



HOUSING & FOOD SERVICES

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

Division of Student Life

Our Residential Community *supporting* a World Class Education

The on-campus residential communities offer our students opportunities to live and grow as collegiate scholars. We go beyond simply offering a place to live by providing students with a dynamic living-learning environment and direct access to campus services, as well as connections to academic programs to help ensure their success.

Collaboration.
It's the Washington Way.

Our Story – Our students say it best

Students report satisfaction with their fellow residents regarding respect for individual political views (95%), differing races/ethnicities (97%), differences of gender (98%), and differences of sexual orientation (95%). (Autumn Resident Survey, 2009)

"...living in close quarters with people of different backgrounds and interests...is an incredibly valuable experience. It builds character and life skills, and helps you discover the kind of person you want to be." Dylan Y., Junior

83% of residents say they are satisfied overall with living in the residence halls. (Autumn Resident Survey, 2009)

"To sum up my residence hall experience: it's rewarding, convenient, and provides a breadth of opportunities for me to engage in leadership in the residence halls and meet a diverse community of successful students who all have unique stories to share." Michael P., Junior

More than 70% of students participating in the conduct process report learning or understanding how their behavior impacted self and/or others in the community. (Conduct Process Survey, 2009–10)

"I have been challenged to learn how to live with others, and I know that I am a better roommate and person because of it." Beth G., Senior

82% of residents say that RAs promote an atmosphere that is conducive to academic success. (Autumn Resident Survey, 2009)

"I think the greatest part about the Residential Life programs is that the RAs are also students; they can attest to the struggles and hardships of tests, papers and projects." Paige H., Senior

Our Commitment

Access – Housing & Food Services (HFS) eases students' transition into collegiate life by providing them with housing that is affordable, convenient to campus classes and activities, and supportive of their needs. Collaborations with other campus groups provide residents with direct access to services and programs that enhance their personal and academic pursuits.

Engagement – Our vibrant residential communities support the development of the whole student, encouraging residents to participate as leaders, volunteers, employees and agents of change. Programming activities and partnerships with campus departments and organizations provide opportunities for students to engage in activities that inspire them to learn about themselves, the UW community and the world.

Diversity – The community experience in on-campus housing prepares students for their future participation in work, social, family, neighborhood and global groups. A critical component of our mission is to introduce to students diversity in its many forms—ethnic, cultural, religious, lifestyle, orientation, political and social—and to foster inclusive and respectful living environments.

Care – HFS is committed to supporting the emotional and physical well-being of our students. Trained staff members are available 24 hours a day to respond to residents' concerns and connect them to campus resources. Clear safety and security standards are articulated to students to help them ensure their safety and that of others. In addition, HFS cares for the campus community by providing healthy, varied meals while accommodating special dietary needs.

Student Learning – We provide our residents with the opportunities and resources they need to pursue their academic interests both inside the classroom and in their co-curricular activities. We have created academic linkages through our collaboration with other departments and as a result have established living-learning communities with the goal of making academic life a thriving part of the residential experience.

Quick Facts

At autumn quarter 2010 Opening, we housed 5,776 students in our residence halls and 63.9% of the confirmed freshman class.

For autumn 2010, we received 7,688 residence hall applications.

Residence hall occupancy for autumn quarter 2010 Opening was 114.8% of designed capacity.

Between 2006 and 2010, an average of 39.8% of our residence hall students returned to live in the residence halls.

We partner with colleges and other campus organizations such as the College of Engineering and Undergraduate Academic Affairs in our efforts to advance our residents' opportunities for learning and self-exploration.

We offer more than 2,000 Residential Life programs annually.

In 2009–10, more than 700 residents participated in *Count Me In*, making a pledge to promote a welcoming, inclusive and supportive community.

During spring quarter 2010, approximately 600 students participated in the HFS-sponsored *Tunnel of Oppression*, an interactive event that highlights contemporary issues of oppression.

We offer nine themed residential communities designed for students who would like to live with others who share similar interests—from the arts and Residential Freshman Interest Groups (FIGs) to business and engineering.

Residents have shared access to the world-class UW network via at least one high-speed Ethernet connection per room.

HFS has partnered with Students Expressing Environmental Dedication (SEED), a residence hall student group, to develop a nationally recognized sustainability program.

During the academic year we serve approximately 28,000 customers per day in our cafés, restaurants and express markets.

Challenges, Opportunities and Efficiencies

Challenges

Currently, demand for housing exceeds capacity, a primary driver for the development of new residential facilities. While these new facilities will provide more options for students, the costs associated with attending the University and living in residence will increase. As other Student Life departments see extensive budget cuts, the residential program—highly reliant on these other student support services—may be challenged to meet residents' varied needs, particularly for those students in crisis or in need of focused services such as disability resources, career advisement or mental health counseling.

Opportunities

Joining the residential community gives students the chance to live in an environment that promotes community, personal growth and respect. The residential environment also offers students the opportunity to experience firsthand how they can impact a community. This "living laboratory" completes the collegiate experience by supporting the development of well-rounded students. Students who engage in the University community are more likely to continue at the UW through graduation and remain connected to the institution as alumni.

HFS has implemented a long-term Housing Master Plan to develop new housing and renovate existing facilities. This strategic plan will result in the expansion of our living-learning communities, as well as greater opportunities for collaboration with campus partners, and will significantly enhance the residential experience for students.

Efficiencies

HFS staff members are continually looking for ways to provide more efficient and effective programs and services to our residents, the UW community and customers. The Department implemented a Quality Improvement initiative in 2001, which involves identifying key processes and collecting data to help inform decision making. The Housing Master Plan also provides a unique opportunity to make improvements to our residential communities. One example of efficiency efforts is HFS Dining Services' recent membership in a purchasing consortium, which has resulted in significant savings in food purchases: the estimated savings for six months is \$80,000.



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