



**FIRST-YEAR
RESIDENCE HALLS
AT
MARS HILL UNIVERSITY**

HOUSING AND RESIDENCE LIFE

Mars Hill University is primarily a residential university with approximately 80 percent of the students living on campus. We offer a variety of housing options from traditional residence halls to apartment-style housing.

There are five residence halls dedicated to first-year students: Brown, Gibson, Laurel, Myers, and Turner residence halls. You will be able to learn more about each of these living spaces in the following pages of this booklet.

Mission Statement

The Office of Housing and Residence Life (HRL) at Mars Hill University (MHU) provides a comfortable, safe, well-maintained, and equipped housing facility that fosters an atmosphere conducive to each resident's personal growth and academic success. A student's education is enhanced by providing leadership opportunities, social activities, and quality educational and cultural programs, while encouraging responsible citizenship.

Vision Statement

The vision of the Office of Housing and Residence Life is to champion knowledge and experiences that promote and encourage ethical citizenship and successful leadership in an ever-changing world.

Community Living Values

- **Accountability:** Support a community where individuals take responsibility for their own actions.
- **Communication:** Engage in a community where open dialogue is encouraged and appreciated. Students are expected to be respectful to others when sharing or receiving information and opinions.
- **Empathy:** Strengthen a community that demonstrates compassion and caring for all things.
- **Inclusion:** Embrace a community where individual differences are acknowledged and accepted.
- **Integrity:** Contribute to a community where ethical decisions are at the root of all actions.
- **Respect:** Interact in a community where courtesy is shown to self, others, and environment.

The environment of a residence hall is largely dependent upon the cooperation, interest, and participation of each student. Individual responsibility and initiative are essential characteristics for the residents to create a positive living environment.

HOUSING AND RESIDENCE LIFE STAFF

The **Director of Housing and Residence Life** is responsible for the overall planning, organization, implementation, and supervision of all campus housing services and personnel.

The **Assistant Director of Housing Operations** is instrumental in planning, operation, and implementation of student housing to ensure a positive, healthy, and safe living and learning environment for the students.

Area Coordinators are live-in staff members assisting in the development of students in the residential communities and managing the safety and security of the residents. The Area Coordinator is responsible for the general development, administration, and supervision of the student staff in the community.

Resident Assistants (RAs) work to establish a safe and accepting environment for his or her residential community by offering support, information, and opportunities for education and entertainment throughout the year.



Residence life staff, 2019-2020

FIRST-YEAR RESIDENCE HALL FEATURES

All first-year residence halls have laundry facilities and Wifi. Single rooms have one extra-long twin bed, one closet, one dresser, one desk and chair. Double rooms have two extra-long stackable twin beds, two closets, two dressers, two desks with chairs. Each room also has Wifi, ethernet access (bring your own ethernet cord), and digital cable TV access. The individual residence halls also have the following features:

	Brown	Gibson	Laurel	Myers	Turner
Residents	single gender	single gender	co-ed	co-ed	single gender
Room arrangement	suite-style, double and single rooms	double rooms	both single and double	double rooms	suite-style, double and single rooms
Bathroom	suite-style	community	community	community	private bathroom for each two rooms
Floors in the building	two	three	three	four	three
Typical room size	9' x 13'	14' x 16'	16' X 14'	12' x 13'6"	9' x13' single
Windows per room	one or two	one or two	one	one	one or two
Window coverings	mini-blinds	Venetian blinds	mini-blinds	mini-blinds	mini-blinds
Common spaces	full community kitchen, TV lounge, and study lounge	TV lounge and study lounge	full community kitchen, TV lounge	TV lounge and study lounge	full community kitchen, TV lounge, and study lounge
Elevator	no	no	yes	no	no
Air conditioning	yes	no	yes	no	yes
Flooring	tile in bedrooms, carpet in common areas	tile	carpet	tile	carpet
Heat	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

***Please note the availability of some residence halls is subject to be changed based on enrollment and occupancy needs.**

BROWN RESIDENCE HALL



Brown is a premium residence hall for first-year students. Renovated in 2002, most of Brown's rooms are in a suite-style configuration. Brown Hall has two suite configurations; one single room and one double room with a private bathroom joining the two and two single rooms with a private bathroom joining the two. Brown also has four mini apartments. Each apartment holds four residents, with two single rooms and one double room. The apartments also have a communal living area. Free laundry is located on the street level (second floor). Brown is a sister hall to Turner.



