



VCU

WELCOME TO THE **RAMILY**



Residential Life and Housing

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This book is accurate as of March 25, 2025. Information is subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, please visit housing.vcu.edu.



Hello Future Rams,

Your first year at Virginia Commonwealth University marks an exciting time for self-discovery. On-campus living creates an environment to help students succeed. Not only is on-campus housing steps away from academic resources, but living on campus makes it easier to connect with fellow Rams, the Richmond community, and VCU traditions. First-year housing at VCU is managed by Residential Life and Housing. Our mission is to provide safe, inclusive, and well-maintained facilities where we build intentional communities to empower residents in their academic excellence, citizenship, and personal growth. VCU Residential Life and Housing:

- Celebrates diverse and inclusive communities
- Values academic and personal success facilitated through individual RA connections and dynamic programming focused on academic achievement, diversity and inclusion, well-being, service and engagement, and community building
- Encourages responsible decision-making through education and support from caring and attentive live-in residence life staff
- Believes in the importance of residents' safety and security by implementing 24-hour information desks that monitor access to residence halls

On-campus housing offers more than just a place to sleep: it is an integral part of the VCU experience. By offering communities designed to complement and encourage a wide variety of connections and interests, Residential Life and Housing can help students position themselves for future success. Students can choose to join our first-year Living-Learning Communities. These communities are specialized residential environments designed to integrate on-campus living with focus on a shared interest or academic experience.

If we can assist you during the on-campus housing selection process, please do not hesitate to contact us. Welcome to the RAMily!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Megan Becker', with a stylized, flowing script.

Megan Becker, EdD
Interim Executive Director for Residential Life and Housing

BUILDING OPTIONS AND AMENITIES

First-year students have the choice between five hall styles. All options provide students the ability to succeed and take full advantage of on-campus resources and opportunities. Each hall style has its own strengths, so please review all the amenities before listing your hall preferences.



Traditional	Semi-Suite	Suite	Honors Double	Apartment
				
Definition: Halls with shared bedrooms and communal hall bathrooms.	Definition: Halls where two shared bedrooms share a bathroom.	Definition: Halls where two or more shared bedrooms share a bathroom(s) and a living room.	Definition: The Honors College Residence Hall has double bedrooms with a shared in-unit bathroom.	Definition: Halls where two or more students share a bathroom, a living room, and a full kitchen.
Strengths: Offers greatest amount of social interaction between residents. In these halls it is easy to meet other students, find study partners, or just find someone to share a meal.	Strengths: Encourages close relationships with roommates and interactions with other residents, while offering increased privacy.	Strengths: Offers residents privacy and the opportunity to build close relationships with roommates.	Strengths: Offers residents privacy and the opportunity to build close relationships with residents of their building.	Strengths: Offers residents the greatest amount of privacy, access to a full kitchen, and the opportunity to build close relationships with roommates.

To view our rates and take a virtual tour, visit housing.vcu.edu.



	BRANDT	GLADDING RESIDENCE CENTER	GLADDING RESIDENCE CENTER III	HONORS	RHOADS	WEST GRACE NORTH
Traditional hall		✓			✓	
Semi-suite hall		✓				
Suite hall	✓		✓			
Apartment						✓
Efficiency			✓			
Triple bedroom					✓	
Double bedroom	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Single bedroom			✓			
Hall bathroom		✓			✓	
Bathrooms in unit	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Provided mini fridge/microwave in bedroom	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Provided refrigerator in unit			✓			✓
Full Kitchen in unit						✓
Community Kitchens		✓	✓			
WiFi & Internet Ports	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Inclusive laundry in building	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Community spaces/study rooms	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bike racks	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Live-in Hall Director and RAs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Required meal plans	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

**See [page 4](#) for information on Gladding Residence Center bathrooms.*



*Top image: Gladding Residence Center community-style bathrooms for traditional rooms
Bottom image: Gladding Residence Center in-unit bathroom for semi-suite style rooms*

BATHROOMS

Rhoads has community-style bathrooms that are coed by floor. Each bathroom has multiple showers, sinks, vanities, toilets, and one bathtub. Many floors also have a single-user gender inclusive bathroom that has a sink, vanity, toilet, and shower. These bathrooms are cleaned by custodial staff, and students are not required to supply toilet paper.

