To determine which option does \*\*NOT\*\* affect the college official's ability to generalize the survey results to all dormitory students, let's analyze each choice:

(A) \*\*Five thousand students live in dormitories on campus. A random sample of only 500 were sent the survey.\*\*

- This affects generalizability because the sample size, although smaller than the population, is still a random sample which can be representative if properly conducted. However, the smaller the sample size compared to the population, the less precise the estimate might be, but this does not inherently prevent generalization.

(B) \*\*The survey was sent to only first-year students.\*\*

- This significantly affects generalizability because it introduces bias by excluding students from other years (sophomores, juniors, seniors). The preferences of first-year students might not reflect those of all dormitory students.

(C) \*\*Of the 500 students who were sent the survey, only 160 responded.\*\*

- This affects generalizability due to non-response bias. If only 160 out of 500 responded, the respondents might not be representative of the entire sample or the population, leading to potential bias in the results.

(D) \*\*Of the 500 students who were sent the survey, only 160 responded.\*\*

- This is identical to option (C), so it also affects generalizability for the same reasons.

From the analysis, option (A) does not inherently prevent generalization; it might affect the precision of the estimate but does not introduce bias in the same way that non-random sampling or non-response does. Therefore, the correct answer is:

\*\*(A) Five thousand students live in dormitories on campus. A random sample of only 500 were sent the survey.\*\*