

WELCOME TO THE **RAMILY**



VCU Residential Life
and Housing

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*This book is accurate as of March 10, 2024. 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, outlined on [pages 10-11](#), are specialized residential environments designed to integrate on-campus living with a focus on 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!

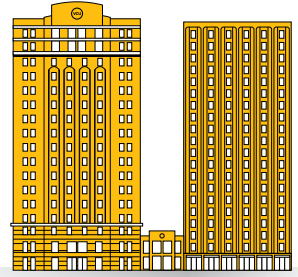
Go Rams,



Gavin Roark
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 |
|---|---|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| <p>Definition: Halls with shared bedrooms and communal hall bathrooms.</p> | <p>Definition: Halls where two shared bedrooms share a bathroom.</p> | <p>Definition: Halls where two or more shared bedrooms share a bathroom(s) and a living room.</p> | <p>Definition: The Honors College Residence Hall has double bedrooms with a shared in-unit bathroom.</p> | <p>Definition: Halls where two or more students share a bathroom, a living room, and a full kitchen.</p> |
| <p>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.</p> | <p>Strengths: Encourages close relationships with roommates and interactions with other residents, while offering increased privacy.</p> | <p>Strengths: Offers residents close privacy and the opportunity to build close relationships with roommates.</p> | <p>Strengths: Offers residents privacy and the opportunity to build close relationships with residents of their building.</p> | <p>Strengths: Offers residents the greatest amount of privacy, access to a full kitchen, and the opportunity to build close relationships with roommates.</p> |

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 SOUTH | 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.

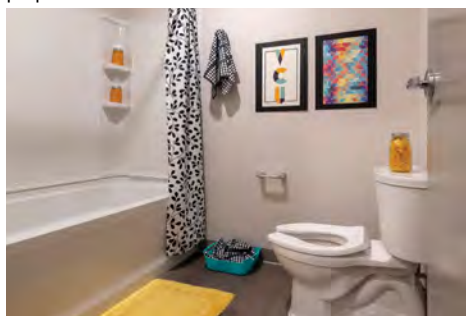
The Honors College has in-unit bathrooms. Each bathroom has a shower, toilet, vanity/sink, and it is the resident's responsibility to clean and supply toilet paper.

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 South and 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



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. Please note, if you have submitted a FAFSA or received a merit-based scholarship from VCU, you may waive the enrollment deposit on the response form.

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.

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.

COST

The cost of on-campus housing is equal to or less than most surrounding off-campus locations. To view proposed rates for 2024-25 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 on vcu.campusdish.com.

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 2024-25 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.**

Changing Room Assignments

During 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.

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 that 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: Closes Saturday, November 23, 2024 at 10 a.m. and re-opens on Sunday, December 1, 2024 at 10 a.m.

Winter Break: Residents must vacate their residence halls within 24 hours after their last final exam or by Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at 10 a.m., whichever comes first, as stated in their housing contract.

Spring Break: Closes Saturday, March 8, 2025 at 10 a.m. and re-opens on Sunday, March 16, 2025 at 10 a.m.

West Grace South and West Grace North remain 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, Residence Hall Association (RHA), and The National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH). To learn more about these organizations, 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)



Engineering and Computer Science is an engineering community where future engineers and programmers unite in a shared space.



Global Village strives to connect culture and communities. Students will have the opportunity to interact with people from all over the world in-person and virtually, and will also learn more about Study Abroad, Peace Corps Prep, Cultural Ambassadors, and all of the opportunities offered by the Global Education Office.



Impact is a dynamic living experience that brings leaders together who want to impact the VCU and Richmond community through service and social change. Through direct service and co-curricular and curricular activities, Impact connects leadership and community engagement to drive social change.



Outdoor Adventure is for students interested in connecting with their Family through the outdoors. Students have the opportunity to go on trips, rent equipment for free, and take a course that introduces students to the fundamentals of outdoor leadership.



YouFirst is designed for first-generation college students, or students whose parents did not complete a four-year degree. More than one-third of VCU students are first-gen and can benefit from living in a community of peers and receiving support from dedicated staff and faculty members who understand what it is like to be the first in the family to navigate the college experience.

Theme Communities (No Required Class)



Lavender House provides an inclusive community for LGBTQIA+ students to live and learn with their peers.



Live WELL is a community centered around the eight dimensions of wellness: social, emotional, physical, intellectual, spiritual, financial, environmental, and occupational. Students have the opportunity to engage in programs and initiatives that will help them improve their overall well-being as a student.



Mosaic is a multicultural living environment that facilitates dialogue, learning, and engagement that focuses on racial and ethnic identity, gender identity, sexual orientation, intersectionality, power, and privilege and other concepts related to multiculturalism, diversity and inclusion.

Partner Communities



Acceleration is for incoming first-year students who are interested in pre-health concentrations in medicine, dentistry, nursing, pharmacy, and the allied health sciences.
Website: dhsd.vcu.edu/programs/high-school/vcu-acceleration-vcua/



Emerging Leaders Program is a one year, intensive leadership community that is only open to students who have been invited to apply to the program.
Website: lead.vcu.edu



The Honors College residence hall accommodates first-year students with a living experience that allows for increased interaction among honors students and facilitates active involvement in Honors College programs.
Website: honors.vcu.edu

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. However, only students who confirm their interest while completing their housing application will be considered for acceptance into RAM Camp. For more information check out the RAM Camp website at ramcamp.vcu.edu.



IMPORTANT RAM CAMP DATES

April 2

Housing Application Opens:
Students can indicate their interest in RAM Camp on the application form.

Aug. 11

RAM Camp Move-in

Aug. 11-15

RAM Camp 2024

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.

The National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH) is made up of the top 1% of student leaders living on campuses across the world. NRHH prides itself on advocating for the interests and welfare of residential students, while also providing opportunities for their personal growth and development.