Welcome to the MSU family,

Greetings from the Residence Life Department and staff. Freshman/Transfer Orientation is an important introduction of the university services/programs to our incoming students and their families. Whether you were able to attend or not, we want to forward some important information to you.

During the Orientation Sessions, several representatives from our department spent time with your students in a formal presentation about the residence halls, and may have connected with them during hosted open-houses in each residence hall. We believe that one of the most critical and influential experiences in your student’s academic career will be the one they have in the residence halls. Although we have a large operation, (housing more than 4,200 students) our goal is to develop a personal and positive relationship with each student and their parents.

Throughout the 2017–2018 academic year, your student will experience many major successes and challenges. We rely on our partnership with you, the parents, to provide a positive outcome for our primary customers—students. Our reputation includes Montana hospitality and sincere concern for our students. If we may be of assistance, now or in the future, please don’t hesitate to call or email. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Jeff Bondy, Director of Residence Life
406-994-2661 • housing@montana.edu

The Residence Life presentations and tours during Orientation only last a few hours, but in that time, we give out a great deal of information. Some of it is addressed in this newsletter. Feel free to contact the Residence Life Office if you have further questions.

Residence Life & University Food Service
Hedges Complex
P. O. Box 172080
Bozeman, MT 59717-2080
406-994-2661
housing@montana.edu

For more information about on-campus living, see our web page at www.montana.edu/reslife

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**RESIDENCE LIFE STAFF**

Each hall is managed by a Resident Director (RD) who is a full-time professional and lives in the residence hall. The RD supervises the Resident Advisor (RA) staff and front desk operations. The RD is also responsible for hall discipline and is available to respond to emergency situations.

The RA is the staff member with whom your student will have the greatest amount of contact. RAs place a great deal of emphasis on getting to know each resident and networking with each other to form a positive community. RAs have received extensive training to make them informational resources, problem solvers and educators.

The desk staff is the primary information source and help center for the residence hall. This area is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The desk is staffed by one full-time Program Coordinator (PC) and several student desk clerks. The PC is a tremendous resource to students and deals with all in-hall room assignments.
EXCLUSIVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CAMPUS RESIDENTS

Employment

Residence Life and Culinary Services is the single largest employer of all students on campus. We focus not only on fulfilling a labor need, but also on providing an educational job experience. Many of our student employees are entering the work force for the first time, and we understand the need for extensive training, coaching and evaluation/feedback. Several of our positions have built-in opportunities for promotions.

Key employment positions include:

• Desk Clerks: Applications are available online at https://jobs.montana.edu/posting/7578 and are due by August 24 to be considered for fall semester employment. Interviews are held August 26 for fall semester positions, however positions typically become open as the year progresses. Visit www.montana.edu/reslife/employment.html for more info.

• Resident Advisors: The application process begins in January.

• Weekend Student Custodians (substitutes): Applications will be available at all hall front desks at opening if positions are available. Nine full-time student custodians, along with several substitutes, are hired to serve each hall.

• Culinary Services: A wide variety of positions are available. To apply, see any of the culinary services managers. Their offices are located in each dining hall; walk-ins are welcome. Dining Hall Managers can be reached at: Mitch 406-994-7392, Terry 406-994-4262, Kevin 406-994-6031.

Involvement

It is the philosophy of our department that each student should be involved in at least one out-of-class organization their first year. Montana State University has more than 150 clubs and organizations that need members. The Residence Life Department/RHA offers many involvement opportunities ranging from one-time events to full-year officer positions.

The Residence Hall Association (RHA) is the on-campus student government. Each resident is automatically a member when they move into the residence halls. With more than 200 active officers, RHA has a budget of nearly $50,000 and utilizes this money for events, services and participation in conferences on the regional and national levels. RHA recruitment begins at Orientation. Leadership experiences combined with a chance to make positive contributions lead to a very productive college career.

RHA offers one of the finest leadership and involvement opportunities available at the collegiate level and, in our case, we can offer you the best in the nation. RHA offers a Fall Leadership Retreat, various workshops and opportunities to attend regional and national conferences.

MSU has more than 150 clubs and organizations for students to get involved.

