

# Housing & Food Agreement

2024-2025 Academic Year

Dickinson College



## PLEASE READ THIS DOCUMENT CAREFULLY

It is a legal and binding agreement between you and Dickinson College.

### RESIDENTIAL PHILOSOPHY

All full-time enrolled first-year students, sophomores, juniors, and seniors are required to live in College housing and participate in a College meal plan. The residential learning environment offers rich opportunities for students' intellectual and social growth and development. These opportunities include making connections with students whose life experiences are different from your own, actively participating in your residential community, and living into the values of a Dickinsonian. This document is intended to explain the terms and conditions under which Dickinson students are provided with these opportunities and services.

### EXCEPTIONS TO THE FOUR-YEAR RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT

Exceptions to the residency and meal plan requirements are made for students who meet any one of the following criteria:

- Student is studying abroad for the semester,
- Student is married and living with spouse, or
- Student has been granted commuter status because they are living with a parent/guardian at their permanent address (i.e., used for tax purposes) within 25 miles of the campus.

Requests for additional exceptions may be made to the Associate Director of Campus Life for Residence Life & Housing.

### OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Residing in College housing brings with it certain obligations and responsibilities. This document, together with the Student Handbook and regulations, policies and procedures published by the Division of Student Life, constitute the agreement (the "Agreement" or "Housing and Food Agreement") between you (the "Student") and Dickinson College. By signing this Agreement, you are accepting and agreeing to comply with its terms. Submission of this Agreement electronically shall have the same legal force and effect as submission by mail or in person. The Agreement, including other material incorporated by link or reference, is subject to change as deemed necessary by the College without prior notice.

### NATURE OF RELATIONSHIP

Your occupancy of College housing is dependent upon your status as a properly registered, full-time enrolled Student in good standing with the College - academically, financially, and from a disciplinary perspective. Your occupancy is a non-possessory license for use of a space and shall not be construed as a lease. If, at any time during a semester, you drop below full-time status (fewer than three classes), you may not remain in College housing unless you are granted permission to do so by the Associate Director of Campus Life for Residence Life & Housing. Students who reside in College housing are required to enroll in one of the Meal Plans described in the section on Dining Services.

### TERM OF THE AGREEMENT

Other than students studying away from campus or on hiatus for the fall semester, this Agreement becomes effective on the date the student moves into housing for the fall semester, but in no event later than **August 31, 2024**, and continues through **May 14, 2025**, the last day of examinations in the spring semester. For students returning from study away or hiatus in the spring semester this Agreement becomes effective on the date the student moves into housing for the spring semester, but in no event later than **January 18, 2025** and continues through **May 14, 2025**. Graduating seniors are permitted to remain in residence until **May 18, 2025**. For Students moving into housing for the fall semester, the Student becomes fully liable for payment of the established rates for assigned housing effective on the actual move-in date, but in no event later than **August 31, 2024**. For Students moving into housing for the spring semester, the Student becomes fully liable for payment of the established rates for assigned housing effective on the actual move-in date, but in no event later than **January 18, 2025**. The Agreement shall remain in full force and effect for the remainder of the academic year unless the Student is released from it by the College.

## DATES OF OCCUPANCY

Students living in College-provided housing are permitted to move into their semester assignment no sooner than the Saturday prior to the start of classes each semester. Unless approved for an early return at the request of the College, any student returning to campus before the established return date for their class year may be subject to a fee for their early return.

Exceptions are made for:

- Athletes who must return earlier to participate in training camp or competitions, and for whom the prior approval and sponsorship (i.e., charges for Housing and Food) of the Athletic Department has been obtained;
- Students working for campus offices, with the prior approval of their supervisor and sponsorship of the concerned department;
- New students participating in an orientation program or students assisting with orientation programs, with the approval of the director of those programs.

Student housing remains open during the following break periods: Fall Pause; Thanksgiving Vacation; and Spring Vacation. Dates for these periods are posted on the College's web site at:

[https://www.dickinson.edu/info/20184/academic\\_offices\\_and\\_resources/3546/2023-2024\\_academic\\_calendar](https://www.dickinson.edu/info/20184/academic_offices_and_resources/3546/2023-2024_academic_calendar)

During these breaks, students may remain in their assigned rooms at no additional cost. However, Dining facilities and Facilities Management staff are unavailable with the exception of Fall Pause, and Campus Life may require students to register in order to remain on campus.

