

# EVERYTHING YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT RESIDENCE LIFE BEFORE OPENING WEEKEND (WELL, ALMOST EVERYTHING)

## What to bring...what not to bring?

### Welcome to the world of 'Res Life' ...

This newsletter covers most frequently asked questions and topics. We encourage you to visit our website — <http://www1.wne.edu/residence-life/index.cfm> — for a wealth of information, especially the **New Student Housing Selection** section.

#### Some Important Dates to Remember

##### SUMMER

Wednesday, July 19: new student housing selection begins

Monday, July 24: final day for new student housing selection

##### FALL TERM 2017

Friday, August 25: new resident arrival from 8 am – Noon (preferred) 11 am – 5 pm (if necessary) report to place of residence for check-in and room key

October 7-10: Fall Recess  
*no classes, housing remains open*

November 22-26: Thanksgiving Recess

Nov 21: housing closes (9 pm)  
Nov 22 (by 10 am) for authorized late departures  
Nov 26: housing reopens at 1 pm

December 15: final exams end  
housing closes at 9 pm  
Dec 16 (by 10 am) for authorized late departures

##### SPRING TERM 2018

Sunday, January 14: housing reopens at 1:00 pm

March 16-24: Spring Break  
March 16: housing closes (9 pm)  
March 17 (by 10 am) authorized late departures  
March 25: housing reopens (1 pm)

May 11: final exams end, housing closes at 9 pm  
May 12 (by 10 am) authorized late departures

### Room Set Up & Related

#### Can room furniture be re-arranged?

YES. Furniture is free standing and can be modified in a number of ways such as loft-style or with the bed near to the floor, traditional style. Tools such as a screwdriver and adjustable wrench may be needed. (Please bring them with you, just in case.) However a room is set up for student use, all university property and furniture must be kept inside the room. Storage space is not available. Students will be billed for any missing or damaged property, so care should be taken when modifying the set-up of room furniture.

#### What size are the mattresses?

All residence areas except for Gateway Village has twin extra long mattresses. Gateway has regular twin mattresses. Bedding is not provided.

#### Do students need to bring a telephone?

We recognize that most students use personal cell phones, so phone no longer provided in individual rooms. To supplement phone access, communal phone(s) are located in public areas of the residence halls.

#### Do students need to buy carpeting?

Rooms in Berkshire, Hampden, and Franklin have tile flooring. Rooms in Windham Hall and Commonwealth Hall are carpeted. Area rugs are permitted, but it is wise to delay purchase until arrival, since it may not fit well with the size and set up of the room.

#### What about personal computers?

Campus computer network connections and Internet access are provided within student rooms for each resident. Rooms have both wireless and hard wired internet access available. Please refer to information from OIT, the Office of Information Technology, for details.

#### What about cable television?

Cable television service consists of one cable jack per room. The service provides for standard definition digital cable signals. If your student brings a digital television with a QAM tuner, all they need do is connect it to the coax cable jack in the room and perform a channel search. Check with your manufacturer to make sure the television has a QAM tuner built in. If your student brings an analog television, you will need to purchase a QAM tuner to obtain our channels. Do not bring an 'over the air' digital tuner, as it will not tune to our channels. A QAM tuner by any manufacturer should work.

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## Frequent Questions (and Answers)

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### **Is smoking allowed in student housing?**

We have a **smoke free policy** in all residence areas. Smoking is not allowed in all public/commonly shared space as well as individual student rooms, suites, apartments, and townhouses. Smoking is also not permitted within 25 feet of all University buildings. We cannot guarantee, however, that any resident (as a roommate, suitemate, etc.) will be a non-smoker, only that smoking is prohibited within the living environment.

### **Are there curfews for students or their guests?**

There are no curfews in student housing. Residents have around-the-clock access to their assigned building through their student ID card and are fully responsible for anyone visiting them. There are also no pre-determined time limits for visiting in student housing. However, visitors should not interfere with a resident's right to reasonable privacy and legitimate use of their living space. Students should discuss guest policies with their roommate(s) once they've moved in.

