

Freshman Residential Requirement POLICY AND EXEMPTION PROCEDURES

Division of Student Affairs • The University of Akron

Policy Statement

The University of Akron is committed to providing a learning environment supportive of its academic mission complementary to its academic programs. The University acknowledges that national studies find that first-year freshman uniquely benefit from a residence hall experience. Social integration and access to faculty, staff and institutional resources are enhanced through an on-campus residential experience. The University considered and accepted the findings that living on-campus positively influences academic persistence and success, including degree completion. For all these reasons, all first-year freshman students at The University of Akron are required to reside in University residence halls for the duration of their freshman academic year at the University.

Upon admission to the University, all first-year freshman students will be required to make application for residence in University housing and will be assigned, so long as space is available and/or unless the student is subject to one of the exemptions below:

Conditions which exempt a student **without** having to file an Exemption Petition

Based upon the information supplied by a first-year student in the normal course of applying for admission and registering for courses, the University will automatically exempt, without a filed Exemption Petition, any first-year freshman:

- Whose parents or legal guardian reside in: *Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit, or Wayne counties*;
- Who is registered for fewer than 6 credit hours (as verified on the 14th day of instruction);
- Who is 21+ years of age when beginning the freshman year.

Conditions which exempt a student which **require** filing an Exemption Petition

The University will also automatically exempt any first-year freshman who files an Exemption Petition and provides appropriate documentation of the following:

- Active duty military experience (at least one year): DD-214 discharge documentation required);
- Marriage (submit copy of the marriage certificate);
- Student is single parent with custodial care responsibilities (submit copy of the most recent tax return showing the child is claimed as a dependent OR a copy of the medical eligibility card for student and dependent child).

Conditions which **MAY** exempt a student which **require** filing an Exemption Petition

The University, in its discretion, may exempt a first-year freshman who files an Exemption Petition and provides adequate documentation based on the following:

- Medical condition (written statement is required from student's non-University attending physician/licensed mental health practitioner which outlines the reason(s) why living in a residence hall is detrimental to the student's health);
- Disability (same documentation as required above for medical condition);

- Other extenuating circumstances, including but not limited to, special dietary needs or conditions, cultural or religious needs or accommodations, undue hardship, or any other circumstance(s) in support of an exemption which, if not granted, would undermine or contravene the purpose of the Freshman Residential Requirement Policy.

Exemption Petition Procedure

- Upon request, the University will make available to any individual, Freshman Residential Exemption Petition materials.
- Exemption petitions and documentation must be submitted at least 30 days prior to the initial semester of enrollment. The University will not consider Exemption Petitions which are not filed within this deadline.
- Students admitted to the University within 30 days of the first day of instruction and who seek exemption from the Freshman Residential Requirement must submit the exemption petition as soon as possible after admission notification, but no later than the 14th day of instruction.
- Exemption Petition submittals and supporting documentation should be returned to the Department of Residence Life & Housing for processing. Exemption petitions based upon medical and/or dietary reasons will be reviewed by Student Health Services and/or University Dining Services. All Exemption Petitions will be reviewed by the Chief Housing Officer (CHO).
- Exemption Petition requests submitted with insufficient, inaccurate or incomplete documentation will be returned to the student for completion. CHO evaluations and the student's registration may be held in abeyance until appropriate information and documentation is received.
- The student will be notified in writing of the CHO decision. Notification will be sent to the student's permanent address, unless otherwise requested.

Penalty for Non-Compliance

Any first-year freshman student not granted exemption under this policy who fails by his/her action to reside in University housing may be subject to immediate administrative withdrawal by the University and/or required to pay all room and board fees and charges for the semester(s) in which the student failed to reside in University housing as required under this policy. A student may be readmitted only upon the discretion of the Chief Student Affairs Officer according to UA Rule 3359-60-45.

Appeal Procedure

Any student who disagrees with the decision of the CHO pertaining to exemption from this policy, an administrative withdrawal, or any other decision under this policy may appeal such decision. The student must first contact the CHO, or designee of such Officer, and request clarification or reconsideration of the decision. Should the student continue to disagree with such decision, the student may thereafter appeal, in turn, to the Dean of Students, thereafter to the Vice President of Student Affairs.

Subject to Availability

The Freshman Residential Requirement is subject to available space in University-operated residential facilities.

FRESHMAN RESIDENTIAL EXEMPTION PETITION

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- Any student supplying false information on a Freshman Residential Exemption Petition or failing to notify the Department of Residence Life & Housing upon any status change which persuaded the Housing & Food Services Contract Review Committee to grant the exemption initially, with intent to deceive, will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.
- An exemption to the Freshman Residential Requirement is only valid as long as the reason for the exemption exists. Changes in conditions leading to the exemption are the student's responsibility to report to the Department of Residence Life & Housing.
- The University reserves the right to revoke the exemption in accordance with the Freshman Residential Policy.

STUDENT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name _____			
_____ Last	_____ First	_____ M.I.	_____ U of A ID Number
_____ Permanent Address			_____ City/State/Zip Code
_____ Birth Date	_____ Home Telephone Number	_____ Work Telephone Number	

STATEMENT AND DOCUMENTATION IN SUPPORT OF EXEMPTION PETITION

What is/are your primary reason(s) for requesting waiver of the Freshman Residential Requirement?

Please provide a detailed explanation in the space provided below.

Independent documentation of key assertions must be provided to complete this application when conditions pertaining to the following are cited.

Please check (√) any of the conditions which pertain to your reason(s) for requesting an exemption:

- Active duty military experience (1+ years: DD-214 discharge documentation required);
- Marriage (submit copy of the marriage certificate);
- Single parent with custodial care responsibilities (submit copy of child's birth certificate along with a copy of the most recent tax return showing the child is claimed as a dependent);
- Medical Condition (submit documentation from physician/health care provider);
- Disability (contact the Office of Accessibility at 330-972-5422);
- Other extenuating circumstances (e.g., special dietary needs or conditions, cultural or religious needs or accommodations, undue hardship, or other such circumstance(s) – **please attach third party documentation or other evidence**)

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature
(Required when Contract is signed by Co-signer)

Date

Freshman Residential Exemption Petitions and supporting documentation should be submitted to:

Department of Residence Life & Housing • The University of Akron • Akron, Ohio 44325-1401