



GUIDE TO UNIVERSITY RESIDENCES

2023 • 2024



MAKE WAVES.



EDENS HALL

FROM THE DIRECTOR

The very first day of kindergarten or middle school or high school can be challenging. These “transitional periods” in our educational experience can fill us with apprehension. Will I meet friends? Can I find a place of belonging? All of us might wonder. However, when it comes to your college transition, let me assure you your consideration and selection of Western Washington University is DEFINITELY the right choice! The campus residential experience here is intentionally designed to provide a safe, affordable, and developmental nurturing environment that:

- Meets a diverse and rich array of people with different and unique perspectives
- Examines, explores and develops leadership skills that assists students marketability and competitiveness for the world beyond Western Washington University, and;
- Cultivates a physical environment that directly encourages and supports student academic success.

You and your family will discover nearly 800 full time and student staff in University Residences and Dining Services dedicated to supporting your interpersonal and academic success in our residence halls. Staff work closely with other campus partners to provide safe housing and nourishing dining experience to facilitate an environment promoting academic success and personal growth. Campus housing

provides a dynamic community with people from all around Washington state, and around the world. You will have the opportunity to enhance “out of classroom” learning, gain insight and broaden your perspectives as you interact with Individuals from different cultural backgrounds. Other extra-curricular opportunities are accessible as well, like campus jobs or serving on your residential programming board, both allow you to actively contribute to your community. Successful students consider all opportunities and take advantage of their resources. The opened doors and learning they produce will continue to enrich your life as you draw on these experiences for years to come.

Whether it’s going to kindergarten or beginning university, the initial step of any stage in education is exciting and full of opportunity. Remember to trust yourself, find your voice and take advantage of the abundant resources before you. Once you walk down the aisle to collect your well-earned degree upon graduation, you will look back in amazement at your personal growth.

Leonard Jones
Director, University Residences



WHY LIVE ON CAMPUS?

Uniquely designed to support your academic success and personal growth, living on campus at Western helps you immerse yourself in the college experience, try new things and become part of a community!

Safety & Convenience

Western maintains over a million square feet of housing and dining space on its 215-acre campus. Sixteen residence halls and one apartment complex are home to over 4,000 students. All of our living communities have Wi-Fi, laundry facilities, community kitchens and computer labs. Our buildings are fully supported by custodians, maintenance mechanics and live-in staff. Dining venues are open 12-14 hours a day, and offer food options for vegans, vegetarians and omnivores alike. Western's campus is only a 20-minute walk from end to end, so living on campus gives you easy access to your classes and professors, libraries, computer labs, the bookstore, the Viking Union, the Rec Center, student clubs, athletic events and performing arts.

Ways to Get Involved

In addition to Western's 200+ student clubs and organizations, your residential community is rich with opportunities to connect. Residents get involved each year by organizing programs and events focused on social connection, personal wellness, career preparedness, and community service:

- Halloween on the Ridge
- Bellingham Community Service Projects
- Diversity Poster Contest
- Western's Got Talent
- Piccadilly Dance
- End Fair

Leadership Opportunities

Student-run organizations help govern and support Western's residential communities by coordinating programs, activities and events that stimulate community, education, leadership and service. As an integral member of your residential community, you can take a leadership role through your hall council, the Residence Hall Association (RHA), and the National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH).

Academic Support

While faculty and staff work collaboratively to ensure all students receive the resources they need, students living on campus uniquely benefit from additional support systems within their residential communities. Each community is guided by a full-time professional resident director who advises hall council, provides crisis response support and coordinates programs and activities that facilitate academic objectives. Under the supervision of the resident director, each community is supported by several part-time paraprofessional student staff. Resident advisors are rigorously-trained, active members of the residential community who serve as leaders, role models and designated points of contact. Inclusion Assistant are responsible for engaging residents on topics of identity and inclusion through community discussion and programming. Resident directors, resident advisers and inclusion assistants provide academic resources for residents to facilitate student success.

University Residences Initiative for Student Engagement (URISE)

URISE provides students with opportunities to engage in the areas of inclusive community building, personal wellness, and career preparedness. Engagement happens through programs, events, leadership opportunities, interactions within the community, and intentional conversations with staff. As part of our URISE initiative, Resident Advisor and Apartment Advisor staff connect with residents quarterly to engage in one on one intentional conversations. Topics include the transition to college, getting involved in campus life, and goal setting to create one's own experience at Western.

