

# Housing at UMW



## Looking Forward

January 2014

### We want you to live on campus next year!

Housing selection is all about choices. Where to live, with whom to live, and what kind of year you want to have. Consider the following factors when making these decisions: security, convenience, and variety of options available in on campus housing.

**Security:** Feel at ease knowing that safety is paramount on campus. Limited building access, nearby UMW Police, and Residence Life staff on duty each night help create an environment that is not only fun, but also safe in all of our residential communities.

**Convenience:** Residential buildings at UMW are located across campus making them conveniently located near your classes, professors, dining options, the library, and gym. Additionally you have only one bill for all of the amenities. Living on campus just makes life easier!

**Variety of Options:** The possibilities are diverse with a variety of housing configurations to meet your wants and needs. Whether you want a traditional hall, single, or apartment style residence we have what is right for you. And all of our options are near friends, student activities, and entertainment.

**Let us welcome you home:** Between February 13 - 27, electronically sign a one year Housing and Dining Services Agreement committing to live with us next year. Select your own roommates, and during housing selection in March, pick where to live. **Look forward to the great potential for a new beginning!**



Each UMW Apartment has a private patio or balcony.

Junior and senior students with 60 credits or higher are eligible to live in the UMW Apartments, conveniently located across William Street. These apartments house 350 students in one-, two-, and three-bedroom options. Each apartment has individual-controlled heat and air conditioning, room furnishings, and a full kitchen (including stove, refrigerator, and

dishwasher). As with all other University housing, the room charge is all-inclusive - no separate charges for electricity, trash removal, cable, water, internet, etc. Students interested in living in locations other than Eagle Landing will be assigned a time slot for either Saturday, March 15 or Saturday, March 22 to select their housing assignment in-person.



Each Eagle Landing apartment has a full kitchen with eat-in bar.

Beginning Thursday, February 13, a group of four students are able to apply to live in Eagle Landing. Each apartment features two large bedrooms (designed for two students per room), two full baths, a fully loaded kitchen, and a living room. Laundry rooms are provided on every floor. Students with registered vehicles

park in the convenient adjacent parking garage, and the complex has a desk for 24-hour security. Students interested in living in Eagle Landing select their own direct roommate and the apartments' two other suitemates; all four students select each other as apartmentmates prior to applying.

[umw.edu/housingselection](http://umw.edu/housingselection)

# Residence Hall Leadership:

## *Worry-free housing assignment through employment*

The Resident Assistant (RA) is an experienced UMW student who serves as a leader in the residence halls, caring for and supporting UMW's residential population. Through their presence and outreach, RAs positively shape the on-campus living experience. RAs have an incredibly rewarding and challenging experience where they can impact the lives of many students.

There are many benefits to this rewarding experience, such as:

- enhancing your résumé
- building leadership skills, such as time management, interpersonal communication, budgeting, and public speaking
- gaining experience in crisis management and conflict mediation
- making life-long friendships
- avoiding the in-person housing selection process
- a monthly stipend
- a small percentage off your room each semester



Karmel James having fun at Orientation

### *Meet former Senior Resident Assistant Karmel James - Class of 2013*

"Looking back on my time at Mary Washington, being an RA is one of the highlights of my time there. As an alumna, I look forward to coming back during homecomings and reunion weekends so that I can not only catch up with my friends but also to see my past staff members. Your staff become your closest friends; I made friendships that can't be replaced. I have a thousand memories of spending amazing times with my staffs/supervisors and learning all about my residents' crazy and adventurous lives on and off campus. As RAs, we can do so much for the hall, and it gave me the greatest joy to see a resident who valued the work we did.

After three years with Residence Life, there is no doubt that the RA position helped enhance my résumé. It showed job stability over time and also increased responsibility as I