

FRESHMAN ON-CAMPUS HOUSING REQUIREMENT

Overview

The University of South Alabama is committed to providing students with a vibrant, comprehensive and successful undergraduate student experience. National studies show that students who live on campus are more successful, have higher grade point averages, are more engaged, and have higher rates of retention and graduation. This is true for students who live on campus at the University of South Alabama.

Data from USA's Office of Institutional Research suggests that students who live in University Housing at South Alabama have higher grade point averages, have a higher rate of first to second year retention and are more likely to graduate within six years (national average). Additionally, results from the Annual Resident Student Satisfaction Survey indicate students who live on campus report a greater sense of belonging on campus and to college life.

Therefore, in an effort to enhance student success and the undergraduate student experience as well as improve student retention and graduation rates, the University of South Alabama will require first-time, full-time freshmen to live on campus in university housing beginning in fall semester 2021.

Policy

Beginning in fall 2021, first-time freshmen who are enrolled in 12 or more hours and graduated from high school within the preceding 12 months of enrolling to the University are required to live on campus in university housing.

Exceptions will be made for students meeting the following criteria:

- *Commute from the permanent residence of a parent, grandparent, or legal guardian
- *Military veteran
- *Married and/or have dependent child(ren) in residence

Students who first enroll in the **summer** are required to live in the residence halls for the **summer, fall, and spring semesters** during their first year attending the University

Students who first enroll in the **fall** are required to live in the residence halls for **fall and spring semesters** during their first year attending the University.

Students who first enroll in the **spring** semester are required to live in the residence halls for the **spring** semester during their first year attending the University.

Residency Exception:

- Should be requested in writing and will be reviewed by a committee of University officials. Students will be notified of the committee decision through their JagMail email account.
- Will be granted in other well documented circumstances. Students for whom the policy presents an undue hardship should provide compelling evidence of such circumstances.
- Can be appealed to the Associate Vice President of Student Academic Success or the appropriate designee.