

2010-2011 Housing Outlook Letter to Students and Family Members

November 4, 2009

Dear Students and Family Members,

The residence hall experience is an important component of a North Carolina Central University education. Our housing philosophy is specifically tailored to help students transition to life on campus, progress toward independent living and contribute to the community.

During their first year on campus, the emphasis is placed on helping students learn about themselves and each other, campus resources and policies, and how to live together in a community. The sophomore year is a year of reflection. The focus is on accepting responsibility for their behavior, adjusting to changing friendships, and role modeling for new students. During junior and senior years, we expect students to engage themselves in more global communities, become self-governing, and give back to the residential community by serving as role models. All of these are stages in the preparation of students to live off campus upon graduation.

The growing interest in the residential and academic partnership offered on campus has laid bare the constraints under which we operate. Residential Life is committed to providing on-campus housing to the greatest number of students possible. High demand for on-campus housing necessitates giving all residents advance notice of policies and decisions that will directly impact their opportunity for housing in residence halls. Today, the vast majority of the residents in our halls are first-year and second-year students. Current freshmen (rising sophomores) who pay their \$150 non-refundable housing administrative fee by January 15, 2010, and complete the online application process are guaranteed housing for the 2010 – 2011 academic year. In addition, new incoming freshmen who submit their completed application and housing administrative fee by May 1, 2010, are guaranteed housing. This is a policy we expect to continue.

We will house the following students for the 2010 – 2011 academic year:

- Freshmen – students with 0 to 32 earned credit hours at the end of Spring 2010 or Summer II 2010
- Sophomores – students with 33 to 63 earned credit hours at the end of Spring 2010 or Summer II 2010
- Learning Communities such as Honors Program, Teaching Fellows, Chancellor Scholars, or ISSTEM
- Juniors and Seniors who are student-athletes
- Graduate and Law students – limited to 30 spaces

Why house freshmen and sophomores and not upperclassmen?

Living on campus for the first two years of their college career affords students the opportunity to build a solid foundation of academic success, community responsibility, and development of oral and written communication skills. Student Affairs and Academic Affairs use these two years to heighten student engagement and learning.

Why are certain groups of students given priority for on campus housing?

In order to attract and retain individuals into programs that advance the message of the institution and meet the needs of North Carolina, students who represent the University, because of time constraints and responsibilities are given priority for on campus housing. This limited number of upper-class students also serves as role models for the freshmen and sophomore residential students.

Residential Life will make every effort to assist students with acquiring on-campus housing or off-campus housing for the 2010-2011 academic year. To facilitate the transition to off campus living, Residential Life will:

- Provide educational information sessions
- Provide Off-Campus Housing Fair(s) in the Alfonso Elder Student Union
- Partner with Academic Affairs and Facilities Services to identify Commuter Lounge Spaces throughout campus
- Partner with the Student Government Association to identify and address commuter student needs

DATES TO REMEMBER

November 2	Monday	Fall 2010 \$150 Non-refundable housing administrative fee begins.
November 25-28	Wednesday-Saturday	Residence Halls remain open for the Thanksgiving Holiday observance.
December 12	Saturday	Residence halls close for all graduating students at 5 p.m.
December 15	Tuesday	Residence halls close for all non-graduating students at 10 a.m.
January 3	Sunday	Residence hall check-in is at 1 p.m. for all students.
January 15	Friday	This is the last day to pay Fall 2010 non-refundable housing administrative fee.
February 3	Wednesday	The Fall 2010 on-line housing process begins for those students who paid the housing administrative fee by January 15.
March 5	Friday	This is the last day for students who paid their housing administrative fee by January 15 to complete their on-line housing assignment.
March 6	Saturday	Residence halls, except Eagle Landing, Martha St. and Ruffin, close at 12 noon for Spring Break.
March 14	Sunday	Residence halls re-open at 12 noon.
March 17- 19	Wednesday - Friday	The Fall 2010 on-line housing process begins for those students who paid their housing administrative fee after January 15 or missed their processing day.
April 1	Thursday	This is the last day to cancel Fall 2010 housing without being charged 50 percent of the Agreement. The cancellation fee of \$100 will apply.
May 15	Saturday	Residence halls close for graduating and non-graduating students at 5 p.m.

Outlook for Next Fall

We are aware that current sophomores and juniors in residence halls (rising juniors and seniors for Fall 2010) are heavily affected by our 2010 – 2011 housing plan. Our housing allocation system is based on research and a strongly-held belief among student affairs professionals across the country that students who have an on-campus housing experience early in their college careers are more likely to have successful transitions to college life and academic success.

We regret that we cannot accommodate everyone, and look forward to the day that sufficient housing on and near our campus is available to meet the needs and interests of all North Carolina Central University students. If you have any immediate questions, please contact us at **919-530-6227**.

Thank you,

Jennifer A. Wilder, Ed.D.
Director