

Housing Waiver Instruction for First Year Students (Freshman Waiver)

Freshman live-in rule

The state of Washington and Washington State University are committed to supporting its new students as they make the transition to college life. Therefore, all single undergraduate freshmen under 20 years of age are required to live in organized on-campus living groups for one academic year.

This policy is based on the belief that an on-campus living and learning environment offers the highest educational value to students. Further, there is a dedicated interest in the education, well-being, health, safety and convenience of all our students. National and local data show that students who live on campus earn a higher GPA their first year and are more engaged with campus life, which promotes retention.

Exemption to freshmen live-in rule

WSU considers four exemptions to the freshmen [live-in rule](#),

- The student has attended an institution of higher education as a regularly enrolled student for at least two regular semesters or three regular quarters, excluding summer sessions.
- The student is living with immediate family in a family situation (mother and/or father; legal guardian; aunt or uncle; or grandparents).
- The student has submitted the completed Verification of Disability/Chronic Health Condition from my licensed medical provider and my student personal statement that describes how living in recognized student housing would have detrimental effects on my physical health and/or emotional well-being.
- The student can demonstrate that living in recognized University housing would cause undue financial hardship.

The following instructions are to clearly outline what will be needed in order to process your waiver quickly:

Option 1: Previous post-high school higher education attendance. I have attended an institution of higher education as a regularly enrolled student for at least two regular semesters or three regular quarters, excluding summer sessions. Enrollment must have taken place after high school diploma was issued. **This option does not apply to students with Running Start credits.** Running Start students are considered freshman students with college credits.

Instructions: Include official or unofficial transcript showing post high school attendance.

Option 2: Living with family. I will be living with immediate family in a family situation. Spouse, mother and/or father, legal guardian, aunt and/or uncle, or grandparents ONLY qualify as "immediate family". Sisters, brothers and cousins do not qualify as "immediate" family. Immediate family must live within a 40 mile radius of WSU.

Instructions: Include documentation showing the name, address of relative, and relationship to the student. In addition, a copy of an electric bill or other utility bill showing the family members name and address is needed for verification. A letter from the immediate family member verifying you are living with them for the year is also required.

Option 3: Medical waiver. I have submitted the completed [Verification of Disability/Chronic Health Condition](#) from my licensed medical provider and my [student personal statement](#) that describes how my medical condition will be detrimental to my physical health and/or emotional well-being.

First consider accommodations: It is WSU's policy that all first-year students live in approved on-campus organized living groups. Therefore, Housing will *first* consider whether reasonable accommodations would allow the student to remain in the residence hall. Examples of reasonable accommodations: single rooms, single rooms with a private or semi-private bath, living in a designated quiet floor/residence hall, air conditioner, securing an emotional support animal, etc. Housing may refer students to the Access Center (509-335-3417; access.center@wsu.edu; www.accesscenter.wsu.edu) to discuss housing accommodation options.

Guidance for Verification of Disability/Chronic Health Condition form: The form must include/address:

- A description of the medical condition, psychological condition, or disability that makes living in the residence halls a hardship and how long the student has had this condition.
- A description of how the student's functioning is limited/symptoms caused by the medical condition or disability that are or will be exacerbated by living in the residence halls.

Guidance for Student Personal Statement: The student's personal statement must include:

- A description of the medical condition.
- A description of how the student's physical/emotional health will be impacted by living in the residence hall.

Option 4: Financial waiver. I can demonstrate that living in recognized student housing would cause undue financial hardship.

Instructions: Please submit a copy of your financial aid award information, budget sheet showing expenses related to living off campus and any additional information and documents that clarifies a change in financial circumstances. In order to help clarify your situation, a letter explaining your situation with supporting documents will assist the committee in making a decision and eliminate the need to ask for further supporting documents.