RESIDENCE LIFE GUIDE

Important information about life on campus at Central College
Why is living on campus such a big deal?

Living on campus not only helps you make more friends, but benefits you in other ways, as well! Research and experience indicates living on campus is a key component to students’ social and academic connection to the school, which helps students get more involved with the campus, and achieve better academic success (Pascarella & Terenzini, 1991; Tinto, 1992). Student involvement outside of the classroom has been linked to student learning and development, as well as persistence and retention (Astin, 1977, 1999; Tinto, 1993). It has been found that living on campus is one of the most influential pieces in a student deciding to return to school and earning his/her degree. Who doesn’t want that?

Tinto (1993) found that residence hall living contributes significantly to a student’s social life and experience on campus. “Out-of-class experiences enhance interpersonal skills, such as the ability to communicate and cooperate, which are being demanded strongly by employers” (Kuh, 1995).

We’re Here for You!

Assistant Dean of Students

- Overall management of campus housing, judicial affairs and campus safety
- Responsibilities include staff selection, training, supervision, judicial system training and advising, budget management, advising/referring students, promoting activities/student involvement and managing aspects of campus safety

Area Coordinators – professional staff, living on campus:

- Responsible for the building operations and staff they oversee
- Hire, train, supervise, and evaluate the Resident Advisors
- Maintain safety, including emergency response
- Plan and hold educational and social programs
- Implement leadership development initiatives including advising Hall Councils and theme and learning communities and more
- Follow-up on judicial incidents
- Help students with issues, needs, concerns, resources, and referrals
- Manage Hall/House budgets
- Follow up on facility/maintenance concerns
- Coordinate department processes such as housing sign-up, check-in/out, damage inspections, and billing

Resident Advisors – undergraduate students trained and supervised by professional staff:

- Serve as a resource to students
- Plan and implement educational and community programs; create bulletin boards
- Follow-up on roommate conflicts
- Attend Hall Council meetings and events; assist with leadership development and encouragement
- Conduct rounds in and around the building and confront incidents and policy violations
- Report facility/maintenance concerns
• Respond to fire alarms, emergencies, etc.
• Conduct floor meetings

Assignment Letters and Roommates

Assignment Letter

• Initial room assignments are mailed out in June each summer.
• If you are without a roommate after the semester begins, one may be assigned as additional students confirm their intent to attend Central, a roommate consolidation process will assist you in finding a living arrangement with another student who also does not have a roommate.
• Room changes may be requested/approved two weeks after classes begin.

Roommate Advice

• Talk with your roommate over the summer about room furnishings and appliances to see who will be bringing what. If you have duplicate items, you may not have enough room and will end up taking things back home. **Keep in mind, each room is only allowed one refrigerator.**
• Don’t assume your roommate has the same values and needs as you; get to know them over the summer, if you can!
• After moving in, complete a roommate agreement form and discuss guest visits, personal use of belongings, study time, privacy needs, cleaning, etc.
• Establishing a few ground rules and expectations with each other helps eliminate the annoyance and frustration that may occur.

Prior to Moving to Campus

To get conversation started, we recommend talking with your roommate about at least the following items:
• Regarding room setup: What items do you think we’ll need? Which are you willing to bring?
• If we have bunk beds, do you have a preference for the higher or lower bunk?
• How do you feel about sharing belongings?
• When do you plan to arrive?

Once You’ve Settled In

With so many new opportunities to experience including a new roommate, the first few days on campus will be exciting, confusing, fun, and sometimes challenging. In order to help you make the best of both your similarities and differences with your roommate, we have designed a **Roommate Agreement** form to help you begin to establish positive interactions. Your resident advisor (RA) will be coming to you within the first week of the semester to set up a time for your Roommate Agreement discussion. The RAs have good insight and useful ideas for setting up an effective agreement.

Communicating with your roommate can make move-in day easier. We strongly encourage you to have at least one conversation prior to arriving on campus to discuss the logistics of who is bringing what to the room and to begin building a relationship with your roommate. While it is important to remember that roommates don’t need to be best friends, it will always be an adjustment for all and the road to a strong relationship is often a little bumpy.

Cable and Internet:
Cable TV fees are included in the room costs and will only require you to bring a TV and a cable. Each room is equipped with two LAN internet ports. Additionally, Central’s campus is wireless.

