WELCOME TO
THE RAMILY
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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 among classmates makes it easier to connect with friends, host study groups or simply share resources.

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. To meet this mission, VCU Residential Life and Housing:

- Celebrates diverse and inclusive communities
- Values academic and personal success through 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
- Offers close proximity to classes, the library, recreational facilities and on-campus dining
- Places the utmost importance on the safety and security of students: including 24 hour information desk and controlled access to all 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 lifestyles, Residential Life and Housing can assist students in positioning themselves for future success. I would like to highlight our 14 first-year Living-Learning Communities. These communities are specialized residential environments designed to integrate on-campus living with a focused academic experience (see pages 6-8 for information).

If we can be of any assistance during the on-campus housing selection process, please do not hesitate to contact us. Welcome to the RAMily!

Go Rams,

Gavin Roark
Director of Residential Life and Housing
Building Options and Amenities

First-year students have the choice between four 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 Halls
**Definition:** Halls with shared bedrooms and communal hall bathrooms.

**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.

**Buildings:** Johnson, Rhoads, and Gladding Residence Center

### Semi-Suite Halls
**Definition:** Halls where two rooms share a bathroom.

**Strengths:** Encourages close relationships with roommates and interactions with other residents, while offering increased privacy.

**Buildings:** Gladding Residence Center

### Suite Halls
**Definition:** Halls where two or more rooms share a bathroom(s) and a living room.

**Strengths:** Offers residents the greatest amount of privacy and the opportunity to build close relationships with roommates.

**Buildings:** Brandt and Gladding Residence Center III

### Apartment Halls
**Definition:** Halls where two or more rooms share a bathroom, a living room and full kitchen.

**Strengths:** Offers residents the greatest amount of privacy, access to a full kitchen and the opportunity to build close relationships with roommates.

**Buildings:** West Grace South

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To view our rates and more hall photos, visit housing.vcu.edu.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>BRANDT</th>
<th>GLADDING RESIDENCE CENTER</th>
<th>GLADDING RESIDENCE CENTER III</th>
<th>HONORS</th>
<th>JOHNSON</th>
<th>RHOADS</th>
<th>WEST GRACE SOUTH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Semi-suite hall</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Apartment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triple bedroom</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single bedroom</td>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bathrooms in unit</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓*</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓*</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Full Kitchen in unit</td>
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<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
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<td>WiFi &amp; Internet Ports</td>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community spaces/ study rooms</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Live-in Hall Director</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Required meal plans</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>✓</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*See page 13 for information on Gladding Residence Center bathrooms.
Step 1: Get accepted to VCU.

Step 2: Accept the offer to attend VCU.

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 your application is complete.

Step 7: Register for fall 2019 classes or for a summer orientation session to be eligible to receive an assignment.
How to apply
In order to apply for housing, a student must first accept their offer of acceptance to VCU. Once that is done, a student will receive their eID, which is used to log in to the Housing Application. The application can be found on the Residential Life and Housing website, housing.vcu.edu. In the application, students will be able to list their building preferences. 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. The earlier a student applies and their prepayment is received, the more likely they are to receive one of their top choices.

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 2019–20 academic year. The Housing Contract is not binding until the student receives their assignment. The 2019–20 Housing Contract can be found at housing.vcu.edu/resources.

When will I be assigned a room?
To be eligible to receive a housing assignment, students must have completed one of the following:
• Registered for fall 2019 classes
• Registered for a summer orientation session
Even if a student has completed a housing application, they will not be assigned until they have completed one of these two items. Rooms are assigned in batches beginning in July and continuing throughout the summer. All assignment information and other housing communications are sent to the student’s VCU email address.