During Winter Vacation students are not permitted to remain on campus without approval from Campus Life. Certain Winter sport athletes are permitted to return to campus on the date established by the Athletic Department. Please be aware that if you are approved to remain on campus during this time, you may be charged a nominal fee.

Unless you have permission to remain in College housing for certain approved reasons, you are expected to leave campus each semester no later than within 24 hours after your last exam or by noon on the designated closing date for residence halls (fall semester: December 22, 2024 & spring semester: May 14, 2025), whichever comes first. If you require an exception to this policy, you must make a request in writing to the Associate Director of Campus Life for Residence Life & Housing seven days prior to the closing date of the residence halls. In the spring semester, students who are graduating are permitted to remain in College housing until 7:00 p.m. on the Sunday of Commencement Weekend (May 18, 2025). Students who are assisting with Commencement Weekend must be sponsored by a campus office and receive permission from the Associate Director of Campus Life for Residence Life & Housing to remain in College housing for part or all of Commencement Weekend.

## FEES

Fees for housing and meal plans ("Housing and Food") are payable according to the payment schedule published by the Student Accounts Office and published at:

[http://www.dickinson.edu/info/20082/financial\\_operations/1436/annual\\_fees\\_tuition\\_room\\_board](http://www.dickinson.edu/info/20082/financial_operations/1436/annual_fees_tuition_room_board)

There are five housing rates: double occupancy, single occupancy, triple/quad occupancy, apartment double/triple/quad, or single apartment. Students will be charged the rate according to the housing they select or accept. Students who are granted certain housing accommodations for a specific type of room will be charged the double room rate.

A student who is not in good financial standing may be prohibited from selecting a room for the upcoming semester.

## DINING SERVICES

Students residing in College housing or returning from Study Abroad must select a meal plan offered by the College. Your selection or a default to the standard food plan Traditional Board (Traditional Board - Any 21 meal plan ) meal plan will be locked in at 4 p.m. the Friday before classes start. Meal plan selections available to you are determined by your housing assignment. Students with food allergies and special dietary needs are required to have a meal plan and are directed to Access and Disability Services (ADS) to apply for dietary accommodations if desired: [https://www.dickinson.edu/info/20236/disability\\_services/1201/dietary\\_accommodations](https://www.dickinson.edu/info/20236/disability_services/1201/dietary_accommodations).

The meal plans become active at dinner on the Saturday prior to the start of classes for fall semester and at dinner on the Sunday prior to the start of classes for spring semester. **Final meal plan selection must be entered and completed through Gateway using Student Forms, no later than 4:00 p.m. the Friday before classes begin.** Meal plans are not active during academic breaks and vacations and Dining Services locations are closed for maintenance and deep-cleaning. Meal plans are prorated for shorter weeks at Thanksgiving vacation, spring vacation, and after spring semester final exams. Dining Services will adjust or reduce hours and places of operation leading into breaks and vacations. Additionally, you agree to the terms and definitions of meal plans and Dining Services operations as written on the Dining Meal Plan page and linked, related pages at

[https://www.dickinson.edu/info/20205/campus\\_dining/188/meal\\_plans\\_-\\_for\\_use\\_on\\_campus\\_-\\_no\\_restaurants](https://www.dickinson.edu/info/20205/campus_dining/188/meal_plans_-_for_use_on_campus_-_no_restaurants). Dining Services

offices are located in the Holland Union Building Suite 207 and more information can be found online at: [http://www.dickinson.edu/homepage/346/campus\\_dining](http://www.dickinson.edu/homepage/346/campus_dining).

## NETWORK AND TV SERVICES

**Network:** The college offers wired and/or wireless network and Internet services in all residential spaces. Users are responsible for abiding by technology policies noted here: [https://www.dickinson.edu/info/20198/technology\\_services/2213/technology\\_policies](https://www.dickinson.edu/info/20198/technology_services/2213/technology_policies).

**TV Programming:** The College will provide basic television programming in residential spaces that includes local broadcast networks (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX) and educational language programming.

Information about suggested network access requirements, available device support, and related technology services can be found on the Information and Technology Services web site at <http://lis.dickinson.edu/>

## MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS

The Office of Facilities Management maintains all College facilities. Students requiring work in individual rooms may submit a work order through the Facilities Management website at: [https://www.dickinson.edu/homepage/74/facilities\\_management](https://www.dickinson.edu/homepage/74/facilities_management). Work requests should not be submitted directly to Facilities or Facilities staff members via email. There is no guarantee that emailed requests will be received and addressed in a timely manner. For emergency repairs during business hours, please call the Facilities Management office at (717) 245-1212 or call the Department of Public Safety (DPS) for after-hours emergencies.

