



**Residential Life**

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**Subject: Important Fall 2020 Housing Updates and Your Housing Status**

**Date: June 24, 2020**

Dear Student,

We hope that you and your family members are safe and healthy. We are looking forward to meeting the challenges of the time as a community this fall, and want to share the plan for our fall residential community to help you make decisions about housing that are best for you.

[As announced last week](#), in response to the COVID-19 emergency and for the health and safety of everyone in our community, UMBC is making significant adjustments to our physical spaces in order to reduce density, as well as to our policies and student expectations for the fall 2020 semester, based on guidance from the CDC, University System of Maryland, and our UMBC health and safety experts. At this time, physical distancing and reduced density remain the most effective ways to reduce transmission and outbreaks of COVID-19. We are making the following changes to our residential community this fall:

- We will be limiting on-campus housing to one student per bedroom. This means that we will not be able to house all of the students who planned to live on campus.
- As a result of COVID-19 health restrictions beyond the University's control, we are cancelling all existing 2020-2021 housing licenses and will offer an abbreviated housing license for fall semester only to a more limited number of students. The term of the license will end November 25, 2020.
  - For those who are not offered a fall license before the end of July, your \$200 housing deposit will be returned. This allows students and families to make independent decisions about fall without penalty and will allow us to re-evaluate spring plans as additional information about the virus' path emerges. (Residential Life will provide information about securing spring 2021 semester housing in mid-October).

**HOUSING PRIORITY**

Prioritizing student academic success, Residential Life, in collaboration with Academic Affairs, has established new criteria for on-campus housing for the fall semester. Priority factors will include:

- Students registered in at least one (1) in-person or hybrid class or a predetermined University affiliation or sponsorship by a university department that requires access to University facilities in order to fulfill academic commitments.
  - This includes but is not limited to research facilities, labs, and athletic training facilities.
- Participation in first-year academic cohort programs, including but not limited to scholars programs and Living Learning Communities (LLCs).
- Students' distance from campus based on permanent address (students with addresses greater than 30 miles from campus will be given stronger consideration) and international students.
- Students with an approved medical housing accommodation through Student Disability Services (sds.umbc.edu) that requires them to live on campus.

- Students identified as having exceptional need for housing.
- Please note that on-campus employment and student club and organization affiliation are not priority factors at this time.

All student housing needs are not identified by these categories; therefore, UMBC staff will work to review individual requests for on-campus housing through the *Fall Housing Wait List Application*. Our decisions will utilize the priorities above that include student need for housing and those for whom on-campus housing is necessary to fulfill their academic requirements.

Additionally, we recognize that newly admitted students are still in the process of enrolling for the fall semester, and we are planning accordingly to work with those students. Our process factors in time for new students who continue to register.

## **YOUR HOUSING STATUS**

*STUDENTS RECEIVED SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR HOUSING STATUS AND NEXT STEPS*

## **FINANCIAL AID RESOURCES AND LANGUAGE**

Students who will not be residing on campus may need to update their housing status with the [Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships](#). If you have financial aid and will be living off campus in an apartment or in Walker Ave apartments, please log into your myUMBC account and complete a [Housing Update Form](#). If you do not complete this form and you are not living on campus, it will be assumed that you are living with relatives or parents for the 2020-2021 academic year.

In addition, if you have applied for Maryland scholarships, and are not living on campus, you will need to update your housing status through your [MDCAPS account](#).

Students who are receiving financial aid for the 2020-21 academic year will be notified in writing of any changes in their awards that result from adjustments due to housing changes.

## **SPRING HOUSING**

At this time we do not know if we will be able to revert to our full occupancy for spring 2021. We will announce housing priorities, licensing process, and timeline for the spring semester in mid-October.

## **FAQS & CONTACT**

Residential Life will be offering an opportunity for you to attend a virtual question and answer session with Residential Life staff.

For general questions and additional information on expectations and our health and safety practices, please visit our [FAQ page](#).

If you have any specific questions please feel free to submit a [Request Tracker \(RT\) ticket](#) and one of our staff will contact you within one business day.