Step Right Up! 2019 - 2020 Residential Life Housing Selection Information Guide

Residential Life * reslife@umbc.edu * 410-455-2591
Step Right Up to Housing Selection 2019!

Welcome to UMBC Residential Life Housing Selection 2019! This process will allow you to choose a room to live in next year. Our system is fully online; you can participate in Housing Selection using your smartphone, tablet, or any computer. Just APPLY, CONNECT, and SELECT. 

*The first 500 students to apply will receive a Residential Life mystery gift!*

**New for Housing Selection 2019/2020:**

In order to participate in Housing Selection your student account will need to be in good standing. Residential Life will check your student account before the March 4th launch. Students with outstanding balances over $250.00 will not have access to the Housing Selection Application. Students on the Monthly Payment Plan who are in good standing with their payments will be eligible to participate.

Students who are blocked from Housing Selection at the March 4th launch will have the opportunity to pay their accounts. Once you have paid your account balance come to Residential Life, located in Erickson Hall, by or before 5:00pm on March 26th to request access to the application. The deadline for submitting your Housing Selection application is 11:59pm on March 26th. *(Residential Life is unable to extend the application deadline.)* Students who miss the deadline will be given access to the general housing application, which will add them to a wait list for housing. Housing offers to students on the wait list will be distributed in summer 2019 as space is available; students on the wait list will not have an opportunity to participate in room selection.

**The scoop?**

· A limited number of commuters may participate in Housing Selection. Commuters must be part of a current group of residential students. Commuters will need to visit Residential Life (located in Erickson Hall 184) with a current residential group member to fill out a “commuter pass” application. Commuters must have a student account in good standing. Commuters applying for Walker Avenue Apts. must have 39+ credits.

· No 3-person groups will be able to participate in Selection. If you have a group of 3, you will need to find a 4th person through the Roommate Searching feature, or by attending a Roommate Mixer. The Mixer will be hosted by the Resident Student Association (RSA) on March 6th @ 6:00pm in the Harbor Hall MPR or March 14th @ 7:00pm in the Apt. Community Center. Students seeking to obtain a triple or quad room should stop in at the Residential Life
office to make the request in person, or should email reslife@umbc.edu. Groups of 3 interested in Walker Avenue Apts. should visit the Walker Avenue Apt. Leasing Office.

- Facebook Live Sessions will be available to let you get Housing Selection Info any time!
- 4-person groups **DO NOT** receive priority for apartments

Housing Selection is based on your cumulative academic credits as of the end of the winter session. If you’re part of a roommate group, your group’s average credits will be used.

- Hillside, Terrace and West Hill Apartments - Many students hope they are able to select an apartment. The typical number of credits required to obtain an apartment is approximately 50 (group average). This credit number can vary depending on how many students choose apartments. For example, a group of four students who are freshmen this year who each obtained 15 credits as of winter session has a group credit average of 15. Consider the average group credit before planning to obtain an apartment.

- Apartment expectations for Walker Avenue Apartments: Each member of your group must have 39+ credits to this community. If the demand for Walker Avenue is higher than the amount of available spaces, students with the highest individual or group credit averages will select from the available spaces. Students with lower credit averages will still be guaranteed housing at Walker Avenue, but will be assigned apartments by Walker’s Leasing Office over the summer as spaces become available. Students who do not participate in April will be notified of their housing assignments during the summer. If you have questions about Walker Avenue Apts. please contact their Leasing Office.

**Key Dates**

**March 4 @ 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM** - Commuter Housing Fair at Commons Main Street

**March 4 @ 12:00 PM** - Housing applications and licenses available online to eligible students

**March 6 @ 12:00 PM** - Housing Selection Info session in Apartment Community Center

(*Will also be streamed on Facebook live)

**March 6 @ 6:00 PM** – RSA Roommate Mixer in Harbor Hall MPR, food will be provided

**March 14 @ 5PM** – Housing Selection Info session in Harbor Hall MPR

**March 14 @ 7PM** – RSA Roommate Mixer in the Apartment Community Center, food will be provided

**March 17-24** - Spring Break
March 26 @ 11:59PM - Deadline for submitting your housing application and license, including paying your deposit, if applicable

