Why do I need to complete the Census?

- Census results help determine how federal funding gets distributed to states and communities each year. This funding is critical, especially for rural communities like Macomb.
- The results determine how many seats in Congress each state gets.
- It's mandated by the U.S. Constitution in Article 1, Section 2: The U.S. has counted its population every 10 years since 1790.

Should my parents/guardians count me?

You should not be counted by your parents or guardians. You should be counted at the place where you would have been living and sleeping most of the time as of April 1, 2020 (Census Day) prior to the changes as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a WIU-Macomb student, you should be counted where you live when attending college, even if you are not living here due to COVID-19. If your parents or guardians already counted you, please fill out the form if you live off campus. If you live in a WIU residence hall or fraternity/sorority house, you do not need to do anything. The Census will reconcile the submissions and you won't be double counted.

I live in a WIU residence hall, do I need to fill out the form?

No. If you live in a WIU residence hall, we will share your information with the Census Bureau. This also applies to students who live in sorority and fraternity houses.
Do I use my local address (Macomb) or my home/permanent/parents’ address if I am a WIU student?

You will use your local address (Macomb). Use your Macomb address even if you are not living here on April 1 due to COVID-19.

What if I don’t have the Census ID that came in the mail?

You can fill out the Census form without a Census ID. When prompted for the Census ID, just click on the link "If you do not have a Census ID, click here," under the Census ID boxes when filling out the Census at https://bit.ly/WIUMacombUSCensus2020

If I am an international student, do I get counted in the United States Census?

Yes, everyone should be counted at the place where you would have been living and sleeping most of the time as of April 1, 2020 (Census Day) prior to COVID-19 changes. As a WIU student on the Macomb campus, you should be counted where you live when attending college, even if you are not living there due to COVID-19.

If I live with roommates, do we fill out our own forms?

Ideally, one form should be filled out per address, and one person should respond on behalf of everyone living in your apartment or house. This includes international students.

If you can't coordinate your response with your roommates, complete the form on your own and include any information that you know about everyone who lives in your apartment or house. If you are not sure about an answer, leave it blank.