

## STEPP Transcription

### Residence Life: Living on campus

I guess I always heard that you know the friends you make in college will be the friends you make for the rest of your life. So I knew coming into college that it was important that you reached out at to people and that you got involved and you made connections. I think the reason why I wanted to be an RA is to kind of be like a testimonial to girls that are starting off as freshman and are kind of having a similar struggle that I had as a freshman. I wanted to be that leader who could relate to other students coming in. The first large impression that I have as a freshman is running through the halls knocking on doors. Living on campus has been a huge plus in my life. It definitely is an easy way to get exposed to different cultures, to different interests. You learn how to live with other people. Conflict management, problem solving are all things that you learn being part of residence life system. Once you're on campus you do more things with active students on campus. Living in the residence halls has provided a plethora of opportunities for me and I think me taking on those opportunities has inspired people around me to also get involved on campus. You would be exposed to a lot more things by living on campus, so not only is it more convenient, but you also are able to get involved and see more through your freshman experience. Another thing I really love about being on campus is that I feel like you are really more in the know. Everything is right at your fingertips. I make a big push of doing like a weekly calendar of things that are going on and I'll really make a big push of like knocking on individual doors and asking if they want to come. So, it's actually really fun when a resident takes those strides to actually do something different with you. Let's say your roommate likes to play soccer, which you've never played before, give it a shot. That's a great way to get exposed, not only is it convenient, but it's easy. You are just constantly engulfed in the culture of Missouri State. I did not expect to like it as much as I did, but I loved it. I'm actually going to miss being this close to everything on campus. I'm going to miss my roommate, and the people I've gotten close with. So, it'll surprise you what the things in college you'll actually end up enjoying, and potentially will end up going in that field. It's amazing the things that you learn about yourself when you branch out. Students who live in residence halls have higher GPA's than students who do not live in residence halls, especially during your first and second. I think that there is a certain stigma that goes with living on campus, you know like you don't have the opportunity to live out on your own. I would say that it's a double-edged sword because you do commute back and forth, so maybe you don't have that community that you wish you did on campus. But I can go into any residence hall and see people that I know, and it's like your home away from home. I feel like Missouri State offers a lot of different avenues for safety. And then you have the public safety that will come pick you up anywhere you need, you have the blue light services, you have all different kinds of things that of students were to feel unsafe, they could reach out to. It's a huge convenience; classes are closer to campus, you have the dining hall, and we also have an awesome new rec, so everything's really close. I also really enjoy the friendships and the relationships that you build in the residence halls, those are life long friendships and just getting to know people on different levels. I get excited about that, just being able to share about life lesson

and not like uh go to the so and so building if you have financial problem you know, we are real down to earth conversations. I would feel like people that maybe don't live on campus kind of struggle to integrate themselves into an organization or anything like that. Living at Missouri State has definitely impacted my college experience; I can't imagine it without living on campus now. It changes things up. I definitely am very thankful that I lived on campus. If you want to be involved, if you want to be successful at Missouri State, you're going to need to have a good platform and that's living in the residence halls. It's a different dynamic if you don't live here, but still you can find your passion and find your place just like anybody else here so.