March 4-26 @ 12:00 PM - Roommate Group Formation and Roommate Search

March 26-28 @ 12:00 PM - Gender Inclusive Roommate Group Formation

March 28 @ 12:00 PM - All groups will lock; you will not be able to edit your application or roommate group

March 29 – Selection times are assigned based on your group’s cumulative average and emailed to groups. Your countdown clock to Selection begins in your Residence account

April 3 - Online Room Selection - 80 - 120+ credits as group average

April 4 - Online Room Selection - 40 - 79 credits as group average

April 5 - Online Room Selection - 0 - 39 credits as group average

April 9 - Online Walker Avenue Apartments Selection

April 10 - Online Walker Avenue Apartments Selection

APPLY

Eligibility - Who Can Participate?

- All current residential students with student accounts in good standing for spring 2019.
- Must apply online and submit online housing license by March 26th at 11:59PM.
- 5th year students (and beyond) who participate in Selection are guaranteed housing at Walker Avenue Apartments.
- Graduate students are only eligible to apply at Walker Avenue Apartments
- Commuter students (in good financial standing) are eligible if they are part of a group of current residential students

Applying - Your first decision will be whether you want to live in Residential Life Housing or Walker Avenue Apartments. Beginning on March 4th, the following applications may be viewed when you login to your housing account.

- Residential Life Housing Application 2019-2020
- Walker Avenue Apartments Housing Application 2019-2020

NOTE: You can select either Residential Life or Walker, but not both - so make sure you’ve decided which option you want BEFORE you click the application. Students with less than 39 credits are not eligible for Walker Avenue Apts. and should choose the Residential Life application.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you are a...</th>
<th>And you are...</th>
<th>Then...</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Reslife Resident</td>
<td>Staying in Reslife Housing</td>
<td>Submitting a new license by March 26th authorizes Residential Life to roll your housing deposit already on file forward into the next academic year. If you cancel your application at a later date you will forfeit the deposit in addition to incurring cancellation fees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Reslife Resident</td>
<td>Moving to Walker Avenue Apartments</td>
<td>Submitting a Walker Avenue license by March 26th authorizes Residential Life to forward your existing $200 housing deposit to Walker for the reservation fee. If you cancel with Walker, you will forfeit the $200 you had on file in addition to incurring cancellation fees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Walker Resident</td>
<td>Staying in Walker Housing</td>
<td>You must pay a new $200 reservation fee to Walker each year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Walker Resident</td>
<td>Moving to Reslife Housing</td>
<td>You must pay a $200 deposit, which will be requested in the month of April.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current off-campus student</td>
<td>Moving to Reslife Housing</td>
<td>Must be part of a group of current residents. The $200 deposit is submitted as part of your application and must be paid by March 26th to be eligible for room selection. You will see two applications to submit – one for the license and one for the deposit.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commuter</td>
<td>Moving to Walker Housing</td>
<td>Must be part of a group of current residents and pay the $200 reservation fee during the Walker Avenue application process.</td>
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**CONNECT**

**Roommate Searching Module**

Get ready to find a roommate! The roommates’ module in your housing account allows you to filter on items such as sleep habits, room condition, allergies, and more. You can send a potential roommate a message through our system. That person will need to accept your Roommate offer before you become a group. You may choose not to have your profile
searched at any time by setting your My Account > Matching Profile Visibility to “Hide”. You may also form groups with specific roommates you already know by having one person indicate the roommate’s code. You may form groups of 1, 2, or 4. **NO GROUPS OF THREE WILL BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN HOUSING SELECTION 2019!**

**Roommate Mixer**

Come to these events to meet a new potential roommate in person! Check Key Dates on page two for dates, times and locations. Food will be provided!

