study, music while studying, social setting for study, library study, silence during study, little noise during study, night time study

43	Select your Music Preference	Checkbox list	All, alternative, classical, classic rock, contemporary Christian, country, heavy metal, jazz, pop (top 40), R & B, rap, rock, other, none
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**Acceptable Usage License Agreement for the
University Student Housing Application Question Elements**

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