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Lab 4 Part II

8. Check constraints are used to make sure that input is limited to values that a column asks for. They are good for making sure the right data is input into a database, as one does not want irrelevant data being input. The advantages of check constraints are that they maintain the integrity of the data and provide a kind of rule that must be followed. For example, in a table listing freshman students at Marist with their on-campus housing arrangements, one would want to check that the housing arrangement is a real one that matches housing available on campus and their year. This means a freshman should be listed as living in either Champagnat, Leo, Marian, or Sheahan. If we didn't have check constraints on this, a freshman could be listed as living in senior housing, such as Fulton, which is not usually possible. It would be a bad idea to put check constraints on students' CWIDs because it would not be feasible to list all possible CWIDs in order to check for them.