**Gender Inclusive Housing**

If you are interested in living with students regardless of biological sex, you may participate in Gender Inclusive housing. You will form Gender Inclusive groups (which may include mixed sex groups) between March 26th and March 28th. During online Housing Selection, you will see spaces that are designated as Gender Inclusive. The same credit priorities apply for Gender Inclusive housing. Remember: apartment availability is typically limited to groups with a minimum 50 credit average. **Please note that Residential Life does not recommend Gender Inclusive housing for students who are in a romantic relationship.** When relationships change, this can put a significant strain on the roommate relationship. That strain has contributed to roommate conflicts in the past.

**Living Learning Communities (LLCs)**

You should work closely with the Program Coordinator for your floor to determine if you are eligible to return to the floor. If you cannot return to the floor, you’ll need to make another choice during Housing Selection. If you’re interested in returning to your same Living Learning Community please fill out — “Living Learning Communities: I am currently living on a Living Learning Community floor/ wing and would like to return to the same community for the 2019-2020 academic year” on your application. You must still submit your housing application and license by the March 26th deadline.

**9-month, Continuous Occupancy Housing**

If you want or need to live on campus during Thanksgiving, winter and/or spring breaks, you should select from the 9-month housing options. This includes all apartments on campus: Hillside, Terrace, West Hill and Walker Avenue apartments. Potomac Hall is also a 9-month community, as are the following floors in Harbor Hall: 1st North, 1st West, 2nd South, 2nd West, 3rd South, and 3rd West. Please note that students choosing Harbor Hall or Potomac Hall must purchase a minimum of a $50 flex meal plan for January term. This is part of your housing license, and applies to all 9-month housing, whether or not students plan to live on campus for the month of January.

**Quiet Lifestyle**

Quiet Lifestyle floors enjoy extended quiet hours per community agreement. Extended quiet hours in these communities are 8PM to 8AM on weekdays and 10PM to 8AM on weekends.
These floors are:
- Chesapeake 3rd West
- Erickson 4th South
- Harbor 4th South
- Patapsco Basement East
- Potomac Basement South
- Hillside – Elk
- Terrace – Chincoteague
- West Hill – Part of Wye

Meal Plans

Please note that you will be billed for the meal plan you select on your housing application. If you wish to change your meal plan after Housing Selection, you will need to contact the Campus Card office directly, after July 1st, by sending them an RT ticket from the “help” tab in your myUMBC account. If you do not select a meal plan and you are assigned to a residence hall, you will automatically be billed for the 12-meal-a-week plan. All students living in a residence hall are required to be on a meal plan. **Students living in Potomac and Harbor 9-month housing are required to purchase a winter session meal plan, (minimum $50 flex plan), even if they will not be on campus during the winter session.**

Housing for Students with Special Needs

If you are currently in housing and have a disability or other medical accommodation, you still need to submit your application and housing license by the March 26th deadline. You should email Wendy Crowe at crowe@umbc.edu to discuss housing placement for the 2019/2020 academic year or call 410-455-8832.

If you need a new disability related or medical accommodation you should contact Valerie Valentine at Student Disability Services (valerie@umbc.edu or 410-455-8496). Our office follows all recommendations from SDS.

Requesting Transfers or Incoming Freshmen as Roommates

Due to the different housing selection cycles, current residents are not able to select incoming freshmen or transfer students as roommates during the Housing Selection process.

**SELECT**

Your group selection times are assigned based on the average of your cumulative credits as of the end of the winter 2019 semester. Times are not prioritized by group size.

Making your selection!

Beginning on March 29th, you will see all housing selection options that are available to you. The time assigned to your group will be displayed in a countdown clock. When your selection time is reached, your group leader can select a room from any available space. Please make
sure your group leader knows about any special needs (9-month, accessibility) you may have and chooses a space accordingly!

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<th>Selection Dates</th>
<th>Info</th>
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<tr>
<td>Residential Life Housing Selection</td>
<td>April 3 - 5</td>
<td>Residential Life rooms will be available in a single housing selection process: including single, double, and apartment/suite rooms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walker Avenue Apartments Housing Selection</td>
<td>April 9 - 10</td>
<td>This option is only available if you and your group apply to Walker Avenue Apartments in March. More information on Walker Avenue Apartments can be found at walkeravenueapts.com</td>
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