

**MANSFIELD UNIVERSITY**   
**Student Living & Community Programs**

All first/second year students at MU live and dine on campus. The University established the 1st/2nd year residency requirement because students clearly benefit from living in an environment designed with your needs in mind. Living on campus is an important part of the MU experience.

Housing and Dining Requirement Retention research shows that living on campus can greatly enhance a student's educational experience and success. Thus, all first and second year students are required to live in Residence Halls and participate in a University-provided dining plan unless they are formally exempted to reside in the primary residence of their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) in which the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) reside full time and which is within a 50-mile radius of the campus. Students fulfill the requirement after spending two years living and dining on campus (post high school). Academic credit hours and/or class status do not exempt one from the policy. 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). Married students, students 21 years of age and older prior to the start of the academic year and veterans with one or more years of active service are exempt.

All first or second year students under 21 years of age desiring to live off campus should complete the online exemption application and any further documentation as required by Student Living.\*

\*All rationale and documentation related to exemptions should meet the high standards of the Character (integrity) standard of the Mansfield Creed.

If you would like to request exemption from on campus housing, please follow the steps outlined below. Once your application has been submitted and reviewed, you will be contacted via your Mansfield email account with the status of your request. If an exemption form is required, we will attach it to the email with instructions on returning the form. If you have any questions regarding the policy, please contact Student Living at 570-662-4934 or 4952, or via email at [housing@mansfield.edu](mailto:housing@mansfield.edu). The Student Living offices are located at 319-320-321 Alumni Hall, 31 South Academy Street, Mansfield, PA 16933.

### **Requesting Housing Exemption (if you qualify):**

1. Log on to My.Mansfield and select the link to MyHousing
2. Select the “Applications” link at the top of the screen
3. Select “New Student Exemption (2018/FA)” from the drop down menu
4. Follow prompts to complete your exemption request
  - a. Choose the exemption reason that applies to your situation. Only the exemptions listed are considered valid exemptions.
  - b. Once complete, you may be asked to provide documentation. If further documentation is necessary, you will be contacted via your Mounties email address.

### **Additional Benefits of Living On-Campus:**

- **Friends** – Living on campus makes it easy to meet new friends. Students are surrounded by others dealing with similar issues, which creates a supportive campus environment for them.
- **Better Grades** – Research indicates that in general, students who live on campus have a higher retention rate than those who reside off campus. Research has shown that on-campus residents are more likely to graduate in four years and have more opportunities to connect and interact with faculty members.
- **Supportive Staff** – The student and professional staff in residence halls are on hand to answer your questions and help you settle in at MU.
- **Exciting Activities** – There is always something going on campus!
- **Connection** – Students who live on campus remain connected. Those who move off campus often report feeling disconnected from the University. Quick trips to Manser or the new Einstein’s Bagel Shop for a study break and spontaneous discussions with others don’t occur; it is more difficult to come to campus to study, attend meetings and go to University events and programs. Students off campus also don’t hear about campus events and happenings as much as those on campus.
- **Housing Options** – On-campus students have the opportunity to request a variety of suite living arrangements to best accommodate their housing needs.
- **Memories** – Living on campus provides students with fond memories of periods of personal growth, challenges, and new relationships, which last a lifetime.
- **Mansfield University** – MU is the safest public university in Pennsylvania, according to data compiled by stateuniversity.com. The University employs an on-campus police force. All residences are equipped with modern fire safety alarms/sprinklers in student rooms and all entrances feature electronic card access integrated with camera observation.
- **Features** – All suite options are carpeted, include private bathrooms and are air conditioned with individual thermostatic controls.
- **Services** – No cooking, shopping, washing dishes, etc. as the University takes the effort out of dining. All experts agree, the campus dining room is the best ‘social connection’ place on campus for meeting friends, exchanging notes, etc. Maintenance staff and contractors also respond to problems experienced in timely manner, allowing you to focus on academic priorities.