Sustainable Living

Western strives to be a national leader in sustainability values, practices and education. Our residential experience includes opportunities to learn about social, economic and scientific sustainability:

- Swipe Out Hunger
- Residence Hall Re-use Program
- Hall Council programming and events
- Green cleaning practices in the halls



**“96% of students
feel safe living
on campus”**

– University Residences
2021-2022 Quality of
Life Survey Report

“The furniture is comfortable and there is always a place to study. The computer lab was a lifesaver”.



“All cleaning was done quickly and well - the employees in charge of cleaning are always kind”.

RATES & AMENITIES

In addition to individual and unique characteristics, each residence hall and community has standard furnishings and features. The most common living spaces on our campus are double rooms averaging 175 square feet.

Electronic Billing & Payments

Your tuition, fees, housing and meal plan charges are automatically billed to your Western Account before the start of each quarter. Your account balance is due on the first day of classes. Quarterly monies for students with financial aid or scholarships are applied to the student account at the start of the quarter for automatic payment of tuition, fees, housing and meal plan charges.

Housing Deposit

Following the confirmation of admission status housing applicants are prompted to pay a \$200 housing deposit. Once you pay your housing deposit you are confirmed in campus housing. Your deposit is fully refundable when you move out.

Find out more about the housing deposit and applicable fees: housing.wvu.edu/apply/financial-information

Housing & Dining Rates

Following May 2023 approval of rates by the Board of Trustees, official rates for 2023-2024 are available. In the meantime, refer to the current housing and meal plan rates on the website and account for a slight increase next year. The sample below is of the most common room size and meal plan cost using the three different tiers of room type.

Residence Halls Annual Cost for 2022-2023

Rates for the 2023-2024 year will be approved in May 2023.

| 125 Meal Plan | | | | |
|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| Room - Tier | Fall | Winter | Spring | Yearly |
| Double Value | \$5,224 | \$4,536 | \$3,987 | \$13,747 |
| Double Standard | \$5,408 | \$4,696 | \$4,128 | \$14,232 |
| Double Premium | \$5,740 | \$4,984 | \$4,380 | \$15,104 |

Birnam Wood (Non-Freshman Apartments) Annual Cost for 2022-2023 with no meal plan required: \$1,524 per quarter (double) and \$4,572 per year (double).

What's in Your Room

Regardless of room size (single, double, or triple), your room will come with:

- › Twin XL bed/mattress
- › Desk
- › Chair
- › Clothing storage
- › Wireless internet
- › Blinds or draperies
- › Vinyl flooring or carpet
- › Recycle bin
- › Compost bucket
- › Trash can

What's in Your Community

Every residential community is loaded with a full range of features including:

- › Area front desk
- › Laundry Facilities
- › Community kitchen or kitchenette
- › Study areas
- › Computer lab
- › TV lounge
- › Piano
- › Game room
- › Bike storage

For more information on buildings and communities housing.wvu.edu/get-started/explore-the-buildings

Transportation and Parking

Western recommends incoming first year students leave their vehicles at home. Located just minutes from great public transit, the heart of downtown and the arboretum, you will find cars aren't necessary in our bike-friendly community.

Students taking at least six credits per quarter pay an Alternative Transportation Fee. Since you will already be enrolled in at least eight credits while living on campus during the academic year, your student ID will feature as a bus pass for unlimited rides on the Whatcom Transit Authority (WTA) system.

*Your student ID also serves as a boarding pass to the Late Night Student Shuttle.

More information at www.wvu.edu/transportation

HOUSING OPTIONS

Western offers 16 unique residence halls in a variety of sizes, architectural styles and community types.

Residence Halls

Hall Style: Rooms typically share a central hallway and a community bathroom. Hall-style buildings have a traditional feel and make it easy to meet new people.

Suite Style: Two to five rooms are clustered around or linked to a shared bathroom. Suite-style buildings promote strong relationships between roommates and suitemates.

Single, Double & Triple Rooms

Double occupancy rooms are the campus standard, but some residence halls offer triples and a few singles. Less than five percent of room on campus are single rooms. The demand always exceeds the supply. Housing rates are based upon several things: a room's capacity along with amenity-based or value added, tier pricing. Example: a triple room in a corridor building will cost less than a double in a suite with a kitchen.