### **What about overnight guests?**

A resident (host) may have a visitor spend the night, with the knowledge and consent of the roommate. The resident is responsible for the conduct of this person, who must abide by all University policies. In addition, the presence of a visitor should not inconvenience the roommate. Please advise your student to think carefully about who is invited to visit and to monitor his or her actions carefully! The University also reserves the right to require a visitor to depart at any point in time.

### **Is this a “dry” campus ? What about other illegal or controlled substances?**

Students of legal age may consume alcohol (responsibly) if assigned to Southwood Hall, Evergreen Village or Gateway Village, which are of-age residence areas. Students who choose to drink in an underage residence facility or public area of the campus should be prepared to accept the consequences. Illegal substances are obviously prohibited and prescription medication must only be used as directed. While taking an educational approach, dependent on the circumstances, drug-related behavior (possession, use, sharing/distribution) is taken seriously within the University judicial process.

### **Are there “quiet hours” ?**

Each residence area has “quiet hours”, beginning at 10 p.m. on weeknights and at midnight on weekends. Given the number of students on a residence hall corridor, “quiet hours” are intended to promote an environment conducive to study and rest. This is a group responsibility, in that each resident has an obligation to monitor themselves and confront others who may be too noisy. If unsuccessful in getting cooperation, a Resident Advisor should be contacted for assistance. There are also extended “quiet hours” during the week of final examinations.

### **Are any pets allowed?**

Fish, in a reasonably sized aquarium, are the only type of pet allowed. Residence Life staff reserve the right to determine what constitutes reasonable size for an aquarium.

### **Are the residence halls air conditioned?**

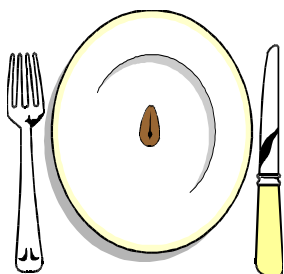
All first year halls are air conditioned. The only areas on campus that are not air conditioned are Gateway Village and Plymouth Complex.

### **Will parents/guardians be notified if their student “gets in trouble” ?**

If University records indicate that your student is a dependent, or if authorization has been given by the student to share information, we may communicate with you. If misconduct is such that the outcome is censure, disciplinary probation, or removal from housing, we will send you a copy of the decision letter addressed to the student (with a courtesy cover letter of explanation.) This approach is intended to give the student time to communicate with you first. The decision letter also explains the appeal process. If you would like additional clarification after you have discussed the matter with your student, you may contact the individual who rendered the decision. We know this is a stressful experience and we will do our best to ensure our conversation with you is meaningful and productive.

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## Cooking and Meal Plan



Your student is automatically registered as a participant in the meal plan

### Are microwaves allowed?

For students in Berkshire, Commonwealth, Franklin, Hampden, and Windham Halls, the University provides a combined microwave-refrigerator unit (one per room.) *Students are **not** permitted to bring their own microwave to campus.* This is for safety reasons and power usage in student housing.

### What's the limit (size) for a refrigerator?

Only compact refrigerators are allowed in student rooms. The size should not exceed 3.5 cubic feet. This is based on electrical usage and space considerations. In rooms where we provide a microwave-refrigerator unit, only one student-owned refrigerator may be brought to campus. Roommates should discuss this matter, so as to avoid bringing a refrigerator that will need to make a return trip home on opening weekend.

### Does your student need to sign up for a meal plan?

When your student selects campus housing, they will be automatically prompted to select the 7 Day All Access meal plan. There are no alternative meal plans for first year students, but there are many food choices offered at each meal. A room microwave and building kitchenette are intended for snacks and are not a substitute for the meal plan. Your student may purchase additional "Bear Bucks" to supplement (not replace) the meal plan. These Bear Bucks are purchased at Student Administrative Services (SAS) or Aramark offices. To introduce mandatory meal plan participants to the concept of Bear Bucks, \$100 is provided for the fall semester and again in the spring semester. These points may be used at all dining locations and the Campus Center convenience store.

