



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ROCHESTER

Office of Residential Life First and Second Year Live-On Requirement

UMR's Campus Residency Requirement

All first and second year students are required to live in UMR approved on-campus housing, unless a student meets an exemption criteria and receives approval from Residential Life.

Purpose

In alignment with UMR's grounding value of "evidence- based decision- making," research clearly shows students are more successful if they live on campus during their first and second years of college; they have higher grades, a stronger sense of belonging, and they are more likely to complete their college degree in four years or fewer.

Definitions

- First Year Student
 - A student enrolling for a full academic year at the University of Minnesota Rochester for the first time who has graduated from high school, but has not previously matriculated to another post-secondary educational institution.
- Second Year Student
 - A student returning to the University of Minnesota Rochester for their second full academic year regardless of total credits earned.

Additional Groups of Students

- Post Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO) Students
 - Students dual enrolled in both high school *and* UMR
 - PSEO students are not required to live on-campus while still enrolled in high school
 - Once a PSEO student becomes degree seeking, they are required to live on-campus for the following two years. If a student chooses to live on-campus during their PSEO year, that year will count towards their two year requirement.



- Transfer Students (BSHS, BSHP)
 - Students who have graduated from high school *and* have previously matriculated at another post-secondary education institution where they earned credits.
 - Transfer students who are within two years of their high school graduation must live in University approved on-campus housing.
- Early Assurance (EA) Respiratory Care Students
 - Recruited by UMR Admissions, these students begin in the UMR BSHS degree for their first two years, and then start the Bachelor of Science in Health Professions (BSHP) program after successfully fulfilling all BSHP prerequisites.
 - Early Assurance Respiratory Care students are required to live on campus if they are within two years of their high school graduation date.
- Rochester Located Nursing Students
 - Early Assurance (EA) Nursing Students
 - Recruited by UMR Admissions, these students begin in the UMR BSHS degree and then transfer to the Rochester-located University of Minnesota School of Nursing BSN program after successfully fulfilling prerequisites.
 - Early Assurance Nursing Students are required to live on campus for their first and second year.
 - Students who transfer into the Nursing program from UMR or another institution
 - These students are required to live on campus if they are within two years of their high school graduation date.

Residency Requirement Exemptions

Exemption Criterias

1. Commuter
 - a. A commuter exemption may be granted to students who are living at the permanent home of their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) who established legal guardianship prior to the student turning 18 years old.
 - b. Commute is defined as a reasonable distance (30 miles) from the UMR campus. Mileage is determined by Residential Life staff.
2. Health Condition
 - a. A health condition exemption may be granted to students with health concerns, other than common medical issues, that cannot be accommodated by Residential Life.
 - b. A health condition exemption may also be granted to students who



have a verifiable medical/psychological health condition that was nonexistent prior to the resident's move into University housing or was severely exacerbated after assuming occupancy.

3. Financial Hardship

- a. A financial hardship exemption may be granted to students who have verifiable extenuating financial circumstances in consultation with One Stop.
- b. It is recommended that students meet with UMR One Stop before submitting a financial hardship exemption request to ensure all financial aid options have been utilized.
- c. Financial hardship exemptions are not based upon the assertion that living off campus may be less expensive.
- d. Students must have a completed FAFSA.
- e. An exemption will be considered **ONLY**:
 - i. When the applicant has a significant verified need for financial assistance as indicated by UMR One Stop and that need is not fully funded by grants, scholarships, loans, or other available funding identifiable by the University; **AND**
 - ii. "Extenuating financial circumstances" are defined as situations over which the applicant has had no control (e.g. loss of parental support due to death, divorce, loss of employment, catastrophic health issues, bankruptcy, etc.) which create a financial hardship.

4. Married

5. Student with a Legal Dependent

6. Special Circumstance

Exemption Process

To request an exemption from the First and Second Year Live-On Requirement, students must submit an application for a Residency Requirement Exemption Request through [eRezLife](#) **prior to June 1** of their first and/or second academic year at UMR.

All exemption requests **must** include supportive documentation.

- Specific documentation needed for each type of exemption is included in the UMR Residency Requirement Exemption Form.
- Exemption requests will not be approved without proper documentation.

Residential Life will notify students whether their exemption request was approved or denied within two weeks of their submission.



Reminders

- Release from the residency requirement is not guaranteed.
- Exemptions are only granted on an academic year basis (no automatic renewal).
- Having already signed a lease with an off-campus landlord or purchasing a home will not be considered as a reason for exemption.
- Students should not make other commitments for housing until they receive a written response to their requests for exemption.
- All exemption decisions are made by Residential Life with consultation from the Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Success, Engagement, & Equity.

Failure to Comply

Students who are required to live on-campus but fail to submit a housing application will automatically be assigned to on-campus housing by Residential Life and will be charged the appropriate housing and dining charges.

Students who do not comply with the campus residency requirement may have their UMR records (including financial aid and academic records for registration and transfer) placed on hold or face other sanctions.

Students who are found to be living off-campus in violation of this policy will be assigned a space and charged for housing and a meal plan.

Questions?

Reach out to Residential Life at rhousing@r.umn.edu.

