

Office of Residential Education and Living

Specialty Housing

Specialty Housing at Connecticut College is intended to create strong links between students living on campus and their learning experience. Specialty Housing is designed to provide direct environmental support to student's academic, social, and/or extracurricular endeavors at Connecticut College.

Thematic Housing is a form of Specialty Housing with an emphasis on service to the larger community. Students who participate in Thematic Housing will provide educational programs to the Connecticut College community, enriching the opportunities available to students, faculty and staff.

In order to support the endeavors of students living in Thematic Housing, each space responsible for programming, in addition to River Ridge, has an appointed Group Leader that attends all House Council meetings in order to further enhance their experience. This representative is responsible for organizing, coordinating and communicating the intentions of their space with the larger community as well as serving as the liaison to the Office of Residential Education and Living.

Students applying to live in Thematic Housing take on the extra responsibility of programming for the larger community a minimum of twice per semester. The representative of that space is also responsible for reporting programming occurring in their space and providing the Office of Residential Education and Living evaluations of their programs.

What are the goals of theme housing?

- To enhance the potential for community building among the resident population
- To provide the means for resident students to exercise greater degrees of control and responsibility in the creation of their own unique living experiences
- To increase the number/amount of activities on campus, created by students and for their benefit
- To enrich the learning environment for all members of the campus community
- To provide opportunity for students to develop leadership, programming and organizational skills
- To establish a more direct link between educational/academic pursuits and the residential experience

Housing Group Leader:

Each Thematic Housing Group, as well as each River Ridge Apartment, shall have a Group Leader. The Group Leader is selected by the Group members to serve as a liaison among the Group, Housefellow, Floor Governor and the Office of Residential Education and Living. Other responsibilities of the Group Leader may include:

- Attending House Council Meetings weekly
- Scheduling group meetings with roommates and the above mentioned constituents as necessary
- Overseeing program planning and ensure the distribution of information to the residents of the house
- Attending Group Leader meetings with the Residential Education and Living staff twice per semester to keep the lines of communication open and share ideas.

Members:

Students involved in Specialty Housing agree to actively participate in the Specialty Housing Program. Members attend all mandatory house meetings, support the Specialty Housing programs for their respective house and in Thematic Housing members must assist the Group Leader with programming responsibilities. Failure to participate according to the terms of their Specialty Housing assignment may result in the member's loss of privilege to live in that Specialty Housing. Relocation of group members and/or consolidation is the prerogative of the Office of Residential Education and Living.

Programming:

Students in Thematic Housing are intended to contribute to the broader educational, social, and community service-based growth of the Connecticut College community, and are required to organize and facilitate programming relevant to the focus of their Thematic Housing Group to this end. Each Thematic Housing Group is required to facilitate a minimum of two programs each semester. Thematic Housing Group members are responsible for proposing, planning, facilitating, and evaluating their programming.

Types of Specialty Housing

For more information, please go online at <http://www.conncoll.edu/campuslife/945.htm>

Gendered Housing: This housing option is made available for students who wish or require living in a single sex environment. Gendered housing spaces also have single-sex bathrooms unlike the rest of campus.

Academic Year Round Housing: This housing is available for students who wish or require living on campus during the winter and spring breaks. No additional cost is required. It is important to note that the campus is substance free at all times when the college is not open. In Lazrus, a kitchen and living room are available to students. In River Ridge, it is also important to note that living in a close proximity to faculty and staff requires a quiet lifestyle, therefore parties are not allowed. River Ridge also provides a full kitchen, bath and laundry facilities in the apartment. There are eleven 5-person apartments and one 2-person apartment. River Ridge apartments are co-ed – two doubles and one single per suite, with the exception of the 2-person apartment.

Alternative Housing:

Quiet Housing: Students who live here recognize the shared responsibility on the part of all residents to consistently give priority to quiet academic pursuits. Students must maintain quiet living environment 24 hours per day Sunday through Thursday. Non-quiet hours are established during the weekend.

Substance Free Living: Students wishing to live in a substance free environment agree not to smoke, consume alcohol or use illicit drugs, nor bring any of these substances onto the Substance Free Area. They may choose to engage in limited alcohol consumption outside of the floor, but must act responsibly and not return to the house intoxicated.

Substance Free Lifestyle: This housing provides a substance free environment for all students. Students choosing a substance free lifestyle agree not to smoke, consume alcohol, or use illicit drugs in any aspect of their life while living in Substance Free Housing. Many students electing this type of housing practice a substance free lifestyle and thus are given priority for this type of housing. Under no circumstances are alcohol or illegal substances allowed inside the house.

Cooperative Living: All members living in a cooperative house are responsible for the cooking of meals and the cleaning of the kitchen area on a rotating schedule. Although all food is provided by Dining Services students are required to complete their tasks in a timely manner.

