Residency Requirement Policy

Allegheny College has an on-campus living requirement that requires all students to reside in campus housing for 4 years or 8 full semesters. The college experience is more than just what happens in the classroom. It is also about finding your "home" on campus through student housing, campus activities, and full engagement in all that college life offers. Residential living provides a home away from home and a central hub that allows you to focus on emphasizing the lifelong benefit of an educational experience through environments, culture, people and programs. The residential experience brings together all the pieces of Allegheny College that help students find their place and make the College experience their very own unique experience and have higher satisfaction with their overall educational experience.

Listed below is research by Alexander Astin, Gregory Blimling, Ernest Pascarella, Patrick Terenzini, Paula Wilcox, Sandra Winn, Marylynn Fyvie-Gauld on some of the benefits for students living on campus:

1. Relational- Students who live on campus have a sense of belonging and significantly more social interaction with peers. These relationships also provide a place where students can “unpack” their academic experiences with their peers.
2. Mentors- There is significantly more social interaction that an on-campus student has with faculty and administrators. This connection with faculty permits a student to become more engaged in their area of study, which leads to deepening their interest and focus on their discipline.
3. Satisfaction- On-campus residents are more likely to be involved in co-curricular activities and use campus facilities. As Ernest Boyer observed some years ago, over 100 hours of a week are spent outside of classes and studying. Use of facilities and participation in co-curricular events rounds out and augments what is learned in the classroom. This further reinforces their satisfaction with their college experience.
4. Graduation- Students who live in campus housing consistently persist in their studies and graduate at significantly higher rates than students who have not had this on-campus experience.
5. Understanding of Self- Students living in residence halls show a “higher level of self-esteem over time.” Autonomy and self-directedness also appear to be higher than those who commute from their parents’ home.
6. Values- Another interesting observation is that those who live on campus express significantly greater increases in aesthetic, cultural and intellectual values.
7. School Pride- A deeper sense of “school pride” is also present that then contributes to a student’s sense of belonging and ownership for their own educational experience.
8. Convenience- There are also the general convenience issues such as meal preparation, maintenance of buildings, access to study groups, etc.
9. Cost- There are certain circumstances where living off campus seems to be a better financial option. At times this is the case; however, when one adds the cost of Internet, laundry and utilities to the overall cost, that margin is diminished or eliminated. Further, the challenge of renting with other roommates becomes interesting when dynamics of sharing in the payment of bills become an issue.
10. Safety- While Meadville has a diligent and thorough police department and other emergency services which are very quick and professional, living on campus adds to a student’s actual and perceived safety and security. Security, plant services and residence life personnel are trained in medical response as well as being observant in identifying concerns that arise in terms of safety.
11. **Support** - At smaller schools like Allegheny, in moments where a student has a mental and/or physical crisis or even academic concerns, the possibilities for assistance, advocacy and intervention are much higher for those living on campus.

12. **Spiritual Growth** - In many ways, the most important aspect of the Allegheny College experience has to do with our ethos and mission. Students who live on campus have much better access to opportunities for prayer, studies, accountability, late-night conversations, and formal and informal opportunities to grow spiritually.

Conventional wisdom and intuition would suggest that living on campus should increase student grades. While academic performance is certainly enhanced and strengthened by living on campus, research is not consistent in demonstrating a positive or negative impact on academic scores. Studies do not indicate that there is a direct correlation between living in campus housing and the grades a student receives. Yet the above observations indicate the tremendous value that living on campus can have for a student’s success and education.

**Housing Exemption Policy**

Allegheny College may grant exemptions to the on-campus housing residence policy based upon the following guidelines:

1. The student has lived on campus at other colleges/universities and may be exempt from the Allegheny requirement for the number of semesters he/she lived on campus elsewhere.
2. The student commutes from the primary residence of a parent or legal guardian within 50 miles of Allegheny College.
3. The student is married and/or has dependents.
4. The student is 23 years of age or older.
5. The student is enrolled as a part-time student for 11 credit hours or less. Adding hours after meeting the exemption requirement will result in the student being charged for the residence requirement. The student may also be subject to disciplinary action for falsifying information to College officials.

Any exemption to the College On Campus Residency Requirement Policy must be approved in writing by Office of Residence Life prior to the beginning of the period for which the exemption is requested.

**Housing Exemption Procedure**

To begin the Housing Exemption process, a student should submit a completed Housing Exemption Request Form with the required documentation to the Office of Residence Life by May 1, 2017. Once the Housing Exemption Request Form is received, the Office of Residence will review the request and approve, decline, or ask for additional information. A final decision of the outcome will be communicated in writing via the Allegheny College e-mail.

All requests by first-year and transfer students received after June 1 will be addressed by June 15, 2017. All subsequent requests will be addressed within 10-15 days of the receipt of the request.

**Appeal of Decision**

Students wishing to appeal the decision by the Office of Residence Life may submit a written appeal within five (5) business days of from the date of the communication to the following:

**Kimberly M. Ferguson, PhD**

Dean of Students

Allegheny College

520 N. Main Street

Meadville, PA 16335

e-mail: kferguson@allegheny.edu
Please clearly and concisely articulate why a housing exemption is being sought and how the Housing Exemption Policy guidelines apply to the case in question. The Dean of Students will review the decision and respond within 7-10 business days. *The decision of the Dean of Students will be final.*

**Housing Exemption Request Form**

**Office of Residence Life**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student ID#</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>First Name</th>
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<th>E-mail</th>
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<tr>
<th>Period of Request</th>
<th>□ 2016-17 Academic Year</th>
<th>□ Fall 2016 only</th>
<th>□ Spring 2017 only</th>
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Please check the reason you wish to be exempt from the on-campus housing residency requirement. If you select multiple reasons, be sure to provide all of the required documentation for the reason selected. You may also provide a letter explaining your request for exemption.

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<tr>
<th>REASON FOR EXEMPTION</th>
<th>REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>□ Commuting from home</td>
<td>→Complete the Commuter Housing Exemption Form</td>
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<td>The residence must be the primary residence of the parent or legal guardian, and must be within 50 miles of Allegheny College.</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Married</td>
<td>→Provide a copy of your marriage certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Raising Dependent Children</td>
<td>→Provide a copy of legal documentation demonstrating the dependent status for each child/dependent, such as a Birth Certificate or legal court order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Age 23 years or older</td>
<td>→Provide a Birth Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Met Four Year Residency Requirement at another college or university</td>
<td>→Provide documentation of on-campus housing for the required period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Other extenuating circumstances</td>
<td>→Provide documentation to support your circumstances</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By signing below, you acknowledge you have read the Exemption Policy information and confirm that the information provided with this request is complete and accurate.

Student Signature__________________________________________Date________________________

Name of Parent/Guardian___________________________________________________________________

Parent/Guardian Signature_______________________________________Date________________________

Please submit the required documentation on or before May 1, 2016 to:

Office of Residence Life
Reis Hall