Brandt has bathrooms in each suite. 4-person suites have one bathroom and 8-person suites have two bathrooms. Each bathroom is furnished with one toilet and one shower with shower curtains/rods. A sink is provided in each bedroom and it is the resident's responsibility to clean and supply toilet paper.

The Honors College has in-unit bathrooms. Each bathroom has a shower, toilet, vanity/sink, and it is the resident's responsibility to clean and supply toilet paper.

Gladding Residence Center has two styles of bathrooms. Semi-suites have an in-unit bathroom that is shared between four residents and it is the residents' responsibility to clean and supply toilet paper. Each in-unit bathroom has a tub-shower, toilet, and a sink located directly outside the bathroom for each resident. Gladding Residence Center also has community-style bathrooms that serve the residents who live in traditional-style rooms. Since the floors are coed, these community-style bathrooms are shared by all genders. These bathrooms have a shared public vanity area and private individual toilet and shower stalls with floor to ceiling dividers that give the occupant complete privacy. Also, these bathrooms are cleaned by custodial staff, and students are not required to supply toilet paper.

Gladding Residence Center III has one bathroom in each suite and each bathroom is furnished with a sink, toilet, and shower with shower curtains/rods. 4 and 8-person suites are furnished with two shower stalls. It is the resident's responsibility to clean and supply toilet paper.

All units in **West Grace North** have two bathrooms. Each bathroom is furnished with one toilet and one shower with a shower curtain/rod. A sink is provided in an area just outside the bathroom and it is the resident's responsibility to clean and supply toilet paper.





CURIOUS ABOUT YOUR HOUSING OPTIONS?

**TAKE A VIRTUAL TOUR BY VISITING
[HOUSING.VCU.EDU/#VIRTUALTOUR](https://housing.vcu.edu/#virtualtour)**



HOW TO **APPLY** FOR HOUSING



Step 1: Get accepted to VCU.

Step 2: Accept the offer to attend VCU. Complete the Offer of Admission Response form at admissions.vcu.edu/accepted-students/first-year-checklist. Be advised, it can take two business days after accepting the offer to appear in the housing system.

Step 3: Visit housing.vcu.edu and review all housing options.

Step 4: Visit housing.vcu.edu and click **Application**, located in the top bar. In the application, students are guided through the housing process and electronically sign the housing contract. The Housing Application opens April 2 at 4 p.m.

Step 5: Submit the \$250 nonrefundable prepayment to secure and complete the Housing Application.

Step 6: Review your application status by checking your VCU email for a confirmation message that your application is complete.

Step 7: Sign up for **VCU Orientation**. This is a requirement to be eligible to receive a housing assignment.



On-Campus Housing Eligibility

To be eligible to receive a housing assignment, students must complete a housing application, pay the \$250 nonrefundable prepayment, and sign up for summer orientation.

Signing the Housing Contract

When a student completes the Housing Application, they electronically sign the contract at the end of the application process. Instead of signing a specific contract for a specific room, students sign a general contract for the 2025-26 academic year. The Housing Contract is not binding until the student receives their assignment. Students under the age of 18 will need to have their legal guardian co-sign their Housing Contract. To view the Housing Contract visit housing.vcu.edu/help/resources.

REMEMBER: THE HOUSING APPLICATION OPENS APRIL 2 AT 4 P.M.

ROOM ASSIGNMENTS

Rooms are assigned in batches beginning in July and continue throughout the summer. All assignment information and other housing communications are sent to the student's VCU email address. While efforts are made to place students in their top choice, that is not always possible. Assignment priority is based on when an application is completed and the \$250 nonrefundable prepayment is received.

Changing Room Assignments

During the summer months, room changes are not processed. However, students have the option to do a room swap. A room swap is where students from different rooms choose to trade places. For more information about the room swap process, please visit housing.vcu.edu/help/room-change.

COST

The cost of on-campus housing is equal to or less than most surrounding off-campus locations. To view proposed rates for 2025-26, visit housing.vcu.edu/help/resources. All rates become final after approval by the Board of Visitors.

Meal Plans

Students living in Brandt, Gladding Residence Center, Gladding Residence Center III, Honors, and Rhoads are required to have a dining plan. Students will need to choose one of the "Required Plans" listed at vcu.campusdish.com.