Substance-Free Areas

Substance-free areas are for students (regardless of age) who want a living environment that supports a substance-free lifestyle. Residents sign a contract agreeing to support and maintain a substance-free lifestyle. Several substance-free areas are available across campus.

Gender Neutral Housing

Gender Neutral Housing is for students wanting a room that is not based upon gender. This option is not programmatic; it is considered a room type choice, and is available in several areas across campus.

Disability Accommodation

University Residences works in partnership with the Disability Access Center. Students requesting accommodation must complete both a Housing application by the priority deadline and a Disability Access Center Need Assessment by June 15. For complete information, visit the Disability Accommodation page on our website.

Assistance Animals: Pets are not allowed in University Residences, however assistance animals, such as service dogs and emotional support animals, are permitted in compliance with the Fair Housing Act. Before bringing an assistance animal into a residential building, students must follow standard procedure for requesting reasonable accommodation.

Pride Housing Community

Pride Housing provides a home for students who are particularly seeking a LGBTQ+ affirming and gender inclusive living experience. Unlike Gender Neutral Housing, Pride Housing provides a programmatic element for a living-learning experience where students benefit from living among others through a shared experience.

Honors Program Community

University Residences and the Honors Program collaboratively offer a living-learning experience. Students benefit from living among a group that shares academic goals and interests and where residential programs and activities complement the classroom.

Black Affinity Community

Black Affinity Housing centers the identity of Black identified students by providing space for students to connect through a shared experience. All Western students residing in the program help foster a warm and vibrant community supporting inclusive community building, personal wellness, and career preparedness.

La Comunidad Community

La Comunidad is a new living option designed to center the Latine student experience on Western's campus. La Comunidad provides an opportunity to connect with others through a shared living experience. Community highlights include connections to faculty and staff, accessible peer to peer learning, academic support, cultural exploration, and intentional co-curricular opportunities. Residents of La Comunidad, representing all diverse identities, share a common interest in Latine culture, both past and present.

Viking Launch Community

Viking Launch is an early-start program offered to incoming freshmen and transfers for fall. Students enroll in short study courses, earning credit the week before the academic year.

Japanese Roommate Experience

Hall residents can experience Japanese culture by being roommates with a student attending Western through the Asia University America Program (AUAP), an English language and cultural orientation program for students enrolled at Asia University in Tokyo, Japan. The AUAP invites American roommates to get involved in its cultural programs and activities.



APPLY FOR HOUSING

New students who meet the housing deadlines are guaranteed housing their first academic year at Western, or remainder thereof if admitted mid-year.

STEP

1

Apply for housing at housing.wvu.edu.

Once the housing application opens, you can apply for housing even if you haven't confirmed your admission yet. Select your housing preferences, fill out a roommate profile and accept the Housing Agreement. After you submit your application you can track your status in **MyHousing** on your housing dashboard. Explore your roommate options. Late applications may be subject to temporary assignment or space availability.

PRIORITY APPLICATION PERIOD

Fall Quarter: February 1 - May 1
Winter Quarter: October 15 - November 15
Spring Quarter: January 15 - March 1

STEP

2

Check MyHousing for notice of deposit due.

After confirming admission, housing applicants will be prompted in **MyHousing** to pay the \$200 housing deposit. Do not pay your deposit until you receive notice of deposit due; early payments will be returned.

NOTIFICATION BEGINS

After confirming admission

STEP

3

Pay your deposit.

Once you've received the notice of deposit due via your student email, follow the payment instructions to make your deposit, and then follow your deposit status in **MyHousing**. Check several business days after submitting your payment to ensure it goes through. If you have not paid your deposit by the deadline, we will cancel your application or you may be subject to temporary assignment or space availability.

HOUSING DEPOSIT DEADLINE

Fall Quarter: June 15
Winter Quarter: December 15
Spring Quarter: March 15

STEP

4

Check MyHousing for your Room Selection time.

We will post your room selection time in your housing dashboard. After you pick a room, touch base with your roommates/suitemates to get acquainted and discuss what each of you plan to bring. Some later applicants may be assigned rather than selecting their own room, and may be placed in a temporary assignment.

ROOM SELECTION

Fall Quarter: July 1 – August 15

ROOMS ASSIGNED

Fall Quarter: August 16 – 31
Winter Quarter: Late December
Spring Quarter: Late March

ROOM SELECTION

While new students who meet the housing deadlines are guaranteed on-campus housing, your room choice is up to you during Room Selection.

