



RESIDENTIAL LIFE

October 25, 2020

Resident Name, the fall semester is coming to a close and we want to share important information about fall closing and spring housing. ***Please take the time to review this email, as it has important links and instructions.***

Important Dates

- October 31, 2020
 - [Deadline for Spring Housing Scholarships on Scholarship Retriever](#)
- Monday, November 1, 2020
 - Transitional Housing & Late Stay Application available upon request
- Friday, November 13, 2020
 - Transitional Housing & Late Stay Application deadline
- Sunday, November 15, 2020
 - Priority deadline to complete the Spring Housing Interest Application. [For more information please visit our Spring Housing FAQs.](#)
 - **Deadline to sign up for a move-out time.**
- Friday, November 20 – Wednesday, November 25, 2020
 - Fall housing move-out period
- Wednesday, November 25, 2020
 - Residential Life communities close for fall semester

Fall Closing & Move-Out Information

All Residential Life communities close for the semester on **Wednesday, November 25, 2020 at 8 p.m.**

In an effort to maintain social distancing practices, move-out will take place over several days. **Students should sign up for a move-out time by November 15, 2020. [Click here to access your community's sign-up form.](#)** Move-out slots are in three-hour windows, during which you may have up to one (1) additional person to support you with your move.

Move-Out Instructions

Students are expected to vacate and complete the below checklist to help ensure the overall health and safety of your room and personal belongings:

- Clean your bathroom and personal spaces well.

- Clean your refrigerator and dispose of perishable items.
- Defrost, unplug, and prop microfridge doors open.
- Take all personal items.
- Remove and dispose of all trash in a trash room or a dumpster.
- Set the heat between 70-72 degrees.
- Turn off water.
- Turn off lights and bathroom exhaust fans.
- Close and lock all windows and doors.
- Close blinds on ground floor rooms; leave blinds up on all other floors.
- Report facilities concerns to FXIT (x53948).
- [Complete the Express Checkout Form](#)

Failure to properly vacate by the deadline may result in student conduct action and/or an Improper Checkout Fee.

[For more information please view our Fall Closing FAQs.](#)

Late Stay & Extended Housing Requests

We recognize that some students will need extended housing. Residents who are in good conduct standing *and* compliant with all COVID-19 requirements may be eligible to apply for transitional housing if *and* they are a(n):

- International student,
- In-season varsity athlete (Women's Basketball and Men's Basketball), or
- Have an exceptional need such as homelessness/housing insecurity

If you meet the requirements, please contact Residential Life via [RT Tracker](#) to be issued the Transitional Housing application. **Late stay applications are due by Friday, November 13, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.**

If approved for transitional housing, students will be financially responsible for the transitional period. Students will be billed \$250 a week for each week they are in housing. There is no proration for a partial week stay.

Additionally, if approved, transitional students will be required to relocate to transitional housing in the apartments between November 20-22, 2020.

[For more information about transitional housing, including terms and conditions, please view our Transitional Housing FAQs.](#)

Thank you and we hope to see you in the spring!

John Fox
Director, Residential Life

Fall Closing FAQs

- Abbreviated Term
 - Why does the license end before the semester?
 - In June we announced that as a result of the COVID-19 health restrictions beyond the University's control, we canceled all of the 2020-2021 housing licenses and intend to offer a limited housing license for an abbreviated term during the fall semester only (August 2020 – November 25, 2020) to a more limited number of students due to health advice recommending single bedroom settings. Additionally, in response to the health and safety challenges, the on-campus housing experience will be significantly different from what was offered in the original full academic year housing license. These changes, under CDC and health officials' guidance, in the abbreviated duration of the license, the single bedroom occupancy resulting in different charges, and the new rules and expectations around maintaining a healthy environment, revealed that the performance of the original housing license became an impossibility.
 - Will we get a refund?
 - Students living on campus this fall completed a license that was for the abbreviated term, and since we honored the full length of the license there will be no housing refunds for the fall semester.
 - Why do WAA residents get to remain?
 - Walker Avenue residents sign a different license and agreement than Residential Life students. When UMBC cancelled the 2020-2021 license in response to the pandemic, MEDCO would not allow Walker to do the same. We were required to continue with the existing terms of the original WAA license, only making minor modifications to allow for COVID19 related safety precautions. Therefore, the original term dates still apply to WAA, as do the original license fees. So, we will need to account for the Walker residents staying over the break periods, as usual, as well as those returning in the spring during the regular academic term.
 - Can we keep our items in our rooms?
 - Students are expected to remove all personal belongings by November 25, 2020 at 8 p.m., so that our staff can access and prepare the halls for spring residents. Students who fail to remove all personal belongings will be assessed a fee for our staff to dispose of the items.
- General Move-Out
 - What are the move-out times?
 - Students will be able to select a move-out time between November 20, 2020 to November 25, 2020. In order to accommodate social distancing move-out slots are limited in number based on your community and are 3-hours long to accommodate the process. Follow the sign-up link provided in your email to pick your time.

