



Are **YOU** **READY** to

[liveinlariv.wordpress.com](http://liveinlariv.wordpress.com)



LARIVIERE  
LIVING AND LEARNING  
—CENTER—

**APPLICATION  
GUIDE 2020-2021**

# Are YOU ready to



Come to an info session and learn about what it's like to #liveinlariv!

- ⇒ *Review of Application and Selection Process*
- ⇒ *Participation in LaRiviere Program*
  - *Suite Learning Themes*
  - *Requirements of the program*
- ⇒ *Building Layout and Specifics*
- ⇒ *Student Leadership*
- ⇒ *Hall Council*

## *Information Session Dates*

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2020**

7:00 P.M. – LaRiviere Center 100

**MONDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2020**

8:00 P.M. – LaRiviere Center 100

**WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2020**

7:00 P.M. – LaRiviere Center 100

**Applications  
are now live.**

[www.liveinlariv.wordpress.com](http://www.liveinlariv.wordpress.com)

**WEDNESDAY**

**FEBRUARY 26, 2020**

*4:00 P.M.*

*Office of Residence Life*

**Application Due**

**FRIDAY**

**MARCH 6, 2020**

*4:00 P.M.*

**Housing Verification Payment  
Due**

**WEDNESDAY**

**MARCH 11, 2020**

*4:00 P.M.*

*via WNE Email*

**Notification of Acceptance**

**MONDAY**

**MARCH 23, 2020**

*4:00 P.M.*

*Office of Residence Life*

**LaRiviere Center Acceptance  
Agreement Due**

# BUILDING OVERVIEW

## Building Design

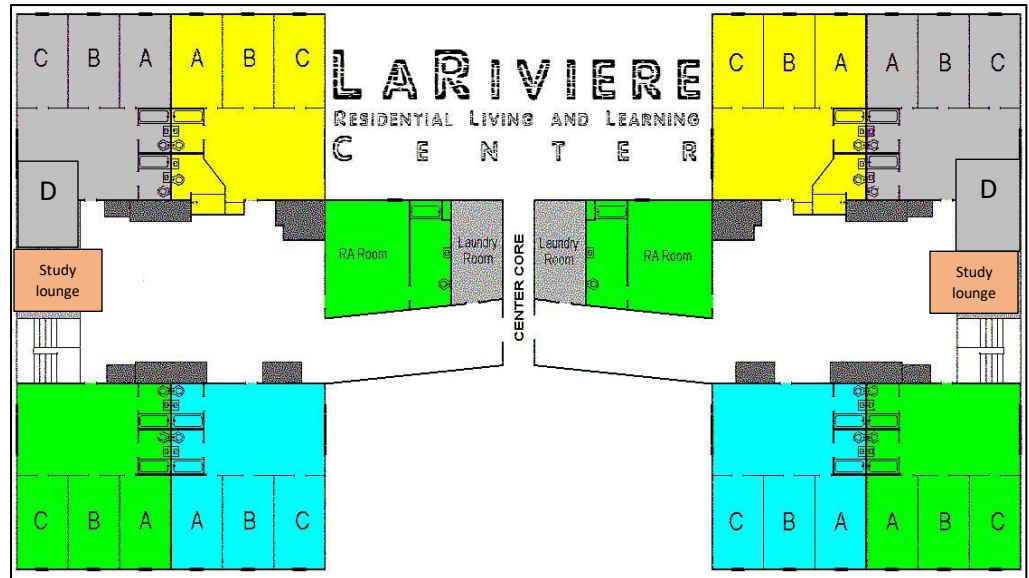
LaRiviere Center is a unique residential community at Western New England. The building combines academic classrooms and computer labs with residential spaces comprised of suites, lounges, and study rooms. LaRiv is the only building on campus to combine student life and academics in one building!

### Academic:

In the **core of the building**, you'll find four academic classrooms and one computer lab. The center of the building on the second floor (main floor) is where the LaRiviere Great Room, conference room, kitchen, and Area Director Office are located. There are also public bathrooms on each floor as well as vending machines.