Housing Priority Date

Your Housing Priority Date is the date you apply for admission to Western, not the date you apply for housing. Students who meet all housing deadlines and with earlier priority dates have a greater chance of finding a room in one of their housing preferences.

Housing Preferences

In your housing application, you will select three housing preferences. Your preferences are only used if you do not select a room. Most students will select their room during Room Selection.

When Rooms are Selected

FALL QUARTER

July 1 – August 15: Room Selection
(based on Housing Priority Date)

August 16 – 31: Assignments made for students who do not select a room

WINTER QUARTER

Rooms assigned in late December

SPRING QUARTER

Rooms assigned in late March

Track your status in MyHousing
housing.wvu.edu/myhousing



Roommate Options

The residential experience is designed to help you learn about yourself and how to live and work with others. These learning outcomes begin with your roommate experience – even if you knew your roommate before coming to Western. Some students are nervous about sharing a room, and others are eager to meet new people and get involved. Either way, your roommate experience will teach you something about yourself, and even more about others, relationships and community.

OPTION ONE: Search for a Compatible Roommate and Create a Group Using Our Roommate Tool

After you pay the housing desposit, you can search for potential roommates in **MyHousing**. This is a great option if you want a roommate with characteristics similar to your own, such as academic interests, religious beliefs, food allergies, etc.

OPTION TWO: Create a Roommate Group by Requesting Someone You Know Using Our Roommate Tool

After you pay the housing deposit, you can create a Roommate Group with someone you know. This is a great option if you want to live with someone you met before coming to Western.

OPTION THREE: Search for a Compatible Roommate During Room Selection

You can view roommate profiles of other students already in rooms during your Room Selection window. Select a room with someone who matches your profile. Once you select a room, you have contact information for new roommates and suitemates.

Things To Know:

- You must pay the Housing Deposit before June 15 to secure roommate choice.
- Room Selection priority given to residents who meet all housing deadlines and create roommate groups.

More information at
housing.wvu.edu/get-started/roommate-options

UNIVERSITY DINING

Dining at Western is a campus-wide experience supporting active healthy lifestyles, sustainability, social responsibility and community development. We understand the importance of a healthy diet, and we strive to meet the needs of students, faculty, staff and visitors through nutritious and satisfying fare.

Residential Dining Commons

Three dining commons serve 36 all-you-care-to-eat meals per week, including breakfast, lunch, light lunch, dinner and weekend brunch. On weekdays the commons are open 12 continuous weekday hours, giving you maximum flexibility within your busy schedule. Brunch is always served on the weekends, so you know you can sleep late without missing breakfast or lunch. Enjoy buffet-style dining with Wi-Fi, comfortable seating and lots of natural light.

Campus Cafés & Markets

Choose from a full range of retail dining locations to suit your taste, budget and schedule. You'll find a variety of wholesome, delicious fare made in-house, by local providers, or by familiar brands like Starbucks, Subway and Panda Express. We also offer vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free options. All cafés and markets accept Dining Dollars, Viking Dollars, cash and credit cards.

Residential Meal Plans

Meal plans are required for students living in residence halls. Each meal plan comes with a quarterly allowance of meals and Dining Dollars. Meals are available at any dining commons. Just a swipe of your student ID card deducts a meal from your dining balance, and unused meals expire at the end of the quarter. Dining Dollars may be spent in any of the campus cafés and markets, or used to buy additional meals in a dining commons. Dining Dollars carry over from one quarter to the next and expire on the last day of spring quarter. You can monitor your meal plan balance online or via the GET app.

Viking Dollars

Viking Dollars turn your student ID card into a prepaid debit account for swiping in the cafés, markets and dining commons. Purchases made with Viking Dollars are discounted 10 percent, and food is exempt from sales tax. Viking Dollars may be used with or without a meal plan. They may be purchased online via the GET app or in person at various locations.

Students with Food Allergies

Western is committed to providing you with the tools you need to maximize your college dining experience. Most students with moderate to severe allergies successfully navigate campus living by working with our registered dietitian, staying informed about food options available, and requesting alternatives when necessary.

Student Employment

University Dining Services employs more than 500 students in locations across campus. Positions include cashier, barista, dishwasher, custodian, food server, food production, cook and more. Job openings are non-work study and posted on the WWU Student Employment website at www.finaid.wwu.edu/studentjobs/.

