

Residence Hall Guide 2009-2010

Research on the impact of residential programs

Research indicates residential living is a key component to students' social and academic integration, which facilitates retention and greater academic success (Pascarella & Terenzini, 1991; Tinto, 1992). Student involvement outside of the classroom has been linked to students' learning and development, as well as persistence and retention (Astin, 1977, 1999; Tinto, 1993). Astin (1999) found the student's residence to be "probably the most important and pervasive" environmental influence on the student's persistence in school. "...there is clear evidence that living on campus exerts a net positive impact on persistence and degree attainment" (Pascarella & Terenzini, 1991).

Tinto (1993) found that residence hall living contributes significantly by assisting in students' social integration into the institution. "Out-of-class experiences enhance interpersonal skills, such as the ability to communicate and cooperate, which are being demanded strongly by employers" (Kuh, 1995).

About our staff:

Director of Residence Life:

- Overall management of campus housing and judicial affairs
- Responsibilities include staff selection, training, supervision, judicial system training and advising, budget management, counseling, advising/referring students, and promoting activities/student involvement.

An Assistant Director of Residence Life and 3 Hall Directors – our professional staff who live on campus:

- Responsible for the building operations and staff they are assigned
- Hire, train, supervise, and evaluate the Resident Advisors
- Maintain safety and security including emergency response
- Coordinate educational and social programs
- Implement leadership development initiatives including advising hall and house councils, theme and learning communities
- Follow-up on judicial incidents
- Help students with issues, needs, concerns, resources and referrals.
- Manage the Hall/House budget(s)
- Follow up on facility/maintenance concerns
- Coordinate department processes such as housing sign-up, check-in/out, damage inspections & billing

35 Resident Advisors – undergraduate students trained and supervised by our professional staff:

- Plan, implement, attend programs; create bulletin boards; post signs
- Follow-up on roommate conflicts
- Attend hall/house council meetings and events; assist with leadership development and encouragement
- Conduct duty rounds in and around the building and confront incidents and policy violations
- Report facility/maintenance concerns
- Visit with students and parents; answer questions; provide resources
- Respond to fire alarms, emergencies, etc
- Conduct floor meetings and other meetings as requested; administer surveys

Assignment Letters and Roommates

- ✓ Initial room assignments are mailed out in mid-July for the fall semester.
- ✓ If you are without a roommate after the semester begins (one may be assigned before classes begin as additional students confirm their intent to attend Central), a roommate consolidation process will assist you in finding a living arrangement with another student who also does not have a roommate.
- ✓ Room changes may be requested/approved two weeks after classes begin.

Roommate Advice:

- Talk with your roommate over the summer about room furnishings and appliances to see who will be bringing what. If you have duplicate items, you may not have enough room and will end up taking things back home.
- Don't assume your roommate has the same values and needs as you.
- Discuss guest agreements, personal use of belongings, study time, privacy needs, taking phone messages, cleaning, etc.
- If you don't establish a few ground rules and expectations, people assume they can do things that may get you both very upset.

Prior to Moving to Campus:

To get conversation started, we recommend discussion minimally about the following items:

- Regarding room setup, what items do you think we'll need? Which are you willing to bring?
- If we have bunk beds, do you have a preference for the higher or lower bunk?
- How do you feel about sharing belongings?
- When do you plan to arrive?

Once You've Settled In:

With so many new opportunities to experience including a new roommate, the first few days on campus will be exciting, confusing, fun and sometimes daunting. In order to help you make the best of both your commonalities and differences with your roommate, we have designed a **Roommate Agreement** form to help you begin to establish positive interactions. Your resident advisor (RA) will be approaching you within the first week of the semester to set up a time for your Roommate Agreement discussion. The RAs have good insight and useful ideas for setting up an effective agreement.

Coordinating the transition with your roommate can make move-in day much less difficult. We strongly encourage you to have at least one conversation prior to arriving on campus to discuss the logistics of who is bringing what to the room, and to begin building a relationship with your roommate. While it is important to remember that roommates need not be best friends, it will always be an adjustment for all and the road to a strong relationship is often paved with a few bumps.

Cable and Internet:

Cable TV fees are included in the room costs and thus will only require television and a cable from the wall to your TV. Each room is equipped with two LAN internet ports. In addition, Central's campus is wireless.

Room Condition Inventory/Report

Upon moving into the room, each resident will complete, sign, and return to his/her Resident Advisor a room condition inventory/report within 24 hours. This room condition report will be an accurate and complete record of the contents and condition of the assigned room/suite/pod and will be the basis for damage charges if assessed. It is **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT** that students are **VERY DETAILED** on this report because any damages found upon check out that are not recorded will be assessed. Failure to complete the form(s) results in the resident's assumption of responsibility for any damage evident in the room, suite or pod.

Laundry Facilities

Laundry facilities are provided in each residential building, typically located on the ground floor in a designated area. Costs are \$.75 for washers and \$.75 for dryers.

Your Floor Community

At your floor community meetings, you will have the opportunity to discuss issues of concern, ideas for group activities, agreements for how you will live together and other matters that impact your floor community. For example, different people have varying interpretations of acceptable noise levels. Approaching the person to talk about the issue can often lead to a resolution. Resident Advisors are available to assist residents in learning and practicing effective communication and assertiveness skills.