### Residential:

The **residential areas** are divided into two wings (east and west) on each of the three floors. Each wing has four suites (24 total). One suite in each wing holds eight people (four bedrooms), while the remaining three suites per wing holds six people each (three bedrooms). This totals to 156 residents at max capacity.



### Each suite has a large common space that includes:

- Lounge space with furniture
- Refrigerator (full size)
- Microwave (full size)
- Cabinet and counter space
- Kitchen table with chairs
- Two bathrooms (one shower one bath tub)

Each wing has a Resident Advisor that lives in the wing in their own individual room.

### Each wing has a general common area that includes:

- Private study room
- Laundry room
- Wing lounge that includes:
  - Television/Roku Streaming Device
  - Lounge furniture
  - Sink area
  - Water fountain
  - Garbage room
  - Some of the common areas have rec equipment such as pool or foosball tables

## Al LaRiviere

Mr. LaRiviere was a 1951 graduate of Northeastern University – Springfield Division, the predecessor of Western New England University, and served on the Western New England University Board of Trustees from 1968 until his passing. He received an honorary Juris Doctor of Law degree in 1995 and an honorary baccalaureate degree in 2001. The LaRiviere Living and Learning Center was dedicated in 1999 in honor of Al and his wife Marian. The two were more than merely names on the building—they were a frequent presence in the residence hall, hosting a reception each spring for the students who lived there.



Alfred A. LaRiviere

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

There's the LaRiviere Living and Learning Center... and then there's the LaRiviere Living and Learning Center ***Program***. All Sophomore LaRiv residents participate in the Program and must meet all requirements to successfully complete the Program. These requirements are designed to help you and your suitemates get the most out of your time in LaRiv during sophomore year.

## 1. Plan and Host THREE Programs each year AND Attend Programs

Allows you to educate others about what you're passionate about in a social setting by bringing the LaRiv community together and seeing what other suites are passionate about (*Host 1 program in the Fall, 2 programs in the Spring*)

## 2. Submit LaRiv Website Posts and Post Discussion Comments

Allows you to express yourself and share your ideas related to your suite learning theme, current events, and the University community while also reading about other suites' learning themes (*2 collaborative posts in both the Fall and Spring*)

## 3. Meet with your Faculty Sponsor once per Semester

Allows you to make connections with faculty/staff outside of the classroom, athletics, or your role in an organization. This usually occurs before your suite's program each semester, as it is a requirement to discuss your program ideas with your Faculty Sponsor and collaborate on one (1) Spring program

## 4. Attend other Suite Programs

Attending other suite programs allows residents to learn about what others are interested in in a social setting. This helps not only to expand your knowledge, but to help build community by supporting other suites (*attend 3 programs*)

**By applying to live in the LaRiviere Center, residents are committing to exploring a specific area of interest and to providing educational and social programs, as well as experiential learning of various other topics. You and your suite will be responsible for sharing your insight into a specific theme as well as learning and supporting other suites and residents in various collaborative and interactive efforts.**

### Learning Communities

LaRiviere Center for sophomores is the only building on campus in which students must apply and be accepted to live in. Each group of students who apply develop a 'suite learning theme' and explain how their suite would be a beneficial member to the LaRiviere community through education regarding their suite learning theme. Throughout the year those students accepted to #liveinlariv host events, program, and write about their learning theme. Themes of suites in the building range from health and wellness topics to cultural exploration to social justice issues. These learning communities are a unique opportunity to learn more about a topic that interests you in your own time and with your friends.



# Part I: PRE APPLICATION

## STEP 1: Create a Community

*The whole process begins with two decisions:*

*With whom do you want to live and work and what topic does your community want to explore.*

**Community Size:** Students can apply as groups of 6 or 8

### Basic Qualifications for Community Members:

- As designed, the LaRiviere Center Program is for sophomore students. Therefore, all applicants should have anticipated sophomore standing – that is, they will have completed two semesters of college work. We understand that second semester and summer classes may affect class standing, so in general, for this process we assume that students currently in first-year housing (and equivalent commuter students) will qualify for housing in LaRiviere.
- All applicants to the LaRiviere Center Program must be currently enrolled students at Western New England University.
- Due to the specific nature of the process, potential transfer students cannot be considered at this time. Students who transferred *into* Western New England after the first semester are eligible for the LaRiviere Center.



