



Freshman Residential Housing Policy

The University of Arkansas at Monticello is committed to providing students with a comprehensive educational experience. The University has determined that for most traditional college students, living on-campus, as compared to off-campus living, has numerous educational and social benefits. Numerous studies have indicated the following regarding students who live on-campus during their freshman year of college:

- They earn better grades and have higher GPA's than non-resident counterparts.
- They develop stronger ties to the college and have a greater feeling of community with their peers.
- They report having greater opportunities to interact with faculty and feel more connected to their educational experiences.
- They build more meaningful and lasting relationships with their peers.
- They are generally more satisfied with their college experiences than students who live off-campus.
- They tend to graduate at a higher rate and finish college sooner than non-resident counterparts.

In recognition of the value of the on-campus experience, effective the 2014 Fall Semester, the University of Arkansas at Monticello will require all first time full time students (enrolled in 12 hours or more) who are LESS than 21 years of age (as of the 1st day of class each academic term) to live on-campus for the academic year.

This requirement excludes summer sessions and is applicable until the completion of 24 credit hours or the receipt of an exemption from the Residence Life Department.

This policy is not applicable to students enrolled full time at the Colleges of Technology at Crossett and McGehee; however, students attending those campuses do qualify and are welcome to reside in University Housing.

Students who fail or refuse to comply with the Residency Requirement Program and/or who furnish false information to a University official or office in connection with a request for exemption will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for further action. Disciplinary action could include responsibility for all back charges for room and board incurred while living off-campus.

Exemption Request

Exemptions to this residency requirement must be made in writing (on an Exemption Request Form obtained from the Residence Life Department) and submitted by July 20th for a Fall

Semester release or November 15th for a Spring Semester release. Students admitted after the above dates, who seek exemption from the Freshman Residential Requirement, must submit the exemption petition as soon as possible after admission notification, but no later than the 1st day of classes each academic term.

Because of unforeseen changes in a student's circumstances due to illness or other personal reasons, some petitions are considered after the above dates. Unless it is clearly established that illness or personal reasons which were not known prior to the above dates have arisen to necessitate a student's living off-campus, students should not expect to be relieved of their housing requirement.

Exemption Criteria

- ❖ The following criteria will exempt a student **without** having to file an Exemption Request
 - *21+ years of age* on or before the first day of classes for that academic year. Any student who will attain the age of 21 prior to the first day of classes of the following spring semester may request terminating his/her academic year lease; however, the lease termination policy will still apply.
 - *Completion of 24 Credit Hours* by the first day of classes for that academic year. Any student under the age of 21 who will attain 24 credit hours or more prior to the first day of classes of the following spring semester may request terminating his/her academic year lease; however, the lease termination policy will still apply.

- ❖ The following criteria **WILL** exempt a student, but will **require** filing an Exemption Request with the appropriate documentation.
 - *Living with parents or legal guardians* at their primary residence and commuting to campus from within 60 miles of the Monticello Campus.
 - Documentation: A completed and notarized Parent/Guardian Residence Verification from the parent or guardian verifying that his/her son or daughter will be living at the primary residence.
 - *Married*
 - Documentation: A copy of marriage license.
 - *Active duty military experience* (at least one year)
 - Documentation: DD-214 discharge document
 - *Student is single parent* with primary responsibility for supporting and caring for the child(ren).
 - Documentation: A copy of the child's birth certificate and proof of means of support. Such proof may include a copy of your current tax return in which the child is claimed as a dependent or proof of government-sponsored benefits received for your child. Note: Two students may not claim primary responsibility for the same child at two different addresses.

- ❖ The following criteria **MAY** exempt a student and will **require** filing an Exemption Request. Such exemptions will be reviewed on a case by case basis.
 - *Extreme medical condition and/or disability* for which on-campus accommodations cannot be made.
 - Any student requesting this exemption should contact the Office of Special Student Services located in Harris Hall Room 120; phone 870 460-1026; TDD 870 460-1626; Fax 870 460-1926.
 - *Personal compelling circumstance.*
 - Documentation: A concise letter which fully describes the circumstance along with any supporting documentation.

An application for exemption from the on-campus housing requirement does not guarantee nor imply that an exemption will be granted. A student should assume that his/her request has not been granted until he/she receives written notification of approval and should not make other living arrangements or enter into a rental or lease agreement with a third party realtor or lessee until such notification. Having already signed a lease with an off-campus landlord will not be considered a valid reason for an exemption.

Appeal process

The Director of Housing will provide the initial review of the exemption request(s). Approved request(s) will be notified in writing via email to the student's official email address.

Any request needing additional review will be automatically referred to the Housing Appeal Review Committee. This Committee will review written requests for exemptions which are received by the applicable deadline. The Housing Review Committee may consult with other units of the University, including, but not limited to, the Student Health Center, Office of Special Student Services, the Dean of Students Office, and the Office of Financial Aid. The Committee will send a decision regarding the exemption request to the student's official UAM email address.

Should the request be denied, the student may submit a written appeal to the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs (VCSA).

- A. The written appeal must be submitted to the Residence Life Office no later than ten (10) working days after notice has been sent that a request for exemption has been denied. The appeal will be forwarded to the VCSA.
- B. The appeal must concisely state the reasons the denial should be reversed and should include any new evidence which the student contends supports the appeal.
- C. The VCSA will communicate its decision to the student's official email address.
- D. The decision of the VCSA will be final.