Remember the Housing Application opens April 2 at 4 p.m.
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, academic goals or lifestyle preferences. There are two types of first-year Living-Learning Communities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Theme Communities</strong></th>
<th><strong>Ensemble</strong> is an community for first-year music majors who want to find support among other musicians. Life as a music major presents unique challenges, and Ensemble exists to bring together students who understand those challenges and don’t want to go at it alone.</th>
<th><strong>Engage</strong> is for incoming students who want to explore what it means to turn awareness into action. Through community service opportunities, local field trips, and group reflections, students connect with other students and the unique culture of the RVA community.</th>
<th><strong>Global Village</strong> is for students interested in learning about other cultures.</th>
<th><strong>Live WELL</strong> is for students interested in learning more about how to live a healthy and active lifestyle focused on self-discovery, well-being, healthy relationships, and practicing healthy wellness behaviors.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Hall</strong>: Johnson Hall</td>
<td><strong>Hall</strong>: West Grace South</td>
<td><strong>Hall</strong>: Brandt Hall</td>
<td><strong>Hall</strong>: Gladding Residence Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Required class</strong>: No</td>
<td><strong>Required class</strong>: No</td>
<td><strong>Required class</strong>: No</td>
<td><strong>Required class</strong>: No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How to apply to a first-year Living-Learning Community

Living-Learning Communities Application is part of the Housing Application. To apply, visit housing.vcu.edu before June 3, click “Application” and follow all steps. Students will be asked to write a short essay and rank their top three preferences. Please review all the 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 the same Living-Learning Community and also choose each other as roommates. If a student chooses a Living-Learning Community and the roommate does not, the student will be placed in the Living-Learning Community over the roommate choice. For more information on the roommate process see page 10.
**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 below have a required class. Visit housing.vcu.edu for specific course information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Hall:</th>
<th>Required class:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Artist Colony</td>
<td>is for incoming students who have a passion for the arts. Regardless of major, from arts and business to the sciences and the humanities, students need to be active participants in creative making, thinking and doing.</td>
<td>Johnson Hall</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>da Vinci Disrupters</td>
<td>is a community for incoming students focused on a multidisciplinary mindset for successful venture creation.</td>
<td>Gladding Residence Center</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecovillage</td>
<td>is for students who have an interest in and commitment to sustainable living. Participants will live together and build a community around creating sustainable change at VCU.</td>
<td>Brandt Hall</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lavender House</td>
<td>provides an inclusive community for LGBTQIA+ students to live and learn with their peers.</td>
<td>West Grace South</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEAD Explorers</td>
<td>is for students who want to learn more about themselves and how to become leaders in their classes, organizations and community.</td>
<td>Gladding Residence Center</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mosaic</td>
<td>is a multicultural living environment co-sponsored by the da Vinci Center for Innovation and the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs that facilitates dialogue, learning, innovation and design thinking about issues around diversity such as race, gender, socioeconomic status, ability, sexual orientation, religion, political views and other forms of difference.</td>
<td>Gladding Residence Center</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Adventure</td>
<td>is for students who love hiking, climbing, kayaking, snowboarding or any other outdoor pursuit.</td>
<td>Gladding Residence Center III</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPARK</td>
<td>is an engineering community where future engineers and programmers unite in a shared space.</td>
<td>Gladding Residence Center</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OTHER COMMUNITIES

These Programs-in-Residence have a separate application process. Visit their websites for more information.

Acceleration is for incoming VCU first-years who are interested in pre-health concentrations in medicine, dentistry, nursing, pharmacy and the allied health sciences. For more information visit dhsd.vcu.edu/programs/high-school/vcu-acceleration-vcua/

Emerging Leaders Program is a one year, intensive leadership community and only open to students who have been invited to apply to the program. For more information visit lead.vcu.edu/elp.

The Honors College residence hall accommodates first-year students in a residence hall that is designed especially for students of The Honors College. For more information visit honors.vcu.edu.

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.

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.

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.

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.
CURIOUS ABOUT YOUR HOUSING OPTIONS?

TAKE A VIRTUAL TOUR BY VISITING HOUSING.VCU.EDU/#VIRTUALTOUR
Roommates are a huge part of the first-year experience. Many incoming first-years 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 and find out what you each like to do and identify common interests, and coordinate who is bringing what for your 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 your roommate with My College Roomie
My College Roomie offers VCU students an easy and fun way to find roommates when signing up for housing. You can create a My College Roomie account and search for roommate matches based on lifestyle 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 online application. Roommate requests must be mutual – both students must request and accept one another in order to be assigned. 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 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 or fall 2019 classes by June 20. Gender Inclusive Housing requests are not guaranteed but are honored when possible. For more information visit housing.vcu.edu.
BECOME A RAM CAMPER

RAM CAMP is an immersive weeklong on-campus leadership experience that connects incoming first-years to VCU traditions, campus resources and fellow Rams through:

• Large and small group team-building challenges. Whether it’s dodgeball versus the VCU Campus Police or coming up with your own “team handshake,” students will connect and form relationships with a diverse group of upperclass student leaders, faculty and staff.

