

HOPE COLLEGE



RETURNING STUDENT HOUSING GUIDE



Where can I live?

Hope housing is designed to grow with you as a student. First and second-year students at Hope typically live in a residence hall. This allows you to meet new people, understand what it's like to live in a community, and solidify a smaller group of people to transition into a cottage or apartment with. Most of our housing is based on a double/triple room occupancy in facilities without air conditioning. Additionally, we house students by floor or unit based on biological sex. (If you have specific needs for your housing, make sure you read the "Requesting a Housing Accommodation" section.)

In your third year and beyond, many students transition into a cottage or apartment. This allows students to move into an environment with their smaller community of friends and live more independently with the security of the college staff and facilities to support them. In cottages and apartments, students learn to clean and care for a home. Some students choose to make some or all of their meals. They experience living with a group of people with whom they are friends. This type of living helps them gain skills in supporting people, giving/receiving feedback, and working through frustrations and differences together.

How do I fill out my Housing Application?

All students, with the exception of graduating seniors, must fill out the Housing Application for the upcoming 2025-2026 academic year. The deadline to complete your 2025-2026 Housing Application is February 14, 2025.

Within the housing application, you will be able to inform us of your housing plans, including living in on-campus housing, choosing to stay in your current location (restrictions apply), attending a Fall off-campus study program, or applying for off-campus/parent commuter status. To access the Housing Application:

- Log into your [Hope Housing Portal](#), select HOPE-Student SSO Login, using your Hope Credentials (including @hope.edu)
- In the header at the top of your portal, select "Housing Application."
- Select "Academic Year 2025-2026"

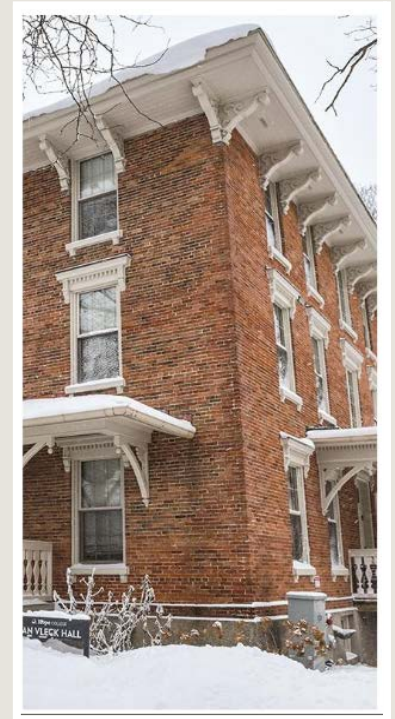
Please note that your [Hope Housing Portal](#) has been updated and will look different. Please follow the instructions above to access your application. Email housing@hope.edu with any questions.

How do I live in a residence hall?

Students who are not housed during the Cottage/Apartment process will be entered into the Open Room Selection process (more detailed info found [here](#)). This process will be held in-person on April 8 and 9.

For Open Room Selection, you will be randomly assigned a Room Selection number and arrival time based on how many years you have been in college attendance. This number will dictate the time you will be selecting your room. All women will select their rooms on Tuesday, April 8 and all men will select their rooms on Wednesday, April 9. A few notes about Open Room Selection:

- When you select a room, you will name your roommate. After receiving your Room Selection numbers, you and your roommate should select your room using the lowest number assigned to you.
- All hall rooms will not be available to select at Open Room Selection. Rooms where students elect to remain in the next academic year (see page 5) as well as rooms strategically selected for incoming first year students will not be included in open room selection.



How do I live in a cottage or apartment?

In many cottages, the RA of the cottage names the people who will be living with them. However, most RAs oversee their cottage as well as neighboring cottages, which allows us to put many cottages into the Apartment/Cottage Application process. Apartment complexes have one to two RAs per complex leaving the rest to be assigned in the Apartment/Cottage process.

Only current enrolled returning students are eligible to apply in the [Apartment/Cottage application](#) process. New incoming and transfer students are not eligible to participate in this housing process.

Open apartments and cottages are distributed to students based on the group's cumulative earned credit score. Because of the varied sizes of apartments/cottages, there are multiple due dates to be considered for different size configurations.

