Welcome future on-campus housing residents! Research shows that the benefits of the on-campus residential experience have great positive impact on first-year students, directly helping transition from living at home to university life. Second-year students benefit from the continued stability of campus residential life to support their academic and social development. This often translated into success in completing college and doing so more often in four years. For these and many more reasons, all 1st and 2nd year students (including Transfer students) are required to live on-campus (some exemptions apply).

Attention first-year students! In order to better assist with the transition to college, Mansfield University has created Themed Housing Communities for first-year students in the Hickory Hall. Themed Housing Communities are a collection of first-year students who share a common interest and participate in group activities around that theme with a designated faculty/staff member and Housing, Dining, and Campus Life representative. MU created Themed Housing Communities to not only extend learning beyond the classroom, but also to foster friendships among like-minded students and faculty/staff.

You will be able to choose from the following communities (simply designate your choice on the Housing & Dining Application/Agreement by selecting the “Interest Area” in your personal information):

Outdoor Enthusiast: Are you the type of person who loves to be outdoors? Are you looking forward to exploring the natural and beautiful views that are right at your doorstep at Mansfield University? If so, the Outdoor Enthusiast community might be the perfect place for you. This floor community consists primarily of residents who truly love the experiences of the great outdoors, whether it’s hunting, fishing, hiking, climbing, biking or more! The community is dedicated to trying new things and learning new skills, so long as they provide entertainment and adventure!

Creative Artist: Are you someone who expresses themselves through music, painting, photography, drawing, performing or any other form of the creative arts? Join the Creative Artist community where students will have the opportunity to create and share their passions together. This fun and festive floor community will consist of students that appreciate exploring different art forms, like music, theater, dance, visual art, and design. With so many different opportunities, expect to connect with a new group of friends all while getting involved on and off campus!
**Going Viral:** Are you a tweeter, pinner, blogger, tagger, redditor or vlogger? If so, the Going Viral community is for you! This community will allow students to learn about usage, consumption and how to be informed consumers when it comes to social media. The “network” of students living within the Going Viral community will also discuss and share ideas on current events in all aspects of society (social, political and social interest). This community will not only provide a space for the appreciation of technology, but will also allow students to be introduced to ideas, concepts and notions of civic engagement.

**Explorer:** Are your interests broad in scope so you would like to explore possibilities that capture your imagination? Join the Explorer community where students will have the chance to understand their strengths, values and identities while exploring interests, academically and socially. This community will provide students with opportunities to discover academic options, campus resources, and involvement in clubs/organizations. Students will gain leadership skills, make campus connections, and create a larger support system providing an enhanced academic and social experience.

**Foodie:** Are you a self-proclaimed "foodie?" Is your TV always on the Food Network? Are you passionate about nutritious recipes and healthy cooking? If so, the Foodie community is for you! This community is all about food, providing a place for students who enjoy cooking to meet and learn from each other, cook together, and live together. The Foodie community will allow students to indulge their “inner food junkie” with a variety of opportunities from learning about food issues and nutrition to participating in cooking related programs. Many connections will be made through food in this community!

If you have any questions or need additional information, please visit the Housing & Dining Selection Guide found on the Housing, Dining, and Campus Life website!

**TO APPLY FOR HOUSING AND DINING**

1. Go first to My Accounts ([https://info.mansfield.edu/myaccount/](https://info.mansfield.edu/myaccount/)) to get your log in and passwords.
2. Log on to My.Mansfield ([http://my.mansfield.edu](http://my.mansfield.edu)) using your Campus Services ID (including @mansfield.edu) and password. Then select the link for MyHousing.
3. Log on to My.Mansfield and select the link to MyHousing.
4. Select the “Applications” link at the top of the screen.
5. Select “New Student (2016/FA)” from the drop down menu.
6. Follow the computer prompts
   - Read and electronically sign the Housing & Dining Agreement
   - Review the information regarding the $100 Application Fee
   - Complete your Personal Information (this is important for roommate selection/matching)
     - When asked, “I am a:” please select the following:
       - ✔ New Student if you are a first-year attending college for the first time
       - ✔ Transfer Student if you are transferring from another university
       - ✔ Returning Student if you are returning to on-campus housing after living off campus
     - This step is also where you can put the name of the person you’d like to live with.
- Enter your Emergency Contact Information
- Select a Dining Plan
- Pay the $100 Application Fee
  - Select if paying with e-check (no service charge) or credit card (2.5% service charge). Credit cards accepted are Visa, Master Card, American Express, and Discover.
- Print the Confirmation for your records (don't worry if you forget, you'll receive an email)

**Room Rates**

For planning purposes, current rates are posted to the Housing, Dining, and Campus Life web page at [http://www2.mansfield.edu/residence-life/housing-dining-rates.cfm](http://www2.mansfield.edu/residence-life/housing-dining-rates.cfm). Rates are subject to change and will be updated after Council of Trustee (COT)/Mansfield Auxiliary Corporation (MAC) approval.

**Assignment Information**

Assignments are posted to your MyHousing Portal as soon as they are completed (mid-summer). You can log on to this site to view your room assignment, roommate name, and roommate contact information. You will also receive an e-mail in early August with this information. Please note that assignments are subject to change during the summer if needed.

If you have any special needs or accommodations, please contact Housing, Dining, and Campus Life by emailing housing@mansfield.edu from your Mounties email. Please provide information and be very specific. Students requesting specific housing due to medical concerns should also register with the Center of Services for Students with Disabilities. Housing, Dining, and Campus Life accommodates requests due to medical concerns registered with and recommended by the Center of Services for Students with Disabilities.

**TO SELECT/CHANGE MEAL PLAN**

*All resident students have a Meal Plan.* If you should wish to change your Meal Plan once you have completed the Housing and Dining Selection, follow the steps below. You may make changes on-line prior to August 24, 2016 for the fall semester and January 20, 2017 for the spring semester.

A. Sign in to My.Mansfield and select the MyHousing link
B. Select the “Dining” link at the top of the screen
C. Select “Select/Change My Plan” from the drop down menu
D. Follow the computer prompts

**HOUSING AND DINING EXEMPTION REQUESTS**

The University established the Housing and Dining Requirement because students clearly benefit from living in an environment designed with their needs in mind. Living on-campus is an important part of the MU experience. Thus, all first and second year students are required to live in Residence Halls and participate in a University-provided dining plan unless they qualify for one or more of the following exemption categories:
• If the student resides 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.
• If the student fulfills 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).
• If the student is married.
• If the student has a dependent.
• If the student is 21 years of age and older prior to the start of the academic year.
• If the student is a veteran who has been honorably discharged.

All first or second year students wishing to be exempt from the Housing and Dining Requirement will need to follow the steps below, and provide appropriate documentation related to their petition *(within two weeks of filing the exemption).*

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

**TO REQUEST HOUSING AND DINING 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 (2016/FA)” from the drop down menu
4. Follow prompts to complete your exemption request
   • Choose the exemption reason that applies to your situation. Only the exemptions listed are considered valid exemptions.
   • Once complete, you may be asked to provide documentation. If further documentation is necessary, you will be contacted via your Mounties email address.

If you have any questions, please let us know. Contact the Department of Housing, Dining, and Campus Life at housing@mansfield.edu, 570-662-4934 or 570-662-4952.

**MU looks forward to you becoming a part of the Mansfield University on-campus community!**