Our Commitment to Sustainability

University Dining Services is committed to zero-waste initiatives in all its locations and supports the Real Food Challenge national campaign for healthy, fair, green food systems on college campuses. We source food from 43 regional partners and local farmers. Trayless dining and food composting help to significantly reduce the waste stream and our exclusive Blue Cleaning technology sanitizes surfaces with ionized water rather than harsh chemicals.



**UNLIMITED Meals per Quarter**

Designed for students who dine three or more times per day. *

125 Meals per Quarter

Designed for students who dine once or twice a day, seven days a week. *

100 Meals per Quarter

Designed for students who dine once or twice a day, five days a week. *

80 Meals per Quarter

Designed for students who dine once a day, seven days a week. *

BT 45 Meals per Quarter

Available to Buchanan Towers residents only. Designed for students with kitchenettes in their room. *

Optional Meal Plans

Designed for Birnam Wood, New York Apartments and off-campus boarders.

** includes Dining Dollars (see web for details).*

Steve Er
Executive Chef

Campus dietitian,
health and wellness,
dining menus, venues
and GET app visit

www.campusdish.com

COMPARE THE HALLS

NORTH CAMPUS



EDENS HALL

158 residents • 3 floors

Double & triple rooms
Suite-style bathrooms
Gender Neutral available
Elevator access throughout
Indoor bike storage
Priority given to Honors Students



EDENS NORTH*

117 residents • 4 floors

Single, double & triple rooms
Community bathrooms
Elevator access to most floors
Indoor bike storage
Priority given to Honors Students



HIGGINSON HALL*

222 residents • 5 floors

Double rooms
Suite-style bathrooms
Gender Neutral available
Elevator access to most floors
Covered bike storage



MATHES HALL

300 residents • 9 floors

Double rooms
Community bathrooms
Elevator access to most floors
Covered bike storage



NASH HALL*

340 residents • 7 floors

Single, double & triple rooms
Community bathrooms
Elevator access to most floors
Covered bike storage

SOUTH CAMPUS



BUCHANAN TOWERS

495 residents • 8 floors

Single, double & triple rooms
Suite-style bathrooms
Gender Neutral available
Kitchenette in every suite
Elevator access throughout
Indoor bike storage



BUCHANAN TOWERS EAST

98 residents • 5 floors

Single & double rooms
Suite-style bathrooms
Kitchenettes in every suite
Elevator access throughout
Indoor bike storage



FAIRHAVEN COMPLEX

650 residents • 4 floors

Single & double rooms
Suite-style bathrooms
Gender Neutral available
Some elevator access
Outdoor bike storage
Priority given to Viking
Launch students

*** Showroom available during following campus tours:**

- Fall Preview Days
- Discovery Days
- Admitted Student Days

For more information visit
admissions.wvu.edu/visit/campus-tours

RIDGEWAY



ALMA CLARK-GLASS*

410 residents • 7 floors

Single, double & triple rooms
Community, suite and in-room
bathrooms
Gender neutral available
Covered bike storage
Priority given to Black Affinity and
Pride students



GAMMA

226 residents • 4 floors

Double rooms
Suite-style bathrooms
Gender Neutral available
Indoor bike storage



ALPHA

110 residents • 3 floors

Single, double & triple rooms
Community bathrooms
Substance-free throughout
Covered bike storage



KAPPA

243 residents • 4 floors

Single, double & triple rooms
Community bathrooms
Outdoor bike storage
Priority given to Viking Launch
students



BETA*

207 residents • 4 floors

Double rooms
Suite-style bathrooms
Indoor bike storage



OMEGA

110 residents • 3 floors

Single, double & triple rooms
Community bathrooms
Outdoor bike storage



DELTA

115 residents • 4 floors

Single, double & triple rooms
Community bathrooms
Covered bike storage
Substance-free areas



SIGMA

110 residents • 5 floors

Single, double & triple rooms
Community bathrooms
Covered bike storage

Every residence hall is open to students of all ages and class standings. Double occupancy rooms are the campus standard, but some halls also offer triples and a few singles. Each community has a front desk, laundry facilities, community kitchens, study areas, computer lab, TV lounge, piano, game room, bike storage and limited permit parking.

For more information

housing.wvu.edu/get-started/explore-the-buildings



University Residences
516 High Street
Bellingham, WA 98225



**WELCOME TO
WESTERN!**