

## **IV. Community Living**

### **Campus Residency Requirement**

From the Trustees to the professional staff in Student Development, the College believes deeply in the educational and personal benefits of being a residential campus. The Trustees state that this policy is “consistent with a belief that a college education is more than the accumulation of credit hours needed for graduation; it must also involve the preparation of students to make positive and important contributions to society.” Every day we strive to create a community that is conducive to student growth and development.

As a College residence hall community member, the following are the rights a student can expect and has a responsibility to maintain the right:

- To read and study free from undue interference in one’s room (unreasonable noise and other distractions inhibit the exercise of this right).
- To sleep without undue disturbance from noise or guests of a roommate
- To expect that a roommate will respect one’s personal belongings.
- To a clean environment in which to live.
- To freely access one’s room and facilities without pressure from a roommate.
- To personal privacy.
- To host guests who respect the rights of the host’s roommate(s), other hall residents, and the visitation policy.
- To address grievances. Residence hall staff is available for assistance in settling conflicts.
- To be free from all forms of intimidation, harassment, prejudice, and physical and emotional harm.

The purpose of the residential community of the College is to enhance the academic environment and provide students with a well-maintained, safe, and positive living experience. Students have the responsibility to maintain an environment that is conducive to study, sleep, and socialization.

Many diverse individuals and lifestyles make up the population living in the College residential community. As a result of this shared environment, it is necessary for the College to have policies and procedures in place that serve as standards for resident behavior. These policies are not meant to hinder the student, but to protect individual and community rights.

Our dynamic residential program allows our students to interact with a broad range of people. These interactions help to shape them as individuals. Some of the many advantages to campus residency, and why we believe so deeply in it, are found in big and small occurrences: from the conversations in Wynee’s Bistro to the walks across campus to ACE events, from late night conversations with hall mates to access to Resident Advisors (RAs) as peer mentors, and from ready access to campus resources to the growth that occurs from communal living. As such, we know the events, programs, and services we offer augment and supplement the College curriculum. The programs offered in the residence halls are designed for the residents of that building or community. The programs evolve to meet student needs at each stage of his/her

educational journey. Every student is encouraged to work with his or her RA to plan programs that are of interest to him or her and his or her peers.

It is for these reasons that the College has a four-year residency requirement. However, we do recognize that there are some cases when a student should be considered for exemption. Approved reasons for exemption from the residency requirement are:

- the completion of 92 hours and have at least a cumulative 2.5 GPA prior to living off campus
- to be at least 21 years old before the semester you are requesting to live off campus
- to be married
- live with your custodial relative in their primary residence, within a 30 mile radius of the campus.

Students who meet one of these criteria must complete an “Off-Campus Request Form” which is available in the Office of Student Development. Students who do not meet these criteria will remain residential students. Any student may complete the form, but must await approval before signing an off-campus lease. Denial of the off-campus housing request means that students are still considered a part of the campus residential community. If approval is given, students must provide an off-campus address. Students who lose the privilege of campus housing because of a housing probation violation will be unable to remain a student unless he/she meets the approved reasons for residency exemption.

The deadline to cancel housing is ~~April~~ 1 and Dec. 15. Cancellation following those dates will result in a \$500 charge. Cancellation must be received in writing.

Each student completes and signs a housing agreement [http://www.flsouthern.edu/student\\_life/reslife/roomreapp/2010housingreapp.pdf](http://www.flsouthern.edu/student_life/reslife/roomreapp/2010housingreapp.pdf). This document is a binding agreement between the student and the College. By signing the agreement, the student understands and will abide by all terms set forth in the agreement. Housing agreements are effective for one academic year, provided the student has been accepted to the College and has made all payments in full.

The housing agreement only assures housing during the period of time when classes are in session.

Campus housing is provided for only full-time registered students. A student dropping below full-time hours must be given permission to remain in the halls. Conduct standards are in place and if a violation occurs, the student may be removed from campus housing. If the student does not meet the off-campus criteria, he/she must withdraw from the institution. Florida Southern also reserves the right to prohibit any student who is pregnant from residing in the residence halls. If a pregnant student is given permission by the Dean of Student Development to remain residential, the student must follow guidelines provided by the Office of Community Living. Residency in campus housing is not permitted during the final trimester.