Community Responsibilities

A residence hall floor community is very much like your home neighborhood. Every member of the neighborhood has the responsibility to help create a positive living environment. Ideally, each individual will actively contribute to the development of a positive and responsible community—your student can make a difference. All hall rules and regulations are based on a philosophy of “student rights,” which means that if a policy has been violated, another person’s rights have been infringed upon. It’s important to encourage your student to ask questions and use our staff as resources.

CULINARY SERVICES

With two dining locations, Culinary Services (CS) provides a wide variety of quality meals for residents. Students are required to purchase a meal plan when living in the residence halls, and have four different options to choose from. Most plans have CatCash that can be used at any CS location, WEPAC Print Kiosks in the main lobbies or for laundry use in the halls. Locations that accept CatCash are Union Market, Bobcat Court, The Sweet Shop, SBQ Coffee, Avogadro’s Number and Concessions. CS also employs many residence hall students.

Follow us on Facebook at MSU Residence Life for updates and announcements.

THE ON-CAMPUS ADVANTAGE

Living in the residence halls is such an amazing and unique experience. From the numerous advantages to the many ways to be involved, there are many things to enjoy about residence hall life.

Advantages of living in the residence halls include:

• Being close to classes, the Student Union building, and the Library.

• Uniform outdoor decorations.

• Events, such as intramural sports, club activities, and students’ own events.

• Free parking in the residence halls. Additional space is available for students who purchase parking permits.

• A quiet environment in the residence halls.

Advantages of RHA involvement:

• Overseas travel opportunities
• Leadership development opportunities
• Opportunities to network
• Opportunities to meet new people

RESIDENCE HALL SECURITY EFFORTS

We take great pride in maintaining a secure environment at MSU. Some of our efforts include:

1. Distributing a brochure to each student which clearly states our security policy and offers suggestions to students on how to protect themselves and their belongings.

2. Training and informational programs for all residence hall students to help improve their security awareness.

3. Continued training with residence hall personnel on safety and security issues, and a close working relationship with University Police to protect our residents. The Office of Residence Life is concerned about your student’s safety and security. While the University is a relatively safe place, crimes do occur on campus. To ensure everyone’s security, students must take responsibility for keeping a safe environment.

4. No guns or weapons are allowed in the residence hall living areas. All guns and bows must be checked in at a hall desk, where they will be placed in a storage area. No ammunition is allowed in the residence halls. Pistols and handguns are not allowed on campus.

All residence hall doors are locked at 10pm each night. To prevent unauthorized persons from entering buildings, we require all students to show their photo ID for entry. Your student should always carry their student ID. We lock the doors and identify residents for everyone’s protection. This only takes a minute—we encourage students’ patience and courteous approach to the security personnel.

Students should not prop open doors. Propped doors invite entry by non-residents, some of whom may commit crimes. Discourage your student from allowing unauthorized entry into the residence halls by following the night check-in procedures. If your student sees a propped door, or unauthorized entry occurring, they should report it immediately to the hall desk or a Residence Life staff member.

Students who violate weapons or security policies will be evicted from the residence hall system and may be suspended from Montana State University. Students should avoid walking alone at night. If your student has a night class, encourage them to walk back and forth with others who may have class nearby.

Bikes with good locks are rarely stolen. Students may also store their bikes in their rooms. Park cars in a well-lit area and keep them locked at all times. Don’t leave valuables where they can be seen in a vehicle; lock them in the trunk.

Report all crimes. We encourage students to report any criminal act or suspicious behavior to University Police immediately by calling 406-994-2111 directly or by reporting the crime anonymously by email at witness@montana.edu.

We take security very seriously, but ultimately it is up to each student to help us maintain a secure environment.

The Office of Residence Life is concerned about your student’s safety and security. While the University is a relatively safe place, crimes do occur on campus. To ensure everyone’s security, students must take responsibility for keeping a safe environment. At their age, your student may often feel invincible. Talk with them about safety before they come to MSU. The best lock in the world won’t work if students don’t lock it or if they prop a door open.

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PHOTO BY KELLY GORHAM
RESIDENCE LIFE NEWS | CONTINUED

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RESIDENCE LIFE NEWS | CONTINUED

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