

Frequently Asked Questions about Living on Campus

The Office of Residence Life & Housing has compiled answers to the most frequently asked questions by both students and parents. If you are unable to find the answer to your question(s) please feel free to contact us a (443) 885-3217 and one of our staff members will be happy to answer your question.

Is campus housing available for freshman? Is housing guaranteed?

About 40 percent of freshman live on campus and take advantage of the programming and convenience of residence life. Housing is not guaranteed, so it is important to pay your admissions enrollment fee and housing application fee as soon as possible. Accommodation in traditional residence halls is provided to undergraduate students. The Halls provided for freshmen students are Blount Towers (female), Harper Tubman House (Honors preferred), O'Connell Hall (male), Cummings House (Honors preferred), Baldwin Hall (male), and Rawlings Hall (male). Thurgood Marshall Complex and Marble Hall Apartments are coed and provided for upperclassmen students with GPAs above 2.5. Every residential facility on campus is air-conditioned.

How do I apply to live in on-campus housing?

Students must first apply and be admitted to the University. Students interested in living on campus should complete a paper Application for Housing and Food Contract and attach the non-refundable application fee of \$200 in the form of check/money order. The application fee is a processing fee that a small portion of which is applied to the support services and resources offered to students who choose to live on campus. Applications can be mailed or hand-delivered to The Office of Residence Life & Housing, 1700 E Cold Spring Lane, Harper Tubman House, Room 114, Baltimore, Maryland 21251. Our office hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Because space is limited, the recommended date for submitting a housing application is July 1. Applications will be accepted after July 1, but space may be extremely limited by then.

Are first year students required to live on campus?

Residency on campus is voluntary and there is no requirement for freshmen or other students to live on campus. All newly enrolled students who live on campus in the residence halls, however, must participate in a University dining plan.

Once I have submitted my application, what is my next step?

A student will be notified via electronic communication that his or her application and the \$200 non-refundable fee have been received and obtain instructions for accessing the online housing system to submit building and roommate matching preferences. Receipt of this notification does not mean that a space has been confirmed or a housing assignment is guaranteed.

Housing assignments will be sent to the applicant's MSU-issued email account in mid to late July. The Office of Residence Life & Housing expects students to make satisfactory financial arrangements to cover the entire cost of tuition, fees, room and board by the established University deadline of August 1. An Assignment Coordinator will be happy to speak with you in order to ensure that satisfactory financial arrangements have been made by August 1 and prior to your arrival on campus. We do not encourage students without a confirmed housing assignment to come to campus on arrival day with the expectation of receiving a housing assignment that day. Please call (443) 885-3217 for assistance with this process.

Do I need a meal plan? If so, how do I sign up for a meal plan?

All students residing in University housing must have a meal plan except for those residing in Marble Hall Gardens. Residence of Rawlings, Blount, O'Connell, Baldwin, Cummings, and Harper-Tubman must have a meal plan for 14 meals per week or 19 meals per week. The meal plan that is included in the housing application contract is for 14 meals per week. Students desiring a meal plan larger than 14 meals per week must submit the Meal Plan Request Form (available for download at on the Office of Residence Life website under 'Forms') to request a larger meal plan. Thurgood Marshall Complex residents can choose from a meal plan for 10, 14, or 19 meals per week. Residents of Marble Hall Gardens can choose from any meal plan: Any 25, 50, 75, or 100 meals per semester or a plan for 5, 7, 10, 14, or 19 meals per week.

Can I request my roommate, and if so what process applies?

Yes, however, the priority date to request a roommate is July 15. Students must submit the roommate request through the online housing portal. The roommate request must be submitted by both parties before June 15 in order to be considered. After the priority deadline, received roommate request may not be honored. ORL&H will make every effort to honor the request; however, an automated system is used and matching is based upon completion of the established criteria i.e. mutual selection and financial clearance at the point of assignment. Requests must be mutual, if not, the roommate request may not be accommodated. If a student does not request a specific roommate, one will be assigned to him/her.

How do you assign rooms to new incoming students?

We assign rooms on a first come, first served basis. We suggest that new students apply as early as possible in order to have sufficient time to complete the process of making satisfactory financial arrangements for the cost of attendance for the Fall Semester . Please note that the deadline for payment of tuition, fees, room and board, as established by The Office of the Bursar, is typically in early August.

When will I know my room assignment?

Assignments for new students are processed in mid to late July and are sent only to a student's MSU student email account.. It is the student's responsibility to monitor his or her MSU email account for housing information.