GIBSON RESIDENCE HALL



Gibson is a standard community-style residence hall for first-year students. Built in 1969, Gibson has three floors equipped with double rooms and two communal hall bathrooms on each floor with multiple stalls, showers, and sinks. Located on the second floor is a TV lounge and a study lounge. Free laundry can be found on the third floor for all residents. Gibson is known for having some of the largest rooms on campus.



LAUREL RESIDENCE HALL



Laurel is a premium community-style residence hall for first-year students. Built in 2013, Laurel is one of the newest residence halls on campus. Laurel has three floors equipped with double rooms and four communal hall bathrooms per floor with multiple stalls, showers, and sinks. On the second floor, residents can enjoy a large TV lounge where students often gather for movie nights. Free laundry is located on the first floor for all residents.



MYERS RESIDENCE HALL



Myers is a standard community-style residence hall for first-year students. Built in 1955, it has four floors, each equipped with double rooms and two communal hall bathrooms per floor with multiple stalls, showers, and sinks. On the first floor is a community area with a pingpong and foosball table. Free laundry is located in the basement of the building for all residents.



TURNER RESIDENCE HALL



Turner is a premium residence hall for first-year students. Renovated in 2002, most of Turner's rooms are in a suite-style configuration. Turner Hall has two suite configurations; one single room and one double room with a private bathroom joining the two and two single rooms with a private bathroom joining the two. Turner also has four mini apartments. Each apartment holds four residents, with two single rooms and one double room. The apartments also have a communal living area. Free laundry is located on the street level (second floor).



TEN *LION LIFE* TIPS FOR LIVING ON CAMPUS

Living on campus allows students to fully embrace the college experience. Staying in a residence hall can provide plenty of opportunities to meet new people and join school activities. Check out the following tips to prepare yourself for on-campus living, and get advice about packing, getting along with your roommate, and staying safe.

1. Explore your options.

Campus housing options can vary between residence halls. Learn about the various residence halls, and the cost of the housing options, noting which features could impact your campus experience.

2. Be thoughtful about what you move.

If you're moving into a relatively small room that you will share with another person, don't bring everything you own to your campus home. Even if your living space is larger, bring only what you really need. Coordinate with any roommates on what to bring so that you don't have two or three of everything in your dwelling.

3. Get to know your new surroundings.

If it's possible to visit the place you will be living before school begins, try to do that. An early visit can help you decide what you will need and how you should plan for new routines. If that isn't possible, be sure to take advantage of any residence hall orientation events. Lion Life is a good opportunity to make your way around school grounds and get your bearings.

4. Know the rules.

Regardless of whether you live in a residence hall, a university-managed apartment, or another type of campus housing, it's very likely there are certain rules in place meant to protect students. Individuals who violate student housing rules risk eviction from a residence, academic suspension, or worse. Policies and procedures can usually be located on the university's residence life website.

5. Be a good roommate.

Most college students who live on campus have at least one roommate sometime during their academic career. If you are planning to live with another person (or multiple people), things are likely to go a lot more smoothly if you make an effort to be respectful and helpful. Keep things neat. Pitch in on shared chores. Respect others' privacy. In short, do things you appreciate others doing for you.

6. Pack your patience.

No matter how hard you work to be a good roommate, it's possible that someone you live with will make things hard—for both of you. During difficult times, keep a level head. Talk calmly about what's bothering you, and seek compromise on tough issues. If things get too difficult, there are Resident Assistants and Area Coordinators to help navigate those difficult conversations.

7. Join campus activities.

Need to get away from your roomie for a while? Get involved in plenty of activities, either through your residence hall association or elsewhere on campus. With wide-ranging student clubs and events, there's no need to stay in. Even if you get along really well with the people you live with, university activities can introduce you to different types of people you may have never met before.

8. Make your way off campus.

Student clubs and activities can help make living on campus a special time, but it's a good idea to also spend time off school grounds. Campus can begin to seem like a bubble, and you might begin to feel claustrophobic. Go into the city and find some cultural and entertainment events that spark your interest. Find a museum or a park that you can visit when you need to get away from school.

9. Stay connected with others.

You're at college to learn, have a good time, and develop into the person you want to be. That doesn't mean you have to leave everyone from the past behind, however. In fact, tapping into the support system you had in place before moving to campus can be a big help if any difficulties do come up at school. Family members and friends can provide advice and perspective on hard issues.

10. Stay safe.

This is the last tip here, but it's obviously the most important. Employ basic tactics that can help keep you safe: Always lock your door. Don't let anyone you don't know into your residence. Never loan your key to anyone. Don't prop open community doors that should be locked. Travel with a friend during nighttime hours. If you ever feel unsafe, Campus Security will assist you.

LIVING THE *LION LIFE* WITH ROOMMATES

While getting out of your parents' home might seem like a dream come true, you will still have to deal with new challenges while living on campus. The good news is that there are some steps you can take to make sure you live in a happy environment with your roommate(s).

It doesn't matter if you're living with friends, acquaintances, or complete strangers. There can always be problems when living in close quarters with other people. While you will certainly have to deal with various issues, it's how you handle them, and even try to prevent them, that will make the biggest difference in whether you have a happy or tension-filled home.

Set Ground Rules

Many problems can arise when roommates just make assumptions about things, like how to accomplish cleaning responsibilities or when it's too late to have company over. When you first move into a residence hall or apartment, have all the roommates sit down to get on the same page with day-to-day activities. Discuss how you will schedule cleaning and bathroom use for getting ready in the morning, as well as how late visitors can stay, and whether or not you will share food. Setting ground rules is a great way to avoid misunderstandings later on.

Create Open Lines of Communication

Acknowledge right from the start that disagreements are inevitable. It's important to feel comfortable coming to each other to have adult discussions in order to resolve disagreements. Make a pact that if anything comes up, you will sit down and have a conversation about it to see what middle ground can be reached. Keeping your feelings bottled up will just result in resentment and make it difficult to get along.

Be Self Aware

Part of communication with roommates includes knowing what kind of person you are. Are you a night owl or a late sleeper? What kind of music do you like? Do you prefer to study at home in complete silence? Make sure you bring up some of your personality traits when you set ground rules at the beginning. Also, be aware that you are sure to have some bad habits that get under your roommate's skin. Be open to any criticisms your roommate has of your behavior, and he or she will be more likely to understand criticisms you have to give.

Be Willing to Compromise

When living with others, you can't have everything exactly the way you want it. For instance, maybe you typically prefer to have all dishes washed, dried,

and put away immediately, whereas your roommates might wash them and put them in a dish rack to dry. Compromise in situations like this where, even if you are a bit irritated, you can maintain the peace with your roommate(s). And, at the end of the day, remember that at least the dishes are getting washed!

Positive Communication Is Essential

When having discussions with roommates, actively listen. Any discussion will go much smoother if everyone genuinely pays attention to what's being said. Take responsibility for your feelings by using 'I feel' statements. Have a solution to propose when you bring up any issues. Say what's bothering you and what you want to happen, rather than just dwelling on the problem.

Don't Sweat the Small Stuff

Particularly after a long day of classes and homework, it can be easy to get irritated about the smallest thing, like a roommate using up the toilet paper and not changing the roll. But if it's an infrequent incident, there's no point in blowing up about it. Do you really want to make a big deal out of something that took you less than a minute to take care of? It is always important to pick your battles.

Get to Know Your Roommates

Learning about your roommates may help you understand the way they operate in daily life. If you are perfect strangers to begin with, you might find you have some common interests that make your time together more fun. The better you know each other and the more comfortable you are, the easier it will be to work through any issues that come up.

Be Considerate

Being considerate can make a huge difference in any living situation. Extend respect and consideration to others and you will find the same respect and consideration returned to you. This could mean giving roommates a heads-up about an overnight guest, or turning down the volume on the TV late at night. It also means respecting common space by wiping up toothpaste messes in the bathroom sink, even if you don't think it's necessary.

Enjoy Yourself!

Living with other people can lead to personal growth. If you keep a positive outlook, you are more likely to get through any drama with ease. Treat your time living in a residence hall as a learning opportunity and a chance to make great friends!

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