## How do students choose rooms and when can new students arrive?

### Can my student arrive before opening weekend?

Unless your student is invited to campus for a specific purpose (such as athletics, band, the "Bear Tracks" program), arrival and check-in occurs on Friday, August 25, 2017. Students are strongly encouraged to arrive in the morning. Legitimate early arrivals will be issued a key to their actual housing assignment at the designated arrival time. Meals will be provided for early arrival athletes during pre-game training and other invited students on the University meal plan.

### About your student's housing and roommate ...

All students use an on line system known as the **Housing Management Application (HMA)** which is a multi-step process that is completed entirely by the student. While students are tech-savvy and find HMA to be user-friendly, Residence Life staff will be available at SOAR to give students hands-on assistance and advice. Please refer to the SOAR schedule for the day, time, and location. If you would like an overview, please stop by. You can then provide discrete reminders, if you so choose, but please do not do it for your student! This is a process they will need to complete each year. A comprehensive step-by-step process description is provided within HMA and on our website to assist students and additional information (a step-by step description) is located on the **New Student Housing Selection** section of the Residence Life website.

For first year students, HMA is more than selecting a room and roommate. It is about choosing a **Learning Interest Community (LIC)** which allows students who share a common interest to live together on a floor.

### Parental Consent - for a minor choosing to reside on campus

If your student is under the age of 18 when they participate in HMA, a parent or legal guardian must verify acceptance of the terms of the **Resident Student Housing Agreement** through an authorization form. This form may be found on HMA or the Residence Life website. A signed hard copy must be received at the Residence Life office prior to your student's arrival. Otherwise, they will not be able to move into campus housing.

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## What's going on? (Getting Involved)

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### Is this a “suitcase” campus?

Many programs and events occur throughout the academic year, sponsored either by student groups or departments like Student Activities, Residence Life, and Diversity Programs. We also work to ensure that activities occur on weekends. The most successful students are those who seek out opportunities to get involved. Please encourage your student to attend events and join a club or organization!



Since many students have cars, there is also some “migration” as students come and go on any given weekend or portion of a weekend. First year students are strongly encouraged to limit their travels on weekends and become actively involved in campus life!

Throughout the 2016-2017 academic year, the Residence Life staff sponsored or co-sponsored **over 300 programs, activities, and events** for and with students.

### Another great way to get involved ...

In addition to choosing a **learning interest community (LIC)** as part of their residence hall experience, your student has the opportunity to become a member of the **hall council** for their building as part of the **Residence Hall Association (RHA)**. More information will be available when the academic year starts.



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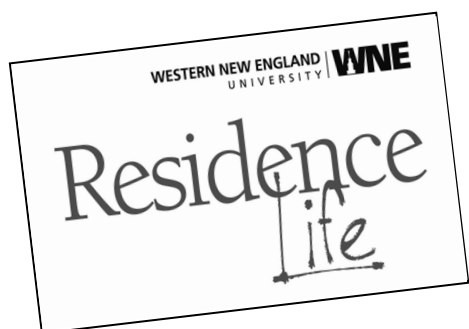
## Housekeeping Issues

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### Is there housekeeping in student rooms or bathrooms?

The condition of a room is the full responsibility of the occupants, in terms of cleanliness and care of University property. The community bathrooms are cleaned regularly by Housekeeping personnel, as are corridors and lounges. However, misuse of public space (littering, for example) will either be corrected through an “on-the-spot floor program” with residents, who have collective responsibility for the living space they share, or charged to student(s) if the services of Housekeeping personnel are required to rectify the situation.



Office of Residence Life  
Western New England University  
1215 Wilbraham Road  
Springfield, MA 01119

## *Our mission...*

**In partnership with the Office of Residence Life, students create opportunities that foster personal development, leadership skills, and academic success. Together we strive to create safe, supportive, and inclusive residential communities in which students practice and promote respect, community involvement, and acceptance.**

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(413)- 782-1317  
residencelife@wne.edu  
<http://www1.wne.edu/residence-life/index.cfm>

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