



Division of
Student Affairs



Special Edition - September 2021

Residential Living - Policy 96 Update

Under [WCU Policy 96](#), all First-Year students are required to reside in on-campus housing for two academic years, and, given current considerations related to student academic success and wellbeing, the Department of Residential Living will require the current first-year class who entered in Summer/August 2021, to live in on-campus housing during their second academic year (AY 2022-23).

We bring this to your timely attention because this is a change in practice. In previous years the [Department of Residential Living](#) chose, as allowed per policy guidelines, that the second-year requirement would not be in effect for the following year for that particular first-year/transfer class due to positive student success metrics and limited housing availability.

The decision to enforce the second-year requirement for the current class was made with several pieces of information in mind, including a significant drop in the freshman retention rate and the impact this can have on a student's long-term academic success. Historically, WCU undergraduate students living in the residence halls perform better academically than their peers living off campus. We are confident that this decision will provide students the best opportunity to be personally and academically successful.

Residential Living is proud of the communities that we help facilitate throughout the residence halls. We trust that the residential experience, coupled with the overall convenience of living on-campus, our investment in your safety/security, the broad range of amenities we provide, and our programming aimed at your personal and academic growth and development, provide an ideal living-learning environment for your university experience.

The full text of the [policy](#) is available for your review. If you have questions or concerns regarding Policy 96, please contact the Department of Residential Living at housingquestions@email.wcu.edu or at 828-227-7303.

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines



October 1 - FAFSA opens for 2022-2023

October 9 - Homecoming

October 19-22 - Fall Break, no classes

Schedule of Campus Events

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