What's in each room (i.e. desk wardrobe, chair bed etc)?

Most residence hall rooms are furnished with the following for each resident:

1 twin size bed

1 desk

1 chair

1 chest of drawers

1 two door wardrobe

Telephone and Cable TV jacks

Internet jacks

The University does not assume any responsibility for any of your personal property which is stolen, lost, or damaged. An optional personal effects insurance policy is available and ORLH recommends (but does not endorse) that students insure their belongings with National Student Services, INC or CSI Insurance Agency, Inc. If you would like to find out additional information and/or purchase with NSS, you can visit their website at: www.NSSINC.com, or contact them at 1-800-256-6774. Additional information for CSI Insurance Agency Inc can be obtained from the website, www.collegestudentinsurance.com or they can be contacted at 800-411-4911.

Can we see the room before they move in?

In order to maintain the privacy and security of current students residing in our halls and due to limited space availability, we are not able to offer tours of actual rooms during the fall and spring semesters. During the summer, we do offer tours of a model room in Harper-Tubman House. Please call our office at 443-885-3217 for information regarding tours. We have made virtual tours of our rooms available online:

Male Residence Hall: <http://www.morgan.edu/virtualtour/PanoTours/MaleResidenceHall/>

Female Residence Hall: <http://www.morgan.edu/virtualtour/PanoTours/FemaleResidenceHall/>

Can freshman students live in Marble Hall Gardens Apartments or Thurgood Marshall Complex?

Marble Hall Gardens Apartments and Thurgood Marshall Complex are available only to upperclassman students and transfer students.

Can freshman students apply to live in Morgan View Apartments?

Morgan View Apartments is privately-owned housing available to students. Morgan View Apartments has a separate application process. Applying for housing through The Office of Residence Life & Housing does not include Morgan View Apartments. Freshman students are not permitted to apply for housing at Morgan View Apartments.

What if I need to cancel my request for housing?

To cancel your housing please contact The Office of Residence Life & Housing. All requests must be received in writing and they will be reviewed on a case by case basis. A penalty may apply to a request to cancel the Housing & Food Contract depending upon the date that the cancellation request is submitted.

What is offered if I have a disability?

If you have special housing needs because of a disability, please notify us with your application; you must also contact the Student Accessibility Support Services (SASS) at 443-885-3946 and provide them with appropriate documentation. It is important for us to be aware of your needs as early as possible so we can assist you in obtaining suitable accommodations.

What are Living Learning Communities?

Living Learning Communities provide an environment that can enhance motivation to learn, stimulate learning in specific areas of interest and offer opportunities to work closely with staff and faculty members. Each semester, each learning community creates and plans events that provide focus that could include creating study groups, sharing their own work(s) or attending or participating in events in the campus and local community. The Office of Residence Life & Housing in the process of creating several new and exciting learning communities next year. Information about these communities and how to join them will be posted on our website in the coming months.

Are there curfews?

No. However, visitation hours have been established. Visitation hours are as follows for University owned and leased facilities:

PROCEDURE/GUIDELINES

For the Purpose of this procedure a “visitor and or guest” shall be defined as an individual who is not assigned to the space, building or facility they are visiting. Additionally, please be advised that students are responsible for and accountable to the actions and behavior of themselves and of visitors/guest in their residential space, residential building/facility, and university property.

VISITATION PROCEDURE/GUIDELINES

The rules and regulations governing the visitation procedure/guidelines were initiated by resident students and the Residence Hall Council and presented forward by the Office of Residence Life & Housing. All students concerned are expected to assume responsibility for the successful operation of the program. Foundational to the execution and participation in the visitation program (procedures/guidelines) is the accountable responsibility of students for the actions and behavior of themselves and their visitors and or guests. **Failure to comply with the visitation procedure/guidelines will result in disciplinary action.**

UNIVERSITY OWNED HOUSING FACILITIES:

O'Connell Hall
Harper/Tubman House
Baldwin Hall
Cummings House
Blount Towers
Rawlings Hall
Thurgood Marshall Complex

*Marble Hall Gardens (Leased Housing)

*** Students residing in Thurgood Marshall Complex and Marble Hall Gardens must register their non-matriculating visitors and or guests during the appropriate visitation hours. The locations for visitors/guests registration are:**

- **Thurgood Marshall Complex: D-Building room 101-Residence Life Office**

- **Marble Hall Gardens: Room 4230-MSU Residence Life Office**

Visitation Hours Are As Follows:

- Monday – Thursday
 - 12pm - 4pm: Matriculating Students with Bear Card ONLY
 - 4pm – 10:30pm: Matriculating Students with Bear Card ONLY and **General Access-Non-Student: Identification required must be registered by the Student they are visiting**
- Friday
 - 12pm - 4pm Matriculating Students with Bear Card ONLY
 - 4pm – 12pm Matriculating Students with Bear Card and **General Access-Non-Student: Identification required must be registered by the Student they are visiting**
- Saturday
 - 12pm – 12am Matriculating Students with Bear Card and **General Access-Non-Student: Identification required must be registered by the Student they are visiting**
- Sunday
 - 12pm – 10:30pm Matriculating Students with Bear Card and **General Access-Non-Student: Identification required must be registered by the Student they are visiting**

Procedures/Guidelines:

- Guests are only allowed with the permission of roommate(s).

- Residents are required to leave their ID cards and their visitor's/guest's photo ID card when signing in at the main desk or designated office

- Residents are responsible for their visitor's/guest's retrieving his or her ID card before the end of visiting hours, when leaving the residential facility. Staff will not be liable for ID cards left after visiting hours. Identification cards which are not picked up at the end of visiting hours may only be claimed at the Resident Director's office the following day
- Residents are responsible for their visitors/guests at all times. Residents must also escort their visitors/guests at all times; visitors/guest are not permitted to roam the building unescorted
- All visitors/guests must enter and leave by the main entrance of the building/space
- Maximum number of visitors/guest per space is two per resident
- "Parties"/ large social gatherings are prohibited
- If a conflict exists and or arise between roommates and or visitors/guests, the Resident Director or designated staff must be notified
- Non-student violators of the visitation guidelines will be referred to Morgan's Police Department (MSUPD) for prosecution on charges of trespassing. Students are responsible for the actions and behavior of their visitors and or guests of their assigned space
- Designated lavatory facilities must be utilized by visitors/guests. Visitors/guests must be escorted when appropriate
- Overnight visitation is prohibited unless procedural approval is applied for and granted. All governing procedures remain applicable

What academic support services are available in the residence halls?

The Academic Enrichment Program which is a free service provided by the Office of Residence Life to aid in a student's academic success. Free tutors, computer labs and study groups are provided through the AEP. This program is very unique and is not offered in any other University Campus Housing. For more information about ways AEP helps students succeed academically, call Kent Ballard at (443) 885-3388.

Who can I ask for help in the residence halls?

The live-in residential staff consists of Resident Director, Assistant Resident Directors, Resident Assistants and Desk Attendants. They are committed to the ideals and missions of both the University and Residence Life. These individuals are your primary contacts when you have problems or concerns.

If something is broken in a room, how does one go about getting it repaired?

Students are to report any maintenance issues through the online housing module. Students should make sure to indicate the room number, date and the nature of the repair. Repairs are typically completed within 48 to 72 hours of the issue being properly reported. The Housekeeping and Maintenance Department cannot repair students' personal belongings.

Is there a daily trash removal service for the residence halls?

Trash is removed from the Residence Halls on a daily basis by the Housekeeping Department. In the traditional residence halls, students are required to take their trash to the trash room, where it will be collected and disposed of by an outside vendor. Students residing in a suite style room are required to take their trash out to the designated trash areas outside of their buildings.

What does the room rate cover on campus?

The room rate includes heat, electricity, water, sewer, A/C, 24 hour security desk coverage, high-speed data connections, and basic cable TV service.

What can students bring to MSU and what should students leave at home?

What you should bring:

Alarm clock

Backpack & school supplies

Bed linens, pillow, blanket (s)

Bicycle with durable lock

Broom, mop and cleaning supplies

Clothes hangers

Computer/laptop & Ethernet cord

Desk lamp

Detergent

Fan

First-aid kit

Flashlight

Laundry basket, detergent, quarters

Iron & ironing board

Microwave ovens

Mini refrigerator

Personal toiletries

Posters

Postage stamps, envelopes

Refrigerators

Regular length twin bed sheets

Shower shoes

Surge protected power strips

Television (no larger than 26 inches)

Toilet paper (if you are assigned to Harper-Tubman, Baldwin, or
Cummings Hall)
Towel and washcloths
Wastebasket

What you should leave at home:

Appliances with open heating elements
Ceiling fans/lights
Candles

Guns, including paintball guns or BB guns
Grills of any type, hot plates, coffee makers
Halogen lamps
Incense
Knives & weapons
Pets and fish
Room air conditioners
Room heaters
Toasters and toaster ovens
Waterbed