All unmarried first-year, second-year, and third-year students with residential admission status are required to live in the residence halls for six semesters (three-year), except (1) when permission is given by the Dean of Residence Life and Housing for the student to live with parents; (2) by special arrangement when space is not available on campus; (3) the student is admitted as a non-resident student; or (4) if the student has lost residence hall space because of a violation of their Housing Agreement or other disciplinary action.

Fifth-year and part-time students are ineligible for campus housing except when permitted to do so by the Office of Residence Life and Housing. Wake Forest University does not provide married couple or family housing. Resident undergraduate students are guaranteed campus housing for eight semesters dependent upon space availability.

Our communities are staffed with undergraduate Resident Advisers and directly managed by Graduate Hall Directors who are supervised by Residence Life Coordinators. The Residence Life team is overseen by an Assistant Director of Residence Life who reports to the Director of Residence Life.

For more information about the Office of Residence Life and Housing or processes and policies, please visit their website at rlh.wfu.edu.

Off-Campus Housing

Petition to be Released. Students requesting to be released from the University’s residency requirement must petition for approval to reside off-campus. Additionally, students who wish change their residency status (on-campus to off-campus day) to live with parents at their permanent home in the Winston-Salem area may petition to be released.

Exceptions to the residency requirement for reasons other than living at home in the Winston-Salem area are typically very rare and only granted for individually compelling circumstances. If your petition to move off-campus is granted, you are reclassified as a non-resident student and will no longer eligible for any part of guaranteed campus housing (including Greek Block housing).

Students who are discovered to have moved off-campus without receiving prior permission will, minimally, have their class registration held (or possibly canceled), risk financial penalties, and be required to submit an application for review. If the application is approved, the student will receive a warning similar to those students who have had a law enforcement officer visit their residence. If the application is denied, the student will need to apply to return to campus housing (based on space availability).

Off-Campus Address Registration. Eligible students choosing to live off-campus must register their residential address, thereby declaring their compliance with the University’s off-campus housing policy. Enrollment and registration for classes each semester are conditioned upon verification of compliance by the Office Residence Life and Housing. All students living off-campus, including those living in apartment complexes, will be required to provide addresses.

City of Winston-Salem ordinances state that there shall be no more than four (4) individuals that are not related by blood, adoption, or marriage living together in a single-family dwelling unit. The Office of Residence Life and Housing will monitor the number of students that are granted permission to reside in residential areas zoned for these units. The office will, at no time, grant permission to any individual(s) to exceed the number, nor is there an appeal process to do so.

Students currently residing, or desiring to move, off-campus must register their address each year to comply with the policy and to ensure individual records are updated. Though a student has registered to reside off-campus, the application submitted is purely a request, and it should not be inferred that approval has been received. Students whose applications are approved will receive written notification. Once a student has been approved to reside off-campus, the local address provided is valid for one academic year only. Additionally, if a student changes location of residency, they must re-register their address and check to make sure that the location of residency is approved.

Continuing enrolled students who do not re-register to reside off-campus (prior to the expiration of the original approved local address) will have a hold placed on future class registration processes (or may risk having their registration canceled) until approval is received.

Students who previously lost, or lose during the current academic term, campus housing due to judicial sanctions also need to register to reside off-campus. Other populations of students who need to register upon acceptance to the University include transfer or any student classified with non-resident student status.