



Housing & Dining Requirement

NAME: **Housing & Dining Requirement**
ISSUING DEPARTMENT: **Office of Student Living**
ISSUED DATE: **January 1, 2006**
REVIEWED DATE: **October 13, 2020**
APPROVING AUTHORITY: **President's Cabinet**
DATE REVISED: **September 30, 2020**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide an overview and rationale for requiring all first-year and second-year students to live in University owned residence halls.

SCOPE

All University students are responsible for abiding by this policy.

RESPONSIBILITY

The Office of Student Living will ensure the Housing & Dining Requirement Policy is reviewed annually. Any incidents of students violating this policy can be referred to the Office of Student Living at housing@mansfield.edu. If there are questions relating to the Requirement or Student Living in general, please email housing@mansfield.edu or call 570-662-4934/570-662-4952.

POLICY

Mansfield University believes that students who stay in our residence halls will benefit from the residential living experience as an integral elements of student engagement and educational success. Thus, all first- and second-year students are required to live in residence halls and participate in a University-provided dining plan. Living on campus is an important part of the college experience.

Studies have shown that on-campus residents are more likely to succeed in academia and benefit from the social opportunities that are offered. For these reasons, like many public and private colleges and universities, Mansfield University has implemented an on-campus residency requirement for first-year and second-year undergraduate students, unless an exemption is granted.

This policy applies to traditional first- and second-year students and international students. It also applies to transfer students who have not completed two years of on-campus residency at another university (post high school) and readmitted students as well. Students fulfill the requirement after spending two years living and dining on campus (post high school).

NOTE: Academic credit hours and/or class status do not exempt one from the policy.

Those students who qualify and wish to be exempt from the Housing & Dining Requirement will need to complete an Exemption Form. This request must be completed on the student's MyHousing account, by selecting the Exception Form application under the "Applications" tab. The student will be notified in

writing, via Mansfield University e-mail, regarding the status of the request, as well as if additional documentation is needed.

Additional Benefits of Living On-Campus:

- *Academic Success:* Research has shown that students living on campus report being more satisfied with their college experience, earn better grades, and are more likely to graduate than their commuting peers.
- *Safety and Security:* The University employs an on-campus police force with officers working 24 hours a day, all year long. All residences are equipped with modern fire safety alarms/sprinklers in student rooms and all entrances feature electronic card access integrated with camera observation.
- *Convenience:* Be close to everything! It's a short walk (or Mountie Express ride) from classes, dining facilities, the library, the fitness center, sporting events, and many other activities.
- *All-Inclusive Features:* The housing costs include laundry, internet access, microfridges and common area cleaning (hallways, bathrooms). All suite options are carpeted, include private bathrooms, and are air conditioned with individual thermostatic controls. Maintenance staff and contractors also respond to problems experienced in a timely manner, allowing you to focus on academic priorities.
- *Housing Options:* On-campus students have the opportunity to request a variety of suite-style living arrangements to best accommodate their housing needs.
- *Independence:* Learning to balance freedom and responsibility in a protected environment like a residence hall makes the post-college transition easier. Making key decisions for oneself is an important step in the maturing process.
- *Support:* The selected student and trained professional staff in the residence halls are on hand to answer questions and help students succeed at MU.
- *Connection:* There are so many ways to get involved and stay connected. From clubs and organizations to intramurals and club sports to student leadership positions to service/volunteer opportunities, there is something for everyone!
- *FUN!:* An endless array of social activities with new friends, throughout the residence halls, as all over campus, make it easy.

DISTRIBUTION

This policy will be posted to the Policies and Procedures web page, included in Housing Selection and Admissions materials, and linked on the Student Living web page.