

Fort Valley State University
On-Campus Residency Requirement and Exemption Policy

National research shows that students who live in residence halls tend to experience greater academic and personal success during their college experience; therefore Fort Valley State University has instituted the following policy.

On-Campus Residency Requirements:

- All full-time students, under the age of 21, who have earned fewer than 60 hours of academic credit must live on-campus and subscribe to an applicable dining requirement.
- Students must be 21 by the first day of class.
- *Students enrolled in full-time on-line classes and those who reside at the legal permanent address of their parents/guardians and live within the following counties **Peach, Houston, Bibb, Macon, Crawford, or Taylor** are exempt from this policy with parental/guardian approval.*
- Students may apply for an exemption to this policy provided they meet certain established criteria. All required documentation must be submitted before the review of the exemption will begin.

A student may request an exception to the On-Campus Residency Requirement based upon one of the following Exemption Criteria:

- **Married:** Students in this category must submit a copy of a valid marriage certificate.
- **Single Parent:** Students in this category must submit a copy of the child's/children's birth certificate(s) and/or adoption paperwork and documentation demonstrating majority custody of the child/children.
- **Special Circumstances:** Students in this category must submit a written petition noting specifically why they should be granted an exemption to the housing residency requirement. Examples of situations that would ***not*** qualify for exemption include, but are not limited to, seasonal or other allergies that can be treated by allergy medications or leases entered into prior to an exemption being approved.

A student seeking an exemption to the On-Campus Residency Requirement must complete an Exemption Form and submit this form to the Office of Residential Life, 1005 State University Drive, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030, no later than 30 days prior to the first day of classes of the term in which the exemption is requested. Partial or incomplete submissions will not be considered. Submission of an On-Campus Residency Requirement Exemption Form does not guarantee, nor imply, that an exemption will be granted. Students should assume that their request has not been granted until they receive written notification of approval.

Students failing to submit an On-Campus Residency Requirement Exemption Form prior to the deadline will be assessed mandatory housing/dining fees.

Students who reside off-campus without meeting one or more of the aforementioned criteria and receiving the appropriate approval will be held responsible for all room and board costs for the semesters in which they are enrolled without such an approval. *Students who have not been granted off-campus status are advised against signing a lease agreement for an off-campus residence. The Department of Residential Life will not recognize pre-arranged leases when determining the approval of an off-campus housing request.*

Students who have reached the age of 21 or earned 60 college credit hours by the first day of classes for the semester they intend to reside off campus do not need to apply for an exemption. **Students who sign an annual contract for housing in the Fall will be required to fulfill the terms of the contract (Fall & Spring) despite reaching the age of 21 or having earned 60 credit hours.**

All requests documenting a specific need related to the Americans with Disabilities Act will be reviewed by the Director of Academic Counseling and Differently-Abled Services, Ms. Joyce Brown in the Center for Retention Services. The office number is (478) 822-1072.