You are not permitted to make modifications or your own repairs to the College's residential facilities.

Facilities Management provides housekeeping services for all lounges, corridors, stairways, and common bathrooms in facilities excluding individual bedrooms, common areas in some suites (e.g., Malcolm and Witwer Halls), apartments, and designated small houses. You are responsible for the cleanliness of your own room and any common areas not cleaned by Facilities Management staff. You are responsible for any excess mess, more than created by normal use or traffic, created in an area normally cleaned by Facilities Management staff. If you need cleaning supplies, please submit a work order for such through the process described above.

If you are living in an apartment style space, you are responsible for maintaining the entire apartment's cleanliness and condition of College furniture and for ensuring that the refrigerator, stove, and similar equipment are kept in a clean and safe condition. If an apartment is found to be unsafe and/or unsanitary, the College will charge you for the costs of repair and/or replacement.

The College cannot guarantee that there will not be temporary failures of utility systems or defects caused by ordinary wear and tear. Instead, the College's duty is limited to the exercise of best efforts to provide clean, safe lodging for students with utilities in good working order.

## FURNITURE

Each bedroom is furnished with a bed, desk, desk chair, bookshelf, and clothing storage including drawers and hanger space for each student. Furniture is not permitted to be removed. However, there are a few select spaces where furniture needs to be adjusted to accommodate the space. In these cases, we will work with the Student to figure out possible available options. There are several styles of furniture on campus, and even within a particular building, what is provided in one room may be different from others in the building and other buildings. Items will not be switched out for other styles. Houses and apartments are provided standard living and dining furniture adequate to serve the needs of the number of students living in the space. There is no guarantee that the soft seating will consist of a specific size or style.

## ENTRY AND INSPECTION OF STUDENT ROOMS

The College reserves the right to enter any room at any time without advance notice for the purposes of inspection, repair, maintenance, protecting the health, safety, and security of residents and in cases of emergency, as determined by the College. Members of the Student Life staff, including members of the Department of Public Safety, or Facilities Management staff, may make entry. Submitting a work order to Facilities Management automatically grants permission for staff to enter space. If a certain time frame is desired, please specify that on the work order.

The College further reserves the right to inspect a room at any time and its contents for violation of College policies, Community Standards, or residence hall regulations. This includes, but is not limited to, possessing illegal substances or substances believed by the College to be illegal or conducting activities that could endanger the life, safety, order, or welfare of another person.

Routine health and safety inspections of residential spaces will be announced at least one day in advance of the inspection. During any such inspection of residential spaces, any evidence of violations of the Community's Standards may be confiscated and processed accordingly.

## FIRE SAFETY

Fire alarm systems and firefighting equipment are in the residence halls for the occupants' protection. Any tampering with or misuse of this equipment is prohibited and is in violation of the law. All fire safety equipment is tested on a regular basis.

Each residential facility is equipped with a smoke/fire alarm system. When a building's alarm sounds, all occupants are required to evacuate the building immediately. You must remain outside of the building until Department of Public Safety or Facilities Management personnel indicate that it is safe to reenter the building. Failure to evacuate may result in fines and/or disciplinary action.

## SMOKING

Smoking, including the use of e-cigarettes, is prohibited in all College buildings, including all areas of residential facilities. Individuals who wish to smoke must move at least twenty-five (25) feet from any building.

## DAMAGES

You are responsible for College property in your room and elsewhere in the residential facility. Charges related to extra cleaning, removal of property not original to the room, and repairs beyond normal wear and tear will be assessed. If such items cannot be attributed to a specific student or group of students, there is a rebuttable presumption that liability for such damages are the shared responsibility of all room, floor, or building residents.

For more information about residential damage, see

[http://www.dickinson.edu/info/20238/office\\_of\\_residence\\_life\\_and\\_housing/1284/housing\\_operations/10](http://www.dickinson.edu/info/20238/office_of_residence_life_and_housing/1284/housing_operations/10).

## REASSIGNMENT, VACANCIES, AND ROOM CHANGES

The College reserves the right to reassign students in order to make most efficient and beneficial use of available facilities, including the consolidation of spaces to create completely vacant rooms. Additionally, the occupancy of a room may be increased when, in the judgment of the College, it is necessary to do so to accommodate the housing needs of the student body.

You may be reassigned when your behavior violates the Community's Standards or the agreed upon standards of your floor, area, or building. Such reassignment may occur as a result of disciplinary action and/or administratively at the discretion of the Associate Director of Campus Life for Residence Life & Housing.