## STEP 2: Create a Suite Learning Theme

- Each community (suite) is responsible for determining a theme that their suite would share with others in the LaRiviere Center. Community members do not need to be experts on this theme but it should be something that they are knowledgeable about and have an interest in. Using this theme, each suite will regularly share their insights and thoughts in a blog as well as provide educational and social programming.
- Themes should be general as to offer opportunities for your community to explore the theme in a variety of ways for your community members. However, try not to choose a theme that is too general as this may be too difficult for you to explain in concise and consistent ways in your application.



# Part II: APPLICATION

The most important part of the LaRiviere Center Program Process is the application – where you describe the community (suite) you’ve created. At first glance, it looks like a lot of work – and to be fair, it’s quite different from what you have experienced in first-year housing. If you take the time to think about the questions being asked and look at the samples provided, you’ll see that the application simply asks about things you want to do.

There are four components of the application:

1. *Community Information*
2. *Applicant Information*
3. *Application Essays*
4. *Faculty/Staff Sponsor Recommendation*

## 1. Community Information

- **Suite Learning Theme Name:** You’ll be asked to come up with the name of your community. It can be something simple like “Community Service,” but this is a chance to **be creative**. Examples of current suite learning themes in LaRiv are “**Namaste Fit**” and “**Shaping Future Hall of Famers**”. These suites work to: **create a welcoming community of mind and body wellness** and; **help students become successful and educated in business through experiential learning**, respectively.
- **Community Size:** Indicate whether you have decided to choose a 6 or 8 person suite.
- **Topic Area:** You’ll be asked to choose one of the following general topic areas in which you feel your suite learning theme best fits. In the rest of your application, you will further explain why your group chose this topic area and how it coincides with your theme.
- **The topic areas are:**
  - **STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics**
  - **Next Generation of Leaders**
  - **Healthy Choices, Creative Living**
  - **Social Justice & Advocacy**
  - **Global Exploration & Citizenship**
  - **Learning Today, Shaping Tomorrow**
  - **Rising Business Professionals\***
  - **Honors LLC\***

\*must have been a member of these communities in your first year

## 2. Applicant Information

- Please complete this section in its entirety with all information that is asked.
- Please note, Applicant 1 will serve as the primary contact person for the suite for additional communication.
- It is not necessary to indicate who will be roommates at this time.

### 3. Application Essays

- Utilizing the four essay prompts and their questions, address the following topic areas in correlation to your community theme:
  - Suite Learning Theme
  - Goals of your Community
  - Exploration and Education
  - Community Programming
- Please take your time and be thorough when completing your essays. Your essays should thoroughly describe your community members, your theme, as well as your intended interactions and development within the LaRiviere Center community.
- Please pay attention to content, grammar, and spelling.

### 4. Faculty/Staff Sponsor Recommendation

- As part of the LaRiviere Center program, you must find a Faculty/Staff Sponsor that will serve in an advisor/mentor role to your community (suite). The Faculty/Staff Sponsor will need to be aware of all your community members, your suite learning theme, and program intentions and actions throughout your time in LaRiviere Center.
- The recommendation form will need to *be completed by your intended Sponsor* and submitted *online by them separately*. For additional information regarding the Faculty/Staff Sponsor role, please refer to the 'Faculty/Staff Sponsor Info' page on the Residence Life website or LaRiviere website:
  - <https://liveinlariv.wordpress.com/facultystaff-sponsor-info>
- Please note: it is suggested that your faculty/staff sponsor be a full time faculty or staff member at Western New England University. Should your sponsor leave prior to the end of your stay in LaRiviere Center, it is the responsibility of your suite to find and confirm a new sponsor for your community.