**Room Condition Report**
Upon moving into the room, each resident will complete, sign, and return to his/her RA a room condition report within 24 hours. This room condition report will be an accurate and complete record of the contents and condition of the student’s room and will be used to assess damage charges upon move-out, if any are found. It is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT that students are VERY DETAILED on this report because any damages found upon check-out that are not recorded will be charged. Failure to complete the form(s) results in the resident’s assumption of responsibility for any damage evident in their room.

**Your Floor Community**
At your floor community meetings, you will have the opportunity to discuss issues of concern, ideas for group activities, agreements for how you will live together and other matters that impact your floor community. For example, different people have varying interpretations of acceptable noise levels. Approaching the person to talk about the issue can often lead to a resolution. Resident Advisors are available to assist in learning and practicing effective communication skills.

**Laundry Facilities**
Laundry facilities are provided in each residential building, typically located on the ground floor in a designated area. Costs are associated with the cost of living on campus, so you will not need to bring any quarters or other change to pay per load. Please keep in mind there are many students who need to use the same laundry facilities, be prompt with removing/switching loads, and make sure you are washing a full load.

Please also keep in mind that these machines are used frequently, and wear and tear is normal. To keep the machines running properly for as long as possible, be sure not to overload them. Do not pack clothing into the washers, it should be put in loosely, and only filled to the top holes of the drum. Central College’s machines are not big enough for most comforters and bedspreads.
About the Residence Halls

GAASS HALL – Co-ed Residence Hall

Room and Hall highlights:
- 156 students
- 1 bed/resident (mattress 36” X 80”)
- 1 three-drawer chest with a 1-shelf bookcase/resident
- 1 desk and desk chair /resident
- 1 main closet per room
- Average room dimensions: 14’ x 14’
- Furniture is movable and may be stacked and configured in 32 different arrangements to maximize living space.
- Windows have slim shades
- Tile floors
- 2 common area bathrooms on each floor
- Central lobby area with lounge furniture, TV, ping-pong table
- Laundry located in basement of building
- 24-hour computer lab
GRAHAM HALL - *Women’s Residence Hall*

Room and Hall highlights:

- 151 women
- 1 loftable bed/resident (mattress size 36” x 80”)
- 1 desk and desk chair/resident
- Most rooms have 2 closets
- 1 three-drawer chest/resident
- 1 bookshelf/resident
- Average dimensions: 12’ x 17’ (varies by room)
- Sinks with vanity in most rooms
- Windows have slim shades
- Building is Air-Conditioned
- Tile floors
- Two common area bathrooms on each corridor
- Laundry room on ground floor
- 24-hour computer lab
HOFFMAN HALL - Men’s Residence Hall

Room and Hall highlights:
- 47 men
- 1 loftable bed/resident (mattress size 36” x 80”)
- 1 three-drawer chest/resident
- 1 desk and desk chair/resident
- 1 wardrobe/resident
- Average dimensions: Single rooms: 10’ X 8’; Double rooms: 17’ x 10’
- Windows have slim shades
- Carpeted floors
- Common lounge on each floor
- Two common area bathrooms on each floor
- Laundry located in the east side of the basement
PIETENPOL HALL - *Men’s Residence Hall*

Room and Hall highlights:
- 96 men
- 1 loftable bed/resident (mattress size 36” x 80”)
- 1 desk and desk chair/resident
- 2 closets per room
- 1 three-drawer chest/resident
- 1 bookshelf/resident
- Average dimensions: 12’ x 15’
- Windows have slim shades
- Tile floors
- Common area bathrooms on each corridor
- Laundry facilities on second and third floors
- 24-hour computer lab
SCHOLTE HALL – Co-ed Residence Hall

Scholte Hall Rooms:
- Carpeted rooms
- 1 loftable bed/resident (mattress size 36” x 80”)
- 1 desk and desk chair/resident
- Windows have slim shades
- Building is Air-Conditioned
- Center floors: All floors (1st – 4th), room numbers ending in 21-37
  - (Example: room 121 = first floor center)
  - Average dimensions: 11’ X 12’ 3”
  - 1 three-drawer chest/resident
  - 1 moveable wardrobe/resident
  - 2 common area bathrooms per floor
- North and South Wings: All floors (Ground – 3rd), room numbers ending in 0-18 and 42-60
  - (Example: room 118 = first floor north; 242 = second floor south)
  - Average dimensions - 12’ x 14’ (built-in dresser drawers and large built-in closets are included in these dimensions)
  - Triple rooms are approximately 19’ x 13’ and have all moveable furniture (including movable wardrobes)
  - Single rooms are approximately 14’ 6” X 8’ and have a built-in wardrobe.
  - Suite-style living, every 2 or 3 rooms share a common bathroom
SUGGESTIONS OF THINGS TO BRING

