WHO ARE WE?

On their own for the first time, Dorms to Diplomas residents are just learning about finance and cooking. Frozen dinners and fast food are common options. Shopping trips are sporadic, and preferences for products are still being established. Many carry a balance on their credit card so they can buy what they want now. Although school and part-time work take up many hours of the day, the remainder is usually filled with socializing and having fun with friends. They are looking to learn life lessons inside and outside of the classroom. This is the first online generation, having had lifelong use of computers, the Internet, cell phones, and MP3 players.

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

- Mix of dorms, on-campus and off-campus housing cater to young renters.
- Off-campus householders are commonly students living alone or with roommates; average household size is 2.22.
- More than 80% of the housing are apartments; many older homes in town have been converted into multifamily living units.
- With limited parking on campus, many walk, bike, or car pool to class.
- Less than one in ten homes are owner occupied.

SOCIOECONOMIC TRAITS

- They’re the youngest market with half of the population aged 20–24.
- They’re impulse buyers who experiment with different brands.
- They buy trendy clothes on a budget.
- Vehicles are just a means of transportation—economy and environmental impact are factors in purchases; used, imported subcompact cars are a popular choice.
- They value socializing, having fun, and learning new things.
- They’re always connected; their cell phone is never out of reach.

LifeMode Group: Scholars and Patriots

Dorms to Diplomas

Households: 630,300
Average Household Size: 2.22
Median Age: 21.6
Median Household Income: $16,800
AGE BY SEX (Esri data)

Median Age: 21.6  US: 38.2

RACE AND ETHNICITY (Esri data)

The Diversity Index summarizes racial and ethnic diversity. The index shows the likelihood that two persons, chosen at random from the same area, belong to different race or ethnic groups. The index ranges from 0 (no diversity) to 100 (complete diversity).

Diversity Index: 55.8  US: 64.0

INCOME AND NET WORTH

Net worth measures total household assets (homes, vehicles, investments, etc.) less any debts, secured (e.g., mortgages) or unsecured (credit cards). Household income and net worth are estimated by Esri.

INCOME AND NET WORTH

Median Household Income

Median Net Worth

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD BUDGET INDEX

The index compares the average amount spent in this market’s household budgets for housing, food, apparel, etc., to the average amount spent by all US households. An index of 100 is average. An index of 120 shows that average spending by consumers in this market is 20 percent above the national average. Consumer expenditures are estimated by Esri.

OCCUPATION BY EARNINGS

The five occupations with the highest number of workers in the market are displayed by median earnings. Data from the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey.
MARKET PROFILE  
(Consumer preferences are estimated from data by GfK MRI)

- They enjoy going to the movies, out to bars for drinks and maybe a game of billiards.
- With little experience cooking, fast food and frozen dinners are the “go-to” choices.
- Rely on Internet shopping to express appearance and fashion preferences; hair color and teeth whiteners are commonplace.
- They listen to all the latest music on their mobile devices.
- They’re very active on and off campus, participating in many sports and activities like frisbee, bowling, weight lifting, jogging, and yoga.
- Use a computer for just about everything including news, entertainment, shopping, blogging, social media, TV, movies, and homework.

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Total population, average annual population change since Census 2010, and average density (population per square mile) are displayed for the market relative to the size and change among all Tapestry markets. Data estimated by Esri.

- Population: 900,000 to 11,000,000
- Population Growth (Annual %): -0.5% to 3.0%
- Population Density (Persons per sq. mile): 1000 to 25,000

HOUSING

Median home value is displayed for markets that are primarily owner occupied; average rent is shown for renter-occupied markets. Tenure and home value are estimated by Esri. Housing type and average rent are from the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey.

- Typical Housing: Multi-Unit Rentals
  - Average Rent: $1,025
  - US Average: $1,038

ESRI INDEXES

Esri developed three indexes to display average household wealth, socioeconomic status, and housing affordability for the market relative to US standards.

- Wealth Index: 20
- Socioeconomic Status Index: 78
- Housing Affordability Index: 41
SEGMENT DENSITY

This map illustrates the density and distribution of the Dorms to Diplomas Tapestry Segment by households.