### 5. Gender Neutral Housing Application *\*if applicable*

The gender neutral housing program allows students to reside in suites with students who identify as a different gender from one another. Housing in each bedroom will be students who identify as the same gender, however within a suite, students who identify as different genders may live together in separate direct bedrooms. For instance, in a two bedroom apartment, two women and two men may apply to be housed together.

**In addition to the LaRiviere Program Application, a separate Gender Neutral Housing Application must be completed.** This can be found on the Residence Life website or #liveinlariv website

**Gender Neutral Housing Applications are due to the Office of Residence Life (hard copy) by date listed on Residence Life website Friday, March 6, 2020 at 4:00 P.M.**

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## The LaRiviere Application for the 2020-2021 academic year is available on the Residence Life website and at #liveinlariv website:

- The application must be submitted electronically through the website
- <https://liveinlariv.wordpress.com/apply-to-liveinlariv/>
- **Direct Link to Application:** <https://forms.gle/3NVqfjr2WVxRq9hu8>
- Applicant #1 in your group (the person deemed the main contact) will receive an email regarding confirmation of receipt of all materials

**Faculty Staff Sponsor Recommendation Forms are submitted by the Faculty Staff Sponsor themselves electronically through the websites as well:**

- *Groups should approach Faculty Staff Sponsors IN PERSON and ask if they would like to sponsor and recommend them for the LaRiviere Program*
- *Groups should then provide the link to the Faculty Staff Sponsor Recommendation online submission*
- *<https://liveinlariv.wordpress.com/facultystaff-sponsor-info/>*

**All LaRiviere application materials must be submitted electronically by Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at 4:30 P.M.**

*\*Gender Neutral Housing Application is submitted to the Office of Residence Life*



# Part III: EVALUATION & SELECTION

## 1. Essay Responses Evaluation= 60%

- Each general application is reviewed by members of the Review Committee.
- The Review Committee is made of professional personnel from Student Affairs, RAs, and current students.
- Before the review committee evaluates applications, all names are removed.
- The Review Committee will not have any information regarding GPA or BEAR point during the evaluation process

Applications are scored on the following numerical scale:

5	<b>Excellent</b>	Strong, thoughtful, and persuasive responses. Only minor possibilities for improvement. Demonstrates major commitment to topic and to purposes of the LaRiviere Center Program
4	<b>Good</b>	Solid work. Many strong responses, but some areas require further exploration. Understands topic and purpose of the LaRiviere Center Program.
3	<b>Average</b>	Some good ideas, but responses are general and simplistic. Demonstrates only a surface commitment to topic and purpose of LaRiviere Center Program.
2	<b>Below Average</b>	Less than sufficient work. Many concepts are present, but underdeveloped. More time needed to expand on topic and show understanding of LaRiviere Center Program.
1	<b>Inadequate</b>	Grammar mistakes. Most areas display minimal understanding. Failure to develop topic past opening statements. Application shows an extreme lack of commitment to the chosen topic and the purposes of the LaRiviere Center Program.



("Root for Rescues" pictured above)

Each section of the application is evaluated using the scale above.

The overall impression of the application is also evaluated. The following rubric to the right holds the specific criteria:

The points earned in each area will be added together to achieve one final score for the application.

The scores will then be averaged with the other reviewers to get a final score.

<i>Suite Learning Theme</i>	
	Demonstrated knowledge of topic
	Creativity and Originality of theme
<i>Goals of Your Community (Suite)</i>	
	Commitment to growth of their community and LaRiviere community
	Commitment to a peer-to-peer learning process
<i>Community Education &amp; Exploration</i>	
	Variety of program and interactive ideas
	Identification and use of resources on and off campus
<i>Programming</i>	
	Creativity and depth of programming idea
	Coherency: Connectedness of programming ideas to information provided in Information, Exploration, and Education sections
	Probability of implementing programming ideas
<i>General Considerations</i>	
	Thoughtful, persuasive, and complete presentation of ideas
	Mechanics: organization, grammar, spelling, visual presentation

## 2. GPA= 25%

- One community GPA will be calculated by adding each community member's first semester grade point average, and then dividing that number by the number of people in the community.
- Only the Western New England University GPA (not counting transfer work, etc.) will be utilized.