The list below is intended to serve as a guideline of suggested items to bring to college. A big piece of advice from returning students is to discuss what you are bringing with your roommate to avoid bringing more than one of the same large items.

The Basic Necessities
- Bed sheets (twin, extra long 36” x 80”), pillow case
- Mattress pad
- Blankets, bed spread/comforter
- Pillows
- Towels and washcloths
- Alarm clock

Common Household Items
- Crates for storage
- Shelving system (no cinder/cement blocks please)
- Door memo board with 3M removable strips
- Lamps (standing and desk/clip-on – no halogen lamps)
- Carpet or rug (suggested if living in non-carpeted hall)
- Trash can and trash bags
- Large fan (suggested if living in a non air-conditioned hall)
- Plates, bowls, silverware, glasses
- Command strips/hooks (no nails or duct tape allowed)

Electronics
- Refrigerator (4.8 cubic feet or less); one per room only
- Cell phone charger
- Television and coaxial cable for wall
- Computer
Grooming Products

- Brush, comb, mirror
- Nail clippers, tweezers
- Cotton swabs
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss
- Deodorant
- Contact cleaner, solution
- Shampoo, soap, aftershave
- Hair dryer, curling iron
- Bathroom caddy
- Tissues

School Supplies

- Planner and calendar
- Calculator
- Backpack
- Pens, pencils, erasers, white out
- Rubber bands and paper clips
- Scotch Tape
- Post-It notes
- Stapler
- Markers/highlighters
- Scissors
- 3-hole punch
- Notebooks and folders
- Note cards

First Aid Supplies

- Aspirin/Tylenol/ibuprofen
- Band-Aids, disinfectant
- Cold medicine

Recreation and other supplies

- Leisure reading material
- Athletic equipment (gloves, balls, etc.)
- Gym bag, racquets, basketball, volleyball (outdoor courts)

Miscellaneous

- Batteries
- Outlet strips/power strips with surge protectors (extension cords are not allowed if they are not surge-protected)
- Can opener, chip clips, re-sealable plastic bags, other small kitchen utensils/storage
- Bicycle and lock
- Deck of cards, board games
- Cleaning supplies and paper towels
- Umbrella, sunglasses
• Money
• ATM card, checkbook, extra checks
• Hangers
• Iron, laundry detergent, fabric softener, stain remover
• Extra set of home or auto keys
• Sewing kit, safety pins, needle, thread
• Car kit (including jumper cables)

THINGS NOT TO BRING
For the health, safety and well-being of all, it is necessary that some items be restricted from possession or use in the Central College residence halls. Those items include:

• Pets: Only fish that live under water and do not need to come up for air are allowed in 10 gallon or less tanks. Pets are not allowed inside the facility for visits or any period of time. The only exceptions are service animals for individuals with visual or physical disabilities.
• Loft kits (homemade or purchased)
• Microwaves, which draw more than 5.8 amps or exceed 700 watts
• Air conditioners (Individuals with a medical need should have indicated the need on their housing application so they could be placed in a building with Air Conditioning)
• Refrigerators over 4.8 cubic feet in size or drawing more than 1.5 amps
• Weight equipment: Only vinyl coated dumbbells under 20 pounds are allowed. No other weight sets or exercise benches are allowed.
• Guns, knives and other items that can or are considered to be weapons (this includes paint ball guns and air-soft guns)
• Fireworks
• Alcoholic beverages (Central College does not condone alcohol consumption on campus by students of any age)
• Extension cords without a surge-protector function
• Candles (with or without a wick)
• Incense
• Open-element appliances such as toasters, space heaters, or electric skillets
• Halogen lamps
• Thumbtacks, nails, or duct tape intended for hanging items on the wall/ceiling
• Grills, lighter fluid, charcoal, kerosene, propane tanks