About the Residence Halls

GAASS HALL – *Co-ed Residence Hall*

Gaass Hall houses both male and female students on separate floors. Gaass is a popular choice for returning students because of its central location on campus and larger rooms.

Room and Hall highlights:

- 156 students
- 1 bed/resident (mattress 36" X 80")
- 1 three-drawer chest with a 1-shelf bookcase/resident
- 1 desk/resident
- 1 desk chair/resident
- 1 main closet per room
- Average room dimensions: 14' x 14'
- Furniture is movable *and may be stacked and configured in 32 different arrangements to maximize living space.*
- Windows have slim shades
- Tile floors
- 2 common area bathrooms on each floor
- Central lobby area with lounge furniture, TV, ping-pong table
- Laundry located in basement of building
- 24-hour computer lab



GRAHAM HALL - *Women's Residence Hall*

This all-female facility is located near the pond, adjacent to Central Hall. Graham Hall underwent a major renovation in the summer of 1999. Some of the many improvements include individually climate-controlled rooms, loftable furniture, an elevator, a new ground level recreation room and a 24-hour computer lab. Through the renovation, Graham has retained the unique features of a 1920's style building with its wood doors and framing, high ceilings and large windows. Each corridor offers community bathrooms and a study room. A lounge on the first floor, featuring a grandfather clock and piano, offers students the opportunity for group gatherings. Graham is connected to the Graham Conference Center, which operates as a facility for campus events and activities such as dances and banquets.



Room and Hall highlights:

- 151 women
- 1 loftable bed/resident (mattress size 36" x 80")
- 1 desk/resident
- 1 desk chair/ resident
- Most rooms have 2 wardrobes/ closets
- 1 three-drawer chest /resident
- 1 bookshelf/resident
- Average dimensions: 12' x 17' (varies by room)
- Sinks with vanity in most rooms
- Windows have slim shades
- Tile floors
- Two common area bathrooms on each corridor
- Laundry room on ground floor
- 24-hour computer lab

HOFFMAN HALL - *Men's Residence Hall*

Hoffman Hall, an all-male facility located adjacent to Pietenpol (centrally located on campus), was renovated during the summer of 2000. Some of the improvements include: new carpet throughout the building (including student rooms), loftable furniture and individually climate controlled rooms. Second floor features all single rooms. Third and fourth floors have both double and single rooms. There is a balcony patio adjacent to each common lounge. First floor (west) houses the Health Center and first floor (east) houses Student Support Services. The lower level houses the Center for Academic Excellence.

Room and Hall highlights:

- 47 men
- 1 loftable bed/resident (mattress size 36" x 80")
- 1 three-drawer chest /resident
- 1 desk/resident
- 1 desk chair/resident
- 1 wardrobe/resident
- Average dimensions: Single rooms: 10' X 8'; Double rooms: 17' x 10'
- Windows have slim shades
- Carpeted floors
- Common lounge on each floor
- Two common area bathrooms on each floor
- Laundry located in the east side of the basement
- 24-hour computer lab



PIETENPOL HALL - *Men's Residence Hall*

Pietenpol has a large lounge on the ground floor, complete with a large-screen TV, recreational equipment, vending machines and a 24-hour computer lab.



Room and Hall highlights:

- 96 men
- 1 loftable bed/resident (mattress size 36" x 80")
- 1 desk/resident
- 1 desk chair/resident
- 2 wardrobes/closets
- 1 three-drawer chest /resident
- 1 bookshelf/resident
- Average dimensions - 12' x 15'
- Windows have slim shades
- Tile floors
- Common area bathrooms on each corridor
- Laundry facilities on second and third floors
- 24-hour computer lab

SCHOLTE HALL – *Co-ed Residence Hall*

Scholte Hall underwent a seven million dollar renovation the summer of 2008. Renovation highlights included temperature control in rooms with air conditioning, carpet in rooms, new furniture throughout the building, a work-out area, two 24-hour computer labs, a renovated kitchen, and large recreation areas with a pool table and flat-screen TVs. Scholte houses 320 students in traditional- and suite-style living arrangements. Laundry facilities are on the ground floor of each wing.

Scholte Hall Rooms:

- All rooms are carpeted
- 1 loftable bed/resident (mattress size 36" x 80")
- 1 desk/resident
- 1 desk chair/resident
- Windows have slim shades

Center floors: All floors (1st – 4th), room numbers ending in 21-37
(Example: room 121 = first floor center)

- Average dimensions: 11' X 12' 3"
- 1 three-drawer chest/resident
- 1 moveable wardrobe/resident
- 2 common area bathrooms per floor

North and South Wings: All floors (Ground – 3rd), room numbers ending in 0-20 and 40-60 (Example: room 118 = first floor north; 242 = second floor south)

- Average dimensions - 12' x 13' (built-in dresser drawers and large built-in closets are included in these dimensions)
- Triple rooms are approximately 19' x 13' and have all moveable furniture (including movable wardrobes)
- Single rooms are approximately 14' 6" X 8' and have a built-in wardrobe.
- Suite-style living, every 2 or 3 rooms share a common bathroom