## 3. BEAR POINTS= 15%

- First-year students who participated in the Building Experiences among Residents (BEAR) program offered in the residence halls earn community points. Students receive 1 point for every BEAR program they received credit for attending.
- Any points earned in the program are included in a group's total BEAR points.
- **Note: Residence Life tracks all BEAR Point info, you will not need this information to complete the written portion of your application.**



## 4. JUDICIAL HISTORY

The LaRiviere Center Program is for sophomore students who have excelled in many aspects of college life. As part of this process, each student's judicial history is also taken into account. Please note: students currently suspended from housing or the University are not eligible for inclusion in the LaRiviere Center Program Process. Based on a student's judicial history, points will be added or subtracted from your overall score per community member. Your entire judicial history will be assessed as of Wednesday, March 11, 2020.

Judicial Action	Points Earned/Deducted
No judicial history	+1
Written warning/ Minimal CV forms	-0.5
Censure	-1
Disciplinary Probation	-2

## 5. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

The LaRiviere Center Program Process is designed to balance multiple interests: focusing not just on academics, but also on community participation. Therefore, the University and/or the Office of Residence Life reserve the right to adjust this process as necessary. You should also note that the final scores are not absolute. The following issues may be considered before the LaRiviere Program finalists are announced:

**Gender Inclusivity:** LaRiviere Center is designed to be a gender inclusive residence area. During the final selection process, the Office of Residence Life will ensure that inclusivity is achieved. That can include choosing communities with differing scores. Additionally, the office of Residence Life may determine suites to be gender identity-specific.

**Topical Balance:** As part of the overall LaRiviere Center community, it is important to have a variety of interests and topics represented. In order to ensure that not all communities are focused on the same general topic, during the final selection, the Office of Residence Life will ensure that topical balance is achieved as well.

**Coherency:** Therefore, during the final selection, the Office will look for coherency between all three areas of evaluation: the proposals in the application, GPA, and community points. Any significant disparity in one area (for example, a six-person community that earned no community points, or a community GPA below 1.5) will be taken into consideration as well.

## Selection

- **To be eligible to be offered a letter of acceptance into the LaRiviere Program and building, each community member must have paid the \$300 Housing Verification Payment by Friday, March 6, 2020.**
- **Community applications that have been selected into the LaRiviere Program will be notified on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 via email. All applicants will be notified.**
- **Each community member must sign the LaRiviere Program Acceptance Agreement, which will be included in the initial acceptance letter.**
- **The LaRiviere Program Acceptance Agreement and Roommate Pairing Sheet are due to the Office of Residence Life on Monday, March 23, 2020 by 4:00 P.M. to The Office of Residence Life on the second floor of the Campus Center.**



## Suite and Room Placement

- The Office of Residence Life will determine the placement of each suite in the building
- Students needing particular suite placements due to physical or medical reasons must notify the Area Director in writing by March 23, 2020.

## Withdrawals and Additions

- It is possible that a student's interest in living and participating in the LaRiviere Center changes before the final room selection. In most cases, students may have decided to transfer, may have been selected as Resident Advisors, or a variety of other reasons. We will allow students to try to maintain their communities with students of their choice up to a certain deadline.
- To withdraw from LaRiviere Center, a student needs to complete a Withdrawal/ Addition form (available from the LaRiviere Area Director). To add a student to a vacated space, the same form is used. However, every remaining person in the original community must agree and sign the form.
- Students being added to a suite must have paid their Housing Verification Payment by Friday, March 6, 2020.
- Deadlines for withdrawals and additions will be noted in the Acceptance Agreement and Acceptance Letter.
- Any attempts to undermine the LaRiviere Center Process through withdrawals and additions will be monitored by the LaRiviere Center Area Director, or their designee. Communities attempting to manipulate the process can face removal of the entire community from the process.

**For questions regarding the LaRiviere Program and the application process, please contact: Patrick Rojas, Area Director of LaRiviere Center. | [patrick.rojas@wne.edu](mailto:patrick.rojas@wne.edu) | 413-796-5434**