Renters Insurance

While renters insurance is not required, it is highly recommended. Some homeowners insurance will cover residence halls. Check with insurance providers for details. Students who are not covered under a homeowners policy can find renters insurance information and options in the Housing Application.

Parking

First-year students living on campus are not permitted to have a car on campus. For more information on this policy visit dos.vcu.edu/resources/freshman-parking.

BREAK HOUSING

Brandt, Gladding Residence Center, Gladding Residence Center III, Honors, and Rhoads close for breaks on the following schedules:

Fall Break: Residence halls will close Saturday, November 22, 2025 at 10 a.m. and re-open on Sunday, November 30, 2025 at 10 a.m.

Winter Break: Residents must vacate their residence halls within 24 hours after their last final exam or by Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at 10 a.m., whichever comes first, as stated in their housing contract. The residence halls will re-open for the spring 2026 semester on Friday, January 9, 2026 at 10 a.m.

Spring Break: Residence halls will close Saturday, March 7, 2026 at 10 a.m. and re-open on Sunday, March 15, 2026 at 10 a.m.

West Grace North remains open for fall, winter, and spring breaks.

Spring Year-end Closing applies to all halls. Residents must vacate their residence halls within 24 hours after their last final exam or by Saturday, May 10, 2025 at 10 a.m., whichever comes first.



GETTING RESIDENTS CONNECTED



Many students and families worry about how residents will connect with fellow rams, the campus, and their academics. Residential Life and Housing is committed to helping students acclimate to VCU. Below are some resources designed to help residents become connected at VCU.

Resident Assistants (RA)

RAs are peer leaders who are selected and trained to develop residential connections in our halls. Throughout the year, RAs host various opportunities for students to connect, such as floor programs, one-on-one conversations, and community events. RAs serve as a resource to help residents find connections across campus. Over the year, RAs will have intentional conversations to help suggest paths of connection to fellow residents, faculty, organizations, VCU programs, and resources.

Hall Directors

Hall Directors are professional staff that live and work in the residence halls. They supervise the RAs, provide general hall oversight, and are an excellent resource to help students transition to college life.

Get Involved

VCU has over 500 clubs and organizations that students can join. It is a great way to find friends that have similar interests and connect with the VCU community. Residents don't even have to leave their hall to find an organization. VCU Residential Life and Housing offers residents the opportunity to join Community Councils and Residence Hall Association (RHA), and apply for student jobs. To learn more about these opportunities, visit page 15.

Apply to Live in a Living-Learning Community

Living-learning communities are special communities where students with shared interests and academic goals live together. Residents who are a part of these programs find it easier to build their community. To learn more about these programs, visit pages 10-11.

Educational Events

Residential Life and Housing hosts a variety of events to help residents develop life skills, engage with the community, and find career support and academic connections.

Campus Resources

VCU has many resources to help students connect, expand their thought process, and find true well-being. To learn more about these resources, visit students.vcu.edu/departments.

Social Media

To help residents transition to VCU, Residential Life and Housing's Instagram covers various subjects ranging from "what not to place in a microwave" to highlighting campus resources. It is a great place to get questions answered and learn more about campus and college life. Please follow us @VCUHousing.

GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR FIRST YEAR

First-year students have the opportunity to participate in a Living-Learning Community. These programs are designed to enhance on-campus living with a focus on shared interests, or academic goals. There are three types of first-year Living-Learning Communities:

Programs-in-Residence are residential experiences that offer students interested in a shared topic the opportunity to live together in a dedicated residential area. Programs-in-Residence support high levels of student interaction, increased interaction with faculty outside of the classroom, and collaboration through the use of strategies such as a required class on the given topic, study groups, and programming. All Programs-in-Residence communities listed have a required class.

Visit housing.vcu.edu/life-on-campus/lrc for specific course information.

Theme Communities are residential experiences that offer students who have special interests the opportunity to live and study together. Theme Communities provide participating students with co-curricular activities that may be initiated and led by either students or by university faculty/staff. There is no class requirement for these communities.

Partner Communities are residential experiences sponsored by VCU programs and have a separate application process. Visit their websites listed on page 11 for more information.

APPLY BY JUNE 1 TO BE A PART OF A LIVING-LEARNING COMMUNITY.