Students planning to apply for an apartment or cottage need to fill out the Housing Application in their [Hope Housing Portal](#). Select "Entering the selection process for a hall, cottage or apartment" within the application and click Save/Continue to complete the rest of the application.

After filling out your Housing Application, you will be eligible to apply for available apartments and cottages. These applications will open on **Monday, February 3**, with rolling deadlines based on apartment/cottage size.

If you would like to apply for an apartment/cottage:

- Identify the people you want to live with. Students must be currently enrolled returning students.
- Submit the completed appropriate apartment/cottage application from the listing below. Only one application may be submitted per group. No applications will be accepted if there are “openings” in the application (10 students on a 10-person application, etc).
- You will need to list the earned credits for each student on the application at the end of Fall 2024. *You can view your earned credits on your plus.hope.edu account on your Unofficial Transcript.* Credits you are currently taking during the spring semester **do not** count towards this total.
- **Note:** Students who have been approved to commute, live off-campus, are attending a fall study abroad program, or have been named to live with a RA in a different location **cannot** apply/be named in an application.

The Housing Office will then:

- Distribute apartments/cottages to the top credit bearing group and will continue down the list until all have been distributed, giving consideration to balance the amount of male/female groups who receive an apartment/cottage.
- If you receive an apartment/cottage, your group will be sent an email stating the apartment/cottage you received. You have by noon the following day to confirm if you would like the unit. If it is not confirmed by then, your group will forfeit your awarded unit, and it will be given to the next group.
- After you have confirmed you want the unit, the housing office will assign each person listed on the application to the specific cottage or apartment awarded.

If you do not receive an apartment/cottage, you can reconfigure your group and apply for an apartment/cottage process that is still available. If at the completion of the apartment/cottage process you do not receive an apartment or cottage, you will be automatically entered into the [Open Room Selection](#) process which will be held on April 8 and 9.

Apartment/Cottage Applications and Due Dates - *Please submit only one application for your group per application process.*

- [14 - Person Apartment/Cottage Application](#) - Due by February 19, 2025 by 5pm
- [2 - Person Apartment/Cottage Application](#) - Due by February 19, 2025 by 5pm
- [10-Person Apartment/Cottage Application](#) - Due by February 21, 2025 by 5pm
- [8 - Person Apartment/Cottage Application](#) - Due by February 24, 2024 by 5pm
- [3 - Person Apartment/Cottage Application](#) - Due by February 26, 2024 by 5pm
- [7 - Person Apartment/Cottage Application](#) - Due by February 28, 2024 by 5pm
- [6 - Person Apartment/Cottage Application](#) - Due by March 3, 2025 by 5pm
- [4 - Person Apartment/Cottage Application](#) - Due by March 5, 2025 by 5pm
- [5 - Person Apartment/Cottage Application](#) - Due by March 7, 2024 by 5pm

Any rooms not filled by RAs or in the Open Apartment/Cottage process will be listed in the Open Room Selection process outlined in the “How Do I Live in A Residence Hall” section.

How do I request off-campus or parent commuter status?

Because we are a residential college, we value the learning, relationships, and community students gain while living on campus. In a student's fourth year at Hope, they can choose to continue living on campus or seek off-campus housing. Seeking off-campus housing gives students the opportunity to continue growing in independence while remaining on campus gives you unique housing options, without the hassle of year-long leases and landlords, as well as continued guidance and support from the college.

For a number of personal reasons, some students may seek Parent Commuter Status. This allows students to attend Hope College while living at home with their parent or legal guardian. To request Parent Commuter permission, student's must be living within 35 miles of campus at their parent/guardian's primary address. If a student receives permission and it is determined that you are not living at your parent/guardian's primary residence, you will be subject to action through the student conduct process and if found responsible, you will be charged for on-campus housing for the entire academic year.

If you are interested in apply for Off-Campus/Parent Commuter Status for the 2025-2026 academic year, select either "Requesting Off-Campus Status" or "Requesting Parent Commuter Status" in the Housing Application within your Hope Housing Portal, and continue to fill out the application.