• Giving back to the community through service projects like the James River Clean-up.

• Gaining early access to a wide array of campus resources like the Commons, student clubs and organizations and recreational sports.

• Becoming personal friends with VCU’s own Rodney the Ram.

• Exclusive access to outside guest speakers.

• Touring and learning the campus before your peers.

• Kick-starting your VCU apparel collection with free fan gear.

• Moving in a week before everyone else.

Jump-start a successful first year at VCU and apply to be a RAM CAMPER.

Important RAM CAMP Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application opens</th>
<th>Priority deadline</th>
<th>Final deadline</th>
<th>RAM CAMP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 2</td>
<td>July 5</td>
<td>Aug. 1</td>
<td>Aug. 11-17</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Visit ramcamp.vcu.edu to apply and watch the Spirit Video.
First-year Move-in is Aug. 17, 2019. Students will be assigned specific times to check-in based on their room assignment. Please make sure to arrive during your time slot to help the day go smoothly for everyone. Specifics about Move-in Day will be posted on housing.vcu.edu and emailed to VCU student accounts in early summer.

Tips for Move-in

• Talk to your roommate before move-in and coordinate who is bringing what. Also, it is very helpful to move in at the same time, so that you can step up your room together.

• Be conservative with what you bring. Most students pack too much, which makes move-in stressful. Bring the essentials and grab the rest either at a local store or the next time you visit home.

• Only bring one car. During move-in we only allow one car per resident in the un-loading and long-term parking zones. Trailers and U-Hauls are not allowed, and will not fit in parking zones.

• Bring a dolly. It is very useful when moving belongings from the car into your hall.

• Label all of your belongings with your name and room number so our volunteers can help you get your belongings to your room quickly.

• Drink lots of water – staying hydrated is very important. August in Richmond is normally hot; staying hydrated will help keep stress levels down and everyone in high spirits.

• Enjoy the day. Moving to college is a big event. Make sure to enjoy the day with your loved ones and take lots of pictures.
FAQs

Are first-year students required to have a meal plan?
Students living in Brandt, Gladding Residence Center, Gladding Residence Center III, Honors, Johnson and Rhoads are required to have a dining plan. Students will need to choose one of the “Required Plans” listed on vcu.campusdish.com.

How much does housing cost?
The cost of on-campus housing is equal to or less than most surrounding off-campus locations. To view proposed rates for 2019-20 visit housing.vcu.edu’s Help Center and click Resources. All rates become final after approval by the Board of Visitors.

Can I sign up to live on campus for the fall semester only?
The housing contract is for the full academic year. Very few specific situations exist where students may be released from their contractual obligation. For information on our cancellation policy, please visit housing.vcu.edu for the 2019–20 housing contract.

What are the bathrooms in Gladding Residence Center like?
Gladding Residence Center offers both traditional double bedrooms and four-person semi-suites. Semi-suites in Gladding Residence Center allow four students to share a bathroom while providing each resident with their own sink. Traditional rooms are shared between two students and have two community-style bathrooms per floor. These floors are co-ed with community-style bathrooms that 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.

Can first-years have a car on campus?
No, first-years who are living on campus cannot have a car. For more information on this policy visit students.vcu.edu/freshman-parking/.

What if I want to make a room change after assignment?
Over the summer months, our first priority is to provide a housing assignment to as many incoming students as possible. In certain situations, we may be able to grant a room change request, but as a general rule, students should expect to move into the room to which they were assigned. After the third week of classes, room change requests can be submitted and granted based upon availability.

Are students required to have 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.

For more information on VCU on-campus housing visit housing.vcu.edu.
CONGRATULATIONS ON JOINING
THE VCU COMMUNITY.

Living on campus is an important part of your transition to VCU. Fill out an application starting April 2 to secure your space.