

# Residence Life and Dining

## Residence Life Requirements

Arizona Christian University has adopted this Residence Life Policy to advance the University’s educational mission to provide a Christian, liberal arts education within a living-learning context. In support of this educational approach, Arizona Christian University has established the following housing requirement, effective for the 2019-20 academic year:

- All full-time, unmarried undergraduate Campus students are required to live in campus residences and have a meal plan during the academic year.
- Students that desire to live on campus who are part-time, younger than 17 and older than 25, must petition to live on campus.

## Exemptions

This Housing requirement does not apply to undergraduate Campus students who are:

- 23 years of age or older by the first day of classes in August,
- Married and/or has legal custody of children residing with him/her;
- Enrolled part-time (11 or fewer credit hours), or
- Living with parents, legal guardians, grandparents, or siblings over the age of 25 within a reasonable proximity of the ACU campus address (1 West Firestorm Way, Glendale, AZ, 85306).
- Returning students who have been grandfathered under the Previous Policy (Before Fall 2019) and qualify for an exception under that policy.

## Grandfather Exception

Returning students who were enrolled at Arizona Christian University prior to the Fall 2019 semester are grandfathered under the Previous Policy (Before Fall 2019). Below is a chart that summarizes the Current Policy (Effective Fall 2019) and the Previous Policy (Before Fall 2019).

Current Policy (Effective Fall 2019)	Previous Policy (Before Fall 2019)
<p><u>Applicability:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● This policy applies to all <u>new</u> undergraduate Campus students who enroll at Arizona Christian University during the Fall 2019 semester and beyond.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Applicability:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● This policy applies only to undergraduate Campus students who enrolled at Arizona Christian University any time <u>before</u> the Fall 2019 semester.</li> </ul>
<p><u>Requirements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All full-time, unmarried undergraduate Campus students are required to live in campus residences and have a meal plan during the academic year.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Requirements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All full-time, unmarried students under the age of 21 are required to live on campus.</li> <li>● Students that desire to live on campus, who are part-time, younger</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students that desire to live on campus who are part-time, younger than 17 and older than 25, must petition to live on campus.</li> </ul>	<p>than 17 and older than 25, must petition to live on campus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A meal plan is required for all ACU students living on-campus.</li> </ul>
<p><u>Exceptions:</u> This Housing requirement does not apply to undergraduate Campus students who are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>23 years of age or older by the first day of classes in August,</li> <li>Married and/or has legal custody of children residing with him/her;</li> <li>Enrolled part-time (11 or fewer credit hours)</li> <li>Living with parents, legal guardians, grandparents, or siblings over the age of 25 within a reasonable proximity of the ACU campus address (1 West Firestorm Way, Glendale, AZ, 85306).</li> <li>Returning students who have been grandfathered under the Previous Policy (Before Fall 2019)</li> </ul>	<p><u>Exceptions:</u> Below are the only exceptions to the on-campus housing policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The student is 21 years of age or over by the first day of classes in August;</li> <li>The student is married and/or has children residing with him/her; OR</li> <li>The student lives with parents, legal guardians, grandparents, or siblings over the age of 25 while attending Arizona Christian University.</li> </ul>

### **Dining/Meal Plan Requirements**

A residential meal plan is required for all ACU students living on-campus and a commuter meal plan is required for all students approved to live off campus. Meal plans can be purchased online through the housing website.

For the most updated list of residential and commuter meal plans and prices, please consult the Tuition and Fee Schedule on the University's website.

### **Releases**

- Releases from the housing and/or meal plan policy are rare and granted only in special situations when the University is unable to make appropriate accommodations for students with serious health problems and/or disabilities.
- All petitions for release must be submitted to the Office of Residence Life, which may require additional supporting documentation for verification purposes.
- The University reserves the right to grant a release to this policy when determined necessary by University officials, including cases where housing space is unavailable.
- Releases from the housing and/or meal plan policy are limited only to the academic year for which it was granted. A release granted during one year in no way guarantees that a student will be granted that same release the following year.
- All students approved to live off campus will be required to have a commuter meal plan.

### **Common but Rarely Granted Reasons for Release**

- Already signed a lease. A signed off-campus lease does not release a student from the housing requirement. Students are advised not to sign leases until first receiving an approved release from the housing requirement from the Office of Residence Life.
- Allergies and/or asthma. Allergies or asthma rarely prevent students from living or thriving academically in on-campus housing. In severe cases, the University will provide reasonable accommodations to help alleviate symptoms related to allergies. Students who need an accommodation for allergies, asthma, or other health issue should contact Disability Resources for assistance.
- Bad experience with roommate or floor mates. The Office of Residence Life staff works to ensure that all students have a positive and rewarding housing experience. In situations where roommates are not compatible, the staff will encourage mediation or accommodate a room change.
- Finances. It is assumed that students who attend Arizona Christian University are able to pay for the cost of attendance, including the housing requirement. Students who experience a change in their financial situation should contact Financial Aid to explore options.
- Food/Dining. The University has partnered with Sodexo to provide campus-wide food service to its students. Sodexo can work with students to accommodate almost all food related allergies, special diets, or other dietary restrictions.
- Lack of Privacy. Sharing a living space is part of ACU's educational experience and students may experience less privacy on campus than in their home off-campus. In cases of severe disturbance of privacy, the Office of Residence Life will intervene and ensure the student privacy is secured via a room change or other appropriate action.

### **Petition Policy and Procedure**

Under unique circumstances, students required to live on campus under this policy may petition to be released from the requirement. Petitions are open during designated times throughout the academic year, in preparation for the upcoming semester. Once the Office of Residence Life has received a petition and additional required documentation (if necessary), they will submit the paperwork to the Director of Residence Life for review. The Director of Residence Life's decision is considered final.

Note: Providing false information (verbal or written) related to off-campus housing, including failure to contact the Residence Life Office prior to any change in off-campus housing classification, will subject the student to moving immediately into a residence hall, being financially responsible for room and meal plan payments for any period of enrollment, for which, or during which, false or no information was provided, and probable disciplinary action through the on-campus community policies.

### **Appeals Procedure for Denied Petitions**

Appeals of Office of Residence Life decisions may only be heard if one of the following grounds are met:

- **Procedural error:** The University did not follow its own published procedures.
- **New Information:** New information not considered during the petition process becomes available and could significantly alter the outcome, including evidence of bias.

Appeal requests must be submitted to the Director of Residence Life no more than five (5) business days after the initial decision is communicated. Written requests must include the following information. Requests failing to meet these instructions will not be considered:

- Name, address, telephone number, and University identification number of the appellant;
- The grounds for appeal and any supporting documentation;
- Signature of the appellant and date of submission

The Director of Residence Life will forward the appeal to a Housing Committee for review and decision. The Housing Committee will respond to the appeal within ten (10) business days of receipt. If criteria for an appeal are not met, the appeal will be denied and the original decision is final. Additional requests are not permitted. If criteria for an appeal are met, the Housing Committee will either uphold or reverse the original decision. The decision of the Housing Committee is final and no other appeals may be submitted.

### **Residence Life Policies**

This Student Handbook contains policies that pertain to all or most of the ACU community, including students that both live on and off-campus. For other detailed policies related to living on campus, please consult the Residence Life Handbook or contact [reslife@arizonachristian.edu](mailto:reslife@arizonachristian.edu).