How to Apply to a First-Year Living-Learning Community

Excluding Acceleration, Emerging Leaders Program, and the Honors College, which have a separate application, the Living-Learning Communities Application is part of the Housing Application. To apply, visit housing.vcu.edu before June 1, click “[Application](#),” and follow all steps. Students will be asked to write a short essay and rank their top three preferences. Please review all options before making selections. While efforts are made to place students in their first choice, that is not always possible.

Requesting a Roommate for a Living-Learning Community

Requests can be made through the Housing Application. However, to be eligible to be roommates, both students must select and be accepted into the same Living-Learning Community and choose each other as roommates. If one student is accepted into the Living-Learning Community and the roommate is not, the student will be placed in the Living-Learning Community over the roommate choice. For more information on the roommate process see page 14.

Programs-in-Residence (Required Class)



Theme Communities (No Required Class)



Partner Communities



Visit housing.vcu.edu/life-on-campus/lhc for more information about Living-Learning Communities at VCU.



BECOME A **RAM** CAMPER



RAM CAMP

RAM Camp is an on-campus leadership experience designed to connect incoming first-year students to VCU traditions, campus resources, and fellow Rams. Campers are divided into small groups and participate in various activities led by a VCU upperclassman student leader. These leaders, along with university staff and faculty, create opportunities for campers to develop leadership skills, engage in community service, and build their Ram community. If you are selected, you will need to arrive on campus a week before first-year student move-in. All campers are expected to fully participate in all RAM Camp activities for the duration of the camp.

The cost to attend RAM Camp is free. For more information check out the RAM Camp website at ramcamp.vcu.edu. Don't forget to complete the Camper Interest Form linked on the website for exclusive updates regarding RAM Camp 2025!



IMPORTANT RAM CAMP DATES

Aug. 10
RAM Camp Move-in

Aug. 10-14
RAM Camp 2025

ROOMMATES

Roommates are a huge part of the first-year experience. Many incoming students are nervous about sharing a room; this is completely understandable. To help ease this process, it is important to begin the year with open and clear communication with your new roommate. When you receive your assignment, you will be given your roommate's contact information. Take advantage of this opportunity to reach out and introduce yourself! Talk about your plans and expectations for the upcoming year, identify what you each like to do, and find common interests. You can also coordinate who is bringing what for your shared room. When you arrive, your Resident Assistant will talk with you about steps you can take to make your relationship with your roommate fun and productive.



Find a Roommate

My College Roomie offers students an easy way to find roommates. Students create a My College Roomie account and search for roommate matches based on preferences such as study habits, interests, major, etc. To use My College Roomie, click the link on the roommate page in the Housing Application.

Requesting a Roommate

First-year students have the option to request roommates when submitting their application. Roommate requests must be mutual – both students must request and accept one another in order to be assigned. For suite and semi-suite units, students can only request roommates, students who live within the same room. It is not possible to request suitemates, students who reside in other rooms in the unit. Roommate requests are not guaranteed but are honored when possible. Instructions on how to request a roommate can be found in the Housing Application.

Tip: Make sure that you and your potential roommate select the same hall preferences. That way you have a better chance at receiving your top choice.



Gender Inclusive Housing

First-year students have the opportunity to live in Gender Inclusive Housing, a housing option where students can live together regardless of gender. To participate, all students who wish to live together must be 18 years old by first-year move-in, fill out the Gender Inclusive Housing Application located in the Housing Application, complete a Housing Application, pay their \$250 prepayment, and register for summer orientation. Gender Inclusive Housing requests are not guaranteed but are honored when possible.



BECOME INVOLVED, BE A LEADER

To get the most from your college experience, it's important to make good choices about the time you spend outside of class. Residential Life and Housing offers opportunities to improve your leadership skills, build self-esteem, and accomplish goals that will enhance your future endeavors.

Community Council is committed to improving the on-campus living experience through the promotion and planning of social and educational programming, providing resources, serving as a liaison, and being the representative voice of all residents living within a residence hall.

Residence Hall Association (RHA) strives to meet the diverse interests of all residents through advocacy and programming. RHA serves as a communication line for residential students to meet other students from the various residence halls, as well as across the state and nation. RHA wants to ensure students become actively involved in their residential community and develop their leadership skills.

Residential Life and Housing student jobs allow residents to gain leadership experience and take on important responsibilities. Employment opportunities range from student leader positions, such as resident assistants and conference assistants, to hourly positions such as mailroom and front desk assistants, as well as Federal Work-Study positions.