

OPSU Freshman Live-On Campus Policy

Introduction

Living on campus is an integral part of the first-year college experience, providing students with a supportive environment that fosters personal growth, academic success, and social connections. To enhance these outcomes, the college requires all incoming freshman students to reside in on-campus housing, with limited exceptions as detailed below.

Policy Requirements

1. Mandatory Residency:

- a. All first-year undergraduate students who enroll full-time (12 or more credits per semester) are required to live in Holter Hall during their first academic year.
- b. This requirement begins at the start of the fall semester and continues through the end of the spring semester.

2. Duration of the Requirement:

- a. The live-on requirement applies for two consecutive semesters (fall and spring).
- b. Summer housing is optional and subject to separate terms.

Purpose of the Live-On Requirement

- **Community and Connection:** Living on campus helps new students build meaningful connections with peers, faculty, and staff.
- **Academic Support:** On-campus living facilitates access to academic resources, such as tutoring services, study spaces, and academic advising.
- **Personal Growth:** Students benefit from structured support systems that promote life skills, personal responsibility, and independence.
- **Safety and Convenience:** On-campus residences provide a safe and convenient environment with proximity to classrooms, dining, and other campus facilities.

Exemptions

Students may apply for an exemption from the live-on policy under the following conditions:

1. Commuter Status:

- a. The student resides with a parent or legal guardian within a specified distance (e.g., 30 miles) from campus. Proof of residency is required.

2. Married or Parenting Students:

- a. The student is married or has dependent children living with them. A copy of the marriage certificate and/or birth certificate is required.

3. Age or Previous College Experience:

- a. The student is 21 years or older at the start of the academic year.
- b. The student has previously completed two or more semesters at another accredited institution.

4. Medical or Disability-Related Needs:

- a. The student provides documentation of a medical condition or disability that cannot be accommodated in on-campus housing.

5. Veteran Status

- a. The student provides proof of military service through a copy of their DD-214.

Exemption Application Process

1. Submission Deadline:

- a. Exemption requests must be submitted no later than 30 days before the start of the academic year.

2. Required Documentation:

- a. Students must email their exemption request to panhandlehousing@opsu.edu and provide supporting documentation relevant to their request, e.g. proof of residency within the specified radius.

3. Review Process:

- a. Exemption applications are reviewed by the Housing Office. Decisions will be communicated within 10 business days of submission.

4. Appeals:

- a. If an exemption request is denied, students may submit an appeal within 5 business days of the decision to the Dean of Student Affairs.

Compliance and Enforcement

- Students who do not comply with the live-on policy and do not have an approved exemption may be subject to registration holds or other sanctions as determined by the Dean of Student Affairs.

Support Services for On-Campus Residents

- **Residential Life Programs:** Including mentorship, social activities, and leadership development opportunities.
- **Resident Advisors (RAs):** Trained peer leaders who provide support and guidance to residents.
- **Wellness and Counseling Services:** Access to mental health and wellness resources.
- **Dining Services:** Flexible meal plan options to meet dietary needs.

Contact Information

For questions or further information, please contact:

Office of Housing and Residential Life

Email: panhandlehousing@opsu.edu

Phone: (580) 349-1378