Thematic Housing:

Language House: Living learning communities designed around the language interests of the students living in those spaces. Participants living in Knowlton House are expected to facilitate one program per semester. Some CC language coursework is required; preference may be given to those enrolled in CC language courses for the given academic year, please see the Housing Lottery booklet online for more information.

Earth-Friendly Living: Students must abide by an Earth friendly lifestyle and commit actively to a campus outreach program. Students must be willing to uphold and abide by the Earth House Mission Statement, which includes teaching, conservation, recreation and public education.

360, Park Apartment and Freeman Apartment Housing: These spaces have differing themes every year depending on the interests of the students applying to live here. Involves residents providing thematic programming to campus twice per semester (programs due before: 1st – 10/15; 2nd – 12/1; 3rd – 3/15; 4th – 5/1). What will your theme be this year?

- **360 Mohegan** offers apartments with a full kitchen and bath facilities in the house with three 3-person apartments and 2-person apartment all co-ed.
- **Park Apartment** is a 5-person co-ed apartment (one triple and one double) with a full kitchen and bath.
- **Freeman Apartment** is a co-ed 4-person apartment with two double bedrooms and a bathroom and furnishings in the apartment.

Specialty Housing Application Information

Connecticut College - Office of Residential Education and Living

Selection Process

The Specialty Housing Selection Committee will be composed of professional and paraprofessional Residential Education and Living staff members as well as students from the Connecticut College community. When making acceptance or non-acceptance decisions, the Specialty Housing Selection Committee will consider the written application as well as programming proposals, essays and interviews if they were required. Specific criteria will include:

- Educational/social value of the theme to house members
- Educational/social benefit/impact of the theme to the campus community
- Evidence that the housing requested will support the success of the theme
- Students' ability to identify resources and contacts that will make the theme successful
- Completeness and timeliness of the Theme House application

2009 Application and Selection Process Time Line:

- 1/28 – Specialty Housing Information Session
- 2/17 – Specialty Housing Application Due
- 2/20-21 – Specialty Housing Interview Days
- 2/23 – Specialty Housing Decisions Made
- 2/25 – Specialty Housing Letters Mailed
- 2/27 – Specialty Housing Contracts Must be Returned

Specialty Housing Requirements Chart

<u>Type of Housing</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>First Year?</u>	<u>Application</u>	<u>Contract</u>	<u>Group Leader</u>	<u>Essay</u>	<u>Interview</u>	<u>Programming</u>
Gendered	Male - Addams basement, Branford 1 st floor, Freeman 1 st floor	Y	Y					
	Female - Addams 4 th floor, Blunt 4 th floor, Freeman 4 th floor, Harkness 4 th floor, Larrabee 4 th floor, Windham 4 th floor, Lambdin 4 th floor	Y	Y					
Academic Year-Round	Lazrus		Y	Y				
	River Ridge – Quiet		Y	Y	Y		Y	
Alternative	Burdick – Quiet	Y	Y	Y		Y		
	Substance Free Lifestyle– Blackstone	Y	Y	Y		Y		
	Substance Free Living – Smith 4 th Floor, Wright 3 rd Floor	Y	Y	Y		Y		
	Cooperative – Abbey		Y	Y		Y	Y	
Thematic	Language – Knowlton – Living/Learning	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y
	North Cottage - Earth House – Living/Learning		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	360 Mohegan – Service		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Park Apartment – Service		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Freeman Apartment – Service		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Specialty Housing Application

Connecticut College - Office of Residential Education and Living

Instructions: Please reference the Specialty Housing packet when completing this application. Please submit only completed applications, and only one application per space. This means that a group of 5 people applying for the Park Apartment will submit one application, one set of essays and one programming proposal form.

Part I: Contact Information

Name: _____ Year: _____ Participated Before: _____ If So Where? _____
 E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Requested Roommate(s), Class Year and Specialty Housing History:

Name: _____ Year: _____ Participated Before: _____ If So Where? _____
 Name: _____ Year: _____ Participated Before: _____ If So Where? _____
 Name: _____ Year: _____ Participated Before: _____ If So Where? _____
 Name: _____ Year: _____ Participated Before: _____ If So Where? _____

Part II: Specialty Housing Preference

Please select below the type(s) of specialty housing that you are interested in applying for and fill out that section entirely. If you are interested in more than one type of specialty housing (for example, quiet and substance free) rank your choices throughout the form with 1 representing your highest preference. If you are only interested in one of the given locations, please only mark that house. Please look at the Specialty Housing Requirements Chart for the application requirements of each type of housing.