- How many people can assist with my moveout?
 - Students may have up to one (1) visitor assist with their move-out.
- What are the checkout procedures?
 - Clean your bathroom and personal spaces well.
 - Clean your refrigerator and dispose of perishable items.
 - Defrost, unplug, and prop microfridge doors open.
 - Take all personal items.
 - Remove and dispose of all trash in a trash room or a dumpster.
 - Set the heat between 70-72 degrees.
 - Turn off water.
 - Turn off lights and bathroom exhaust fans.
 - Close and lock all windows and doors.
 - Close blinds on ground floor rooms; leave blinds up on all other floors.
 - Report facilities concerns to FXIT (x53948).
 - [Complete the Express Checkout Form](#)
- Where can out of state/international students store their belongings?
 - Students are not permitted to leave personal items in their rooms after the halls close on November 25, 2020 at 8 p.m. Items that are found during inspection will be disposed of, and students will be assessed a disposal fee.
 - Students are encouraged to explore alternative temporary storage options in the area.
 - Students who are approved from transitional housing are welcome to store their items in their transitional assignment while they are on campus.
- Will there be carts?
 - Yes, a limited number of moving carts will be available at each community desk. We recommend students and their families bring hand carts or wagons to assist with their checkout.
- What happens with microfridges rented for the entire year over the break - are they stored on campus and can the students get the same rooms?
 - Microfridges should remain in the room and arrangements will be made to relocate them in the spring if necessary.
- Will students be tested before returning home?
 - There may be an opportunity to be tested prior to moving out. We will share details with residents soon.
- Extended Stay & Transitional Housing
 - How can we request to remain on campus beyond November 25, 2020?
 - Students who need on-campus housing should complete the Transitional Housing Application online between November 1, 2020 and November 13, 2020.
 - Who will be approved?

Students who are in good conduct standing and COVID-19 compliance and are In-season varsity athletes, international students, and/or those with exceptional

need will be considered for approval. Students must complete an application by November 13, 2020 for consideration.

- What is the cost?
 - Students will be financially responsible for the transitional period. Students will be billed \$250 a week for each week they are in housing. Weeks begin on Sunday and end on Saturday. There is no proration for a partial week stay. Students should notify Residential Life if they intend to check out or vacate before their indicated length of stay.
- Where will approved transitional students be housed?
 - If approved, transitional students will be required to relocate to Transitional Housing in the apartments between November 20-22, 2020.
- What are the expectations for students approved for Transitional Housing?
 - Please review the Transitional Housing Terms ([link](#)).
- Will the dining hall be open after November 25?
 - True Grits dining hall will not be open over the winter break.
- What happens with my meal plan?
 - Meal plans will end November 25, 2020.

Spring Housing FAQs

General

- What is the cost? As of this moment, we are charging the fall 2020 rate. Waiting on feedback from Admin/Finance about the issues on length of time.
- Length of the semester? (Start and end)
- Will there be a spring break?
- What factors are in play for determining whether or not there will be spring housing?
 - State of Maryland and USM guidance drives our decision making process. We anticipate the spring semester dates will follow the spring 2021 academic schedule found on the Registrar's website:
- What is the capacity for spring semester?
 - Capacity for spring semester will remain the same as fall. We anticipate a maximum capacity of 2000 residents, with 1 resident per bedroom and no more than 2 residents sharing a bathroom.
- General differences between fall and spring, if any?
 - At this time, no differences between fall and spring COVID-19 Emergency Health and Safety rules and policies, including guest-related rules.
- Will COVID restrictions relax if they relax in Maryland?
 - State-level restrictions are just one factor among many which inform the COVID-19 Emergency Health and Safety rules and policies. At this time, no differences between fall and spring COVID-19 Emergency Health and Safety rules and policies, including restrictions related to gatherings, social distancing and mask-wearing rules.
- Academic options?

- Who gets priority housing?
 - In the event that demand for housing is greater than capacity, we have identified factors that prioritize student academic success. Residential Life, in collaboration with Academic Affairs, has established new criteria for prioritizing on-campus housing offers for the fall semester:
 - 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.
 - Not all student housing needs are 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 priority in these decisions will be based on student need for safe and secure housing or for whom on-campus housing is necessary to fulfill their academic requirements.
- Is housing guaranteed?
 - Students who complete the Spring Interest Application are not guaranteed housing; however, those who complete the application by November 15, 2020 will be given priority consideration.

Assignments

- Do I need to reapply?
 - Yes, anyone interested in living on campus in the spring should complete the Spring Housing Application by November 15, 2020 for priority consideration, *this includes current fall residents*. The application will remain open through the new year.
- I lived on campus in the fall, can I keep my room and/or roommate?
 - We will do our best to honor original room and roommate placement. However, depending on demand and availability of space we may need to make some changes. If that is the case, we will refer to your application for preferences.
- Can I request to have a new or different roommate?
 - Students interested in requesting a new or different roommate will receive instructions about requesting a roommate with their Housing Offer Letter. Once students complete

the Spring License and deposit (if applicable), they will be able to request up to one (1) roommate, with whom they will share a bathroom.

- Can I apply for Walker Avenue Apartments?
 - Students interested in living at Walker Avenue Apartments in the spring should indicate interest on their spring housing application. If you meet the criteria and Walker Avenue Apartments has the ability to house you, you may be referred to their staff.
- When will we get our assignment information?
 - Students should anticipate receiving their spring room and roommate information on or before January 14, 2021.
- Will we be assigned or do we get to select?
 - Students will be assigned by the Residential Life staff. Our team will refer to fall assignments and application preferences when assigning for the spring semester.

Campus Services

- What will the food situation be like?
- Library?
- RAC?
- “I feel a little misled from the summer orientations where there were going to be outside activities. It appears there is little opportunities to socialize. Could you at least allow for intramural opportunities within one dorm? Open the library for studying or at least the study lounges in the halls. Or have the RA arrange for hall activities?”

Testing

- What are the spring testing guidelines?