



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

Office of Residential Education and Living Specialty Housing

Specialty Housing at Connecticut College is intended to create strong connections 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.

Alternative Housing is a form of Specialty Housing that encompasses different types of living within traditional residence halls. Students applying for these spaces agree to meet the expectations of these spaces while contributing to the overall community of the house.

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.

Independent Living Housing is a form of Specialty Housing providing independent spaces. These apartments and small houses are located in close proximity to faculty and staff housing and require a quiet environment. Students living in this environment participate in the community known as "The Village" which currently includes Abbey, Winchester houses and River Ridge apartments.

In order to support the endeavors of students living in Thematic and Independent Living Housing, each space requires an appointed Group Leader who acts as a liaison between the Residential Education and Living staff and their living space. 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 specialty housing?

- To enhance the potential for community building among the residential 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 for the benefit of students
- 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 and Independent Living House Group is required to have a Group Leader. The Group Leader is selected by the Group members to serve as a liaison among the Group, Housefellow, Floor Governor or Independent Living Coordinator and the Office of Residential Education and Living. This person should be listed first on the application. Other responsibilities of the Group Leader may include:

- Attending House Council Meetings weekly (Thematic Apartments Only)
- 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 (Thematic Apartments Only)

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:

Specialty Housing is intended to contribute to the broader educational, social, and community service-based growth of the Connecticut College community, and its members are expected to organize and facilitate programming relevant to the focus of their Thematic Housing Group to this end. Each person/group is required to facilitate a minimum of two programs each semester which includes proposing, planning, facilitating, and evaluating their programming.

Types of Specialty Housing

Single Sex 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 classes are not in session. In Abbey and Lazarus, a kitchen and living room are available to students. River Ridge residents have access to a kitchen in their 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 by each year's residents.

Wellness 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 into the Substance Free Area. Of-age students may choose to engage in limited alcohol consumption outside of the floor, but must act responsibly and not return to the house/floor intoxicated. Students expressing an interest in a particular wellness area will be grouped together by wing/floor when possible.

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 designated space.

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.

Sustainable 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. Participants living in Earth House are expected to facilitate one program per semester.

Thematic Housing:

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).

- **360 Mohegan** offers apartments with a full kitchen and bath facilities in the house with three 3-person apartments and one 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.

Independent Living Housing:

It is important to note that living in a close proximity to faculty and staff requires a quiet lifestyle, therefore parties are not allowed.

River Ridge Apartments are eleven 5-person apartments and two 2-person apartments. River Ridge also provides a full kitchen, bath and laundry facilities in the apartment. River Ridge apartments are co-ed – two doubles and one single per suite, with the exception of the 2-person apartments, which have one double. *River Ridge is the only independent living considered Academic Year Round Housing.*

Winchester Houses are co-ed 6 and 4 person houses. The 6-person house has 2 doubles and 2 singles and the 4-person house has 1 double and 2 singles. The houses include bedroom furniture in addition to some living room and dining room furniture.

191 Mohegan Ave are four 2-person apartments. These apartments are provided with a kitchen, bathroom and living room in addition to a double bedroom.

768 Williams is a 5-person co-ed house. The house includes a full kitchen, bath, and laundry facilities in addition to bedroom furniture and some living room and dining room furniture.

***Tentative 4-person apartments** are six 4 person apartments consisting of 2 double bedrooms, an open living room, bath and kitchen facilities.

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
- Students' ability to identify resources and contacts that will make the theme successful
- Completeness and timeliness of the application
- Variety of themes proposed

2013 Application and Selection Process Time Line:

- 2/18 – Register for the Housing Lottery by this date
- 2/6, 8 & 13 – Housing Information Session (2/13-Specialty Housing Information Session)
- 2/21 – Specialty Housing Application Due
- 2/28 & 3/1 – Specialty Housing Interview Days
- 3/5 – Specialty Housing Letters Mailed
- 4/8 – Specialty Housing Lotteries

Specialty Housing Requirements Table
Spaces Subject to Change

<u>Alternative</u>		First Years?	App	Contract	Group Leader	Essay	Interview	Programming
Single Sex	Male-Addams Basement, Branford 1st Floor	Y	Y					
	Female-Blunt 4th Floor, Freeman 4th Floor, Harkness 4th Floor, Lambdin 4th Floor	Y	Y					
Academic Year Round	Abbey, River Ridge (Independent Living App)		Y	Y				
Quiet	Burdick	Y	Y	Y		Y		
Wellness	Blackstone (Sub Free Lifestyle and Living), Wright 3rd Floor (Living) and Smith 4th Floor (Living)	Y	Y	Y		Y		
Language	Knowlton	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y
Sustainable Living	Earth House		Y	Y		Y	Y	Y
<u>Thematic</u>								
Thematic	360 Mohegan 3 Person, 360 Mohegan 2 Person, Park 5 Person, Freeman 4 Person Apartment		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<u>Independent Living</u>								
Independent Living	River Ridge 5 Person and River Ridge 2 Person Apartments, Winchester 6 Person and 4 Person Houses, 768 Williams, 191 Mohegan, Tentative 4 Person*		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	

*Students who have expressed interested in any of the tentative apartments will be placed on a waitlist until the spaces are confirmed by the college and notified as soon as possible. Submitting an application for these spaces is committing to living in them should they become available. They are all very close to, or on campus. In the meantime, please secure other campus housing through the lottery.