Gendered Housing: _____ Single OR _____ Double OR _____ Does not matter
Female: _____ Addams 4th _____ Blunt 4th _____ Freeman 4th _____ Harkness 4th
 _____ Larrabee 4th _____ Lambdin 4th _____ Windham 4th (double rooms only)

Male: _____ Branford 1st _____ Freeman 1st _____ Addams Basement

Academic Year-Round Housing:
 _____ Lazrus _____ River Ridge 2 Person Apartment _____ River Ridge 5 Person Apartment

Alternative Housing:
Quiet Housing: Burdick House _____ Single OR _____ Double OR _____ Does not matter

Substance Free: _____ Single OR _____ Double OR _____ Does not matter
 • *Substance Free Lifestyle:* _____ Blackstone House
 • *Substance Free Environment:* _____ Smith 4th floor _____ Wright 3rd floor

Cooperative: _____ Abbey House _____ Single OR _____ Double OR _____ Does not matter

Thematic Housing:
Language: _____ Knowlton _____ Single OR _____ Double OR _____ Does not matter
 Which section(s) are you applying for? _____, _____

Earth-Friendly Living: _____ Earth House

Service Living: _____ 360 Mohegan 3 Person Apartment _____ 360 Mohegan 2 Person Apartment
 _____ Park 5 Person Apartment _____ Freeman 4 Person Apartment

Part III: Program Proposal

For those applying for Thematic Housing, with the exception of those applying to Knowlton House, please attach and submit the Programming Proposal form. It may be helpful to you, to complete the program proposal prior to completing the essays.

PART IV: Essays

Essays are required all of groups applying for Alternative and Thematic Housing as outlined in the Specialty Housing Requirements Chart. On a separate piece of paper please type your answers to the following questions as they pertain to the specific type of housing you are applying for. If you are applying as a group, please submit only one set of essay responses with your application. Please limit your responses to one page or less per question. *Important: If you are applying for more than one type of thematic or lifestyle housing, you must submit a separate set of responses for each type of housing.*

All:

1. Please describe, specifically, why you are applying to live in this type of housing.

Alternative Housing: (*Burdick, Abbey, Blackstone, Smith 4th floor, and Wright 3rd floor*)

1. What do you perceive as the advantages and disadvantages of living in this type of housing? How might you deal with the disadvantages?
2. What would you contribute to the residential community?
3. What do you hope to gain from this type of community?

Thematic Housing: (*Earth, 360, Park and Freeman*)

1. Please discuss the responsibilities associated with apartment-style living on our campus. How is your group prepared to ensure that the use of the space respects your neighbors? Discuss your understanding that parties may not be hosted in these spaces and how you plan to uphold this policy.
2. With the challenges of a more independent living environment, how does your group view the different roles of student leadership positions in the area for which you are applying? How do you plan to actively support the community and leadership in this area if placed there?

Knowlton House:

1. What section are you applying for and specifically what is your past experience with that language? (Please include all past, current or future course titles and numbers.)

PART IV: Application and Contract

I understand that by signing, I am accepting placement in any location that I have checked off above. Further, I understand that Specialty Housing has been designated as such to support those students who have indicated that they prefer this particular type of living environment. For this reason, I understand that any resident involved in behaviors disruptive to the specialty housing community may be re-assigned to a space that is non-designated. This decision will be made at the discretion of the Office of Residential Education and Living.

Students wishing to live in an apartment setting understand the additional responsibility required. They agree not to host private parties and to maintain a quiet atmosphere in and around their apartment or house and adhere to community agreements made with house leadership. This includes but is not limited to allowing no more than 15 guests in the apartment at any time. All members understand that they are bound to this agreement immediately after being selected for one of these spaces and re-evaluation of all applicants will be conducted prior to the spring semester. Failure to adhere to this agreement or related college policies may result in re-assignment of housing by the Office of Residential Education and Living.

All students living in a multiple person space, be it a double, triple, quad or apartment, **MUST** keep their space full at all times. I understand that if there is an empty bed in my space, it will be filled upon the college's need.

I have read and agree to abide by the terms, conditions and regulations of the Connecticut College Office of Residential Education and Living Specialty Housing Information Packet and Contract.

Print: _____ Sign: _____ Date: _____
Print: _____ Sign: _____ Date: _____
Print: _____ Sign: _____ Date: _____
Print: _____ Sign: _____ Date: _____
Print: _____ Sign: _____ Date: _____

Program 2: to be completed before 12/01

Title of Program: _____ Tentative Date: _____
Lead Person(s): _____, _____, _____
Guest Speakers/Resources: _____

Location: _____

Advertising Ideas: _____

Description of Program: _____

Program 3: to be completed before 3/15

Title of Program: _____ Tentative Date: _____
Lead Person(s): _____, _____, _____
Guest Speakers/Resources: _____

Location: _____

Advertising Ideas: _____

Description of Program: _____

Program 4: to be completed before 5/01

Title of Program: _____ Tentative Date: _____
Lead Person(s): _____, _____, _____
Guest Speakers/Resources: _____

Location: _____

Advertising Ideas: _____

Description of Program: _____