



POLICY TITLE: First Year Live on Campus Policy

POLICY PURPOSE: FHSU is committed to providing a comprehensive educational experience for students.

BACKGROUND:

APPLIES TO: Students

DEFINITIONS: New Entering Freshman (NEF): a student attending any institution for the first time at the undergraduate level. This includes students enrolled in the fall term who attended college for the first time in the prior summer term. This also includes students who entered with advanced standing (college credits earned through PSEO or Advanced Placement programs).

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POLICY STATEMENT: FHSU is committed to providing a comprehensive educational experience for students. In accordance with this commitment, data indicate that first-year students who live on campus earn higher grade point averages and are more likely to persist at FHSU. As a result all New Entering Freshman (NEF) as well as any student who received a high school diploma during the current year, including those students who transferred to FHSU in the Spring Term after attending one semester at another institution, are required to live on campus their first year. A New Entering Freshman is defined as a student attending any institution for the first time at the undergraduate level. This includes students enrolled in the fall term who attended college for the first time in the prior summer term. This also includes students who entered with advanced standing (college credits earned through PSEO or Advanced Placement programs).

Procedures

Admitted students will receive materials from Residential Life that include a Housing and Dining Contract as well as information about the on campus living experience. A link to the First-Year Live-On Campus Policy on the Residential Life website will be noted in a cover letter that introduces the enclosed materials. Students interested in applying for an exemption will be able to download and a Housing Exemption Request form. As noted in the policy language, exemption requests will be reviewed and decided either by the Director of Residential Life, or designee, or by the Housing Exemption Review Board. The Housing Exemption Review Board will be

comprised of individuals able to assess extenuating circumstances such as the ability to accommodate medical conditions and disabilities, financial hardship, and special needs. Those applying for exemption will receive notification of decision regarding their request in writing.

Students may qualify for an exemption to the policy if one or more of the following conditions exist. Decisions will be made by Director Residential Life, or designee, or referred to the Housing Exemption Review Board:

1. Students who live with their parent(s) or guardian(s) in their primary residence within a 50 mile radius of campus.
 - Proof of residency will be required.
2. Students enrolled in 9 or fewer credits during both the fall and spring semesters.
 - Should a student with fewer than 9 credit hours add a class making him/her a full-time student, the student will be expected to move on campus or apply for an exemption under a different category.
3. Students with custody of a minor child.
 - Proof of custody may be required.
4. Students who are married.
 - A copy of a Marriage Certificate may be required.
5. Students who are 21 years or older on the first day of classes of their entering term.

Extenuating circumstances may be considered for the following situations. Supporting documentation will be required. Decisions will be made by the Housing Exemption Review Board.

1. Severe medical condition or disability that cannot be reasonably accommodated in a residence hall facility.
 - Prior to requesting an exemption, students must first contact Accessibility Services to request an accommodation. The written recommendation from Accessibility Services will be considered when making a decision about the exemption request.
2. Financial hardship for which there is no financial solution
 - Prior to requesting an exemption, students must apply for financial aid and complete the FAFSA.
3. Other extenuating circumstance that may warrant an exemption that does not fit into one of the above reasons for exemption. Examples that may be considered include, but are not limited to, serious illness of parent, or sibling requiring assistance from student on a regular basis.

- Documentation will be required.

Students who believe they qualify for an exemption based on one or more reasons must submit the Housing Exemption Request form to Residential Life. The completed form must be received by Residential Life no later than 30 days prior to the first day of classes. Providing false information to FHSU is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct; violators will be subject to disciplinary action. Students who are found to have provided false information will be required to move into an on campus residence hall. Students are encouraged not to make any other commitments for housing until they receive a written response to their request for exemption, as having already signed a lease with an off-campus landlord or purchasing a home will not be considered reason for an exemption.

Exemptions from this policy: Students attending FHSU at a foreign campus location are subject to the housing rules at that location. Students who are entirely virtual in nature are not subject to this policy.

**EXCLUSIONS OR
SPECIAL
CIRCUMSTANCES:**

**RELATED
DOCUMENTS:**

Policies:

Forms:

Other:

KEYWORDS:

New Entering Freshman, housing, Residential Life, exemption

**RESPONSIBLE
OFFICE:**

Office of Student Affairs

**RESPONSIBLE
UNIVERSITY
OFFICIAL:**

Assistant Vice President

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