Before applying, please review the [Residential Life Housing Policy](#) to understand the criteria students need to meet in order to be eligible to request off-campus or parent commuter status.

The deadline to apply is Friday, February 14 at 5pm. If approved, you will receive an email confirming your housing status change.

Currently enrolled students interested in living off-campus or commuting from their parent's primary residence must apply annually. Students who meet the criteria below are eligible to request off-campus or parent commuter status..

- Student will be in their fourth year
- Student is 23 years old by the start of the academic year (August 25, 2025)
- Student is married with proof of marriage
- Student is the custodial parent of a minor child
- Student is commuting from their parent/legal guardian's primary residence which must be within 35 driving miles of campus

Choosing to live off campus or commuting can change your financial aid package. We encourage you to contact the [Financial Aid Office](#) at 616-395-7765 or finaid@hope.edu to verify any potential impact to your financial aid package before applying.

How do I stay in my current room?

If you are electing to stay in your current room, you will fill out the Housing Application in your [Hope Housing Portal](#). Select "Electing to stay in my existing residence hall room" within the application and click Save/Continue to complete the rest of the application.

You will also indicate the roommate that you would like to live with. This can be your current roommate, or you can name a new roommate to join you next academic year. If you do not indicate a roommate, the open space will be added to the Open Room Selection process.

*Note: Staying in your location is **not permitted** in Apartments, Cottages, Dykstra, Lichty, Scott, or single rooms in residence halls.*

What are housing costs?

Following final approval, housing costs for the upcoming year will be posted on the [Business Services website](#) within the next few weeks.

The pricing structure of cottages/apartments has been changed for next academic year. The cost of housing will be "tiered" based on characteristics such as amenities and square footage. Within the residence hall tiers, there will be a single, double, and triple room rate. Within the cottage and apartment tiers, there will be a shared room rate (double/triple) and a single room rate.

You can see the different tiers below:

Tier	General Definition
Standard Residence Hall	Classic residence halls (community bathrooms)
Premium Residence Hall	Cook Hall (AC and suite bathrooms) rooms with private/semi-private bathrooms
Standard Cottage/Apartment	Standard apartments No AC
Standard Plus Cottage/Apartment	Standard cottages, no AC Standard apartments with AC
Premium Cottage/Apartment	Cottages with AC 2-person or updated apartments
Premium Plus Cottage/Apartment	Cottages and apartments with premium amenities

You can see which tier units are projected to fall into in the [Housing Units and Details](#) spreadsheet.

What if I don't have a roommate?

As in past years, you can post information on [Looking For A Roommate](#). You can also look at other students' postings. Additionally, Residential Life will be hosting a Roommate Meet and Greet event in March (more details to follow), which will provide an opportunity to meet others who are looking for roommates.

If you do not have a roommate when you select your room, the Housing Office will look at your housing preferences and match you with a current student who does not have a roommate or an incoming transfer, new or exchange student who does not have a roommate.

What if I'm studying off-campus in fall?

We just need to know your plans! We ask that you fill out the Housing Application in your [Hope Housing Portal](#). Select "Studying off-campus (Abroad or Domestic) for Fall" within the application and click Save/Continue to complete the rest of the application.

For Spring 2026 housing, we will contact you in early November to make housing arrangements for the Spring semester when you are back on campus.

What if I have or need to request a housing accommodation?

Some people need specific types of housing or specific amenities in their housing because of a personal condition. If you have a condition that substantially limits major life activity (including allergies), you may be eligible for specific housing accommodations. To inquire and/or request housing accommodations, you must contact [Disability and Accessibility Resources](#) (DAR). DAR works with you to understand your needs, compile any necessary documentation, and make accommodation determinations. These determinations are given to Housing, and we identify housing that meets the accommodations.

In order to guarantee a housing placement for an approved accommodation, the above process must be completed for cottage, apartment, and residence halls by February 1, 2025. Any accommodations approved after these dates will be fulfilled as space becomes available.

Students who identify as transgender and have questions or concerns about their housing options should contact Associate Dean for Residential Life and Education Kristyn Bochniak at bochniak@hope.edu.

If you are concerned about the housing structure and do not have a condition that limits major life activities, please contact housing@hope.edu.