



Oregon State University
Cascades

First Year Experience Residency Requirement (OSU-Cascades)

2020-2021 Academic Year Policy Modification

Oregon State University - Cascades believes that the first-year live-on requirement is essential to supporting students' transition to the university and success in their academic progress. We recognize concerns have been expressed about college students living in residential communities due to the uncertainty created by COVID-19. In accordance with guidance from health authorities, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Oregon Health Authority, county health departments and other health agencies, significant planning has gone in to designing public health strategies to strive to prevent the potential spread of the virus throughout the university and within OSU residence halls.

Still, we recognize that there may be reasons why some students – or their families -- do not feel that living on campus is in their best health interests due to COVID-19. Because of the broad availability of coursework that can be accessed remotely and the unique circumstances of the global pandemic, the OSU-Cascades is broadening an available exception students may wish to claim to the First-Year Experience Residency Requirement for fall term of the academic year 2020-21. In contrast to the previously stated distance exception, students who are living with their immediate family at an address on record with OSU as the student's original address, regardless of the distance from campus of that address, will be approved for an exemption to the first-year live on requirement after completing an exemption request.

Students who have a medical condition that puts them at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 per guidance from the CDC also may request an exemption. These students should begin by working with the Disability Access Services Office (DAS) to identify what reasonable accommodations are needed. Once DAS makes a determination that an accommodation to be exempted from the first-year residence requirement is appropriate, the student would submit an exemption request noting their approved accommodation and the exemption will be approved.

Policy Statement

OSU-Cascades is committed to advancing the education, well-being, health, and safety of all our students, and one way we have chosen to do this is through fostering participation in an on-campus living and learning program. Irrespective of religion, ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, gender, ability, perspectives, or backgrounds, we believe our students benefit from interaction with other students, as well as the academic and social support services offered by residential education programs and staff.

Reason for Policy

In adhering to this policy, the university serves its commitment to help students become integrated into the OSU-Cascades community and with convenient access to resources, which supports the persistence, degree completion, and advancement of each student. Based on these principles and substantiated by research, we believe integrated living and learning environments provide the highest educational value to students. As part of the larger First Year Experience (FYE) program, this policy requires that first-year students who enroll at OSU-Cascades within one year of high school graduation must live in a University-owned and operated residence for their first academic year after high school graduation.

Scope & Audience

This policy applies to all OSU-Cascades students who have been admitted to the university within one year of high school graduation.

Definitions

- First-year student – An individual enrolled in, or seeking to enroll in, classes at OSU-Cascades for the first time within one calendar year of their high school graduation.
- Immediate family – Individuals who have long-lasting relationships, defined by legal or genetic bonds.
- 45-mile driving radius – The driving distance, as calculated via online mapping software, from “Oregon State University-Cascades” to the location in question. Multiple routes will be checked and the shortest distance considered accurate.
- Origin address of record – The address a student lists on their application for admission to Oregon State University-Cascades.
- Legal dependent – A person who is unable to care for or support themselves and that you support as obligated by law.
- Domestic partnership – See Office of Equal Opportunity and Access policy on domestic partnership for guidelines and documentation that may be requested as proof of partnership. <https://eoa.oregonstate.edu/domestic-partnership-policy>
- Degree Partnership Program (DPP) – A program that allows you to be jointly admitted and enrolled at Oregon State University-Cascades and any partner community college.

Responsibilities and Procedures

Students who meet the requirement for the live-on policy must comply with this process at any time during the academic year they begin their studies at OSU-Cascades. Students beginning their studies in the fall term are obligated for Fall, Winter, and

Spring terms. In contrast, students beginning their studies in the spring term are obligated to this policy only for the Spring term. While participation in the FYE, including the residency component, is an integral part of each first-year students' education, OSU-Cascades recognizes that exceptions to the residency requirement may be appropriate in certain circumstances.

Process for students who are requesting an exemption

- Exemptions to the FYE residency requirement may be requested by petition, as a part of the housing application.
- Petitions will be reviewed by the Office of Student Success staff and any additional OSU-Cascades offices that they request assist in the review. These offices could include, but are not limited to:
 - Disability Access Services
 - International Student Services
 - Office of Equal Opportunity and Access
 - University Exploratory Studies
 - Residential Education and Housing
- OSU-Cascades will make decisions by reviewing materials submitted by the student, student's official high school graduation date, admission status to OSU-Cascades, as well as any precedent in the application of the policy.
- Student who have petitioned for exemption will receive communication via their OSU official email regarding approval, request for further documentation, or denial.

Exemptions that may be requested

- Exemptions that require a petition only, are generally approved, and frequently do not require additional documentation are:
 - The student is living with immediate family at the origin address on record with OSU as students' original address, which is within a 45-mile driving radius of the Cascades campus. *See FAQs for zip codes that fall in this radius.
 - Student is enrolled at OSU and taking 51% or more credits with OSU e-campus. Students must maintain this level of attendance for the entirety of their required live-on timeline.
- Exemptions that require a petition, as well as additional documentation, are:
 - The student is living with immediate family within a 45-mile driving radius of the Cascades campus but at an address that is not the student's origin address of record with the University. In this situation, all individuals who live in the proposed dwelling need to be identified as part of the first-year student's family, as defined above.
 - The student has a legal dependent who is living with the student.
 - The student is married or has a domestic partner, with whom they live.
 - The student is enrolled with the Degree Partnership Program and taking 51% or more credits at a partner institution.
 - The student requests an exemption on the basis of disability. The student must first work with Disability Access Services to identify what accommodations are needed. The university will only approve a student's

- request to live off campus as an accommodation if it is determined that the student's needs cannot be reasonably accommodated on campus.
- The student requests an exemption on the basis of religion. The student must first work with the university to identify what accommodations are needed. The university will only approve a student's request to live off campus as an accommodation when it is determined that the student's sincerely held religious belief or practice requires something that cannot be reasonably accommodated by the University.
 - The student's information that the university has on file is incorrect and the correct information would meet one of the standard exceptions listed above. A copy of an official transcript or other official document is required for this exemption request.

Petitions will not be granted on the basis of:

- Student is bound to a lease for an apartment or house off campus
- Student expresses a desire to live with (or avoid living with) certain types of people
- Student did not know that there was a live-on requirement policy.
- Student expresses a desire to save money by living off campus or does not have enough money/financial aid
- Student expresses a desire for more privacy, space, or choice than is perceived to exist by living on campus

Resolution of Discrepancies by OSU

Students who are bound to this policy and found not to be in compliance will be referred to the Office of Student Success for resolution. If the student is found to be responsible for violating this policy, the student may be subject to sanctions through the student conduct process.

Frequently Asked Questions

<https://osucascades.edu/first-year-experience/first-year-live-policy/faq>

Related Information

- First Year Experience Information: <https://osucascades.edu/first-year-experience/campus-living/first-year-experience-live-policy>
- Housing and Dining: <https://osucascades.edu/uhrs>

History

Last Review Date: January 2020

Next Scheduled Review Date: December 2020

Contacts

For questions regarding the policy or exemption status, please email the FYE Exemptions Committee at fye.exemptions@osucascades.edu.