The exchange of rooms or substitution of one occupant for another without approval in writing from Campus Life is prohibited. A "room freeze" is in effect for the first two and last two weeks of each semester. During this time, no student-initiated room changes may take place. Other than during the "room freeze," when a vacancy occurs, you may request a specific roommate to fill that space. If no new roommate is identified, Campus Life will make the space available for general occupancy and may reassign a vacant space at any time. Campus Life will notify you as soon as plans are made to fill the vacancy in the room you are occupying. Behavior that discriminates against or impedes an interested student or assigned occupant will be considered a violation of the Community Standards and reviewed as such.

## SPECIAL INTEREST HOUSING

Each year a small number of rooms are available for occupancy by special interest groups. Special Interest Housing assignments are made in the spring semester prior to general room selection. For more information about Special Interest Housing, please get in touch with the Campus Life office at [reslife@dickinson.edu](mailto:reslife@dickinson.edu) or 717-245-1556. You can also visit this website for more information about this program: [https://www.dickinson.edu/info/20238/office\\_of\\_residence\\_life\\_and\\_housing/1271/special\\_interest\\_housing](https://www.dickinson.edu/info/20238/office_of_residence_life_and_housing/1271/special_interest_housing).

## STUDY AWAY

When a student is permitted to study away (i.e., away from the Carlisle campus) the student forfeits their on-campus room assignment for the semester(s) for which they are studying away from campus. If your plans change, you must immediately notify the Center for Global Study & Engagement and Campus Life. Campus Life staff will work with you to find another housing assignment for the semester(s) in question.

Students who study away only for the fall semester must contact Campus Life no later than November 11, 2024 regarding housing preferences for the spring semester. Options are limited in the spring semester, but all students returning from abroad will be housed on campus.

Students who study away for the spring semester or for the full academic year may select a proxy to represent them in the room selection process. Students must provide Campus Life with written (including electronic mail) notification of their proxy no later than April 11, 2025. Proxies must be current students at Dickinson College who are eligible to participate in the room selection process. It is your responsibility to talk to your proxy about preferences for room selection. Campus Life will not act as proxy and select a room for students who do not or are unable to attend room selection.

## CANCELLATION

Students who have been assigned to a housing space and who choose not to return to Dickinson College for the upcoming semester must notify the Associate Director of Campus Life for Residence Life & Housing no later than August 1, 2024 for the fall semester and January 1, 2025 for the spring semester.

Students who voluntarily leave Dickinson College during a semester will receive a prorated refund according to the schedule and policies published by Student Accounts. The Associate Director of Campus Life for Residence Life & Housing will notify Student Accounts when the student has vacated their room and the room key has been returned to Campus Life.

Students who involuntarily leave the College are not provided a refund of any fees, including housing fees.

## LIABILITY

The College cannot and does not assume responsibility for personal accident, injury, or illness to residents, guests, or visitors, or for damage, theft, or loss of personal property. Therefore, you hereby release the College, its trustees, officers, agents, insurers and employees from any liability on account of any accident, injury, illness, property damage, theft or loss not caused by the College's gross negligence, intentional act, or omission. You also agree to indemnify the College for any and all costs and fees, including court costs and attorney fees, associated with any actions for injury to person or property brought against the College by any of your guests or visitors due to conduct or causes not rising to the level of gross negligence, intentional act, or omission by the College. You are encouraged to protect yourself from loss by purchasing appropriate insurance. In that regard, you should review any homeowner's policy that you or your family might have to determine whether the contents of your College room are already covered or could be covered with a relatively inexpensive policy rider.

## RESIDENTIAL LIVING GUIDELINES & POLICIES

Policies regarding prohibited items, quiet hours, fire safety, pets, and other areas are covered in the Student Handbook. It is your responsibility to be familiar with and abide by these policies. The most recent list of these policies will be available no later than the start of each semester in the online version of the Student Handbook at [https://www.dickinson.edu/info/20226/student\\_life/1549/student\\_handbook](https://www.dickinson.edu/info/20226/student_life/1549/student_handbook).

## KEYS

You will be assigned a key(s) that will allow you access to your building and individual room. No key may be duplicated nor transferred to any other person. Failure to return the key(s) upon departure from the room/apartment or losing a key to the room/apartment during the semester will result in a charge billed to you to change the key(s) and lock cylinder(s).

## TERMINATION

Breach of the Agreement. The College may unilaterally terminate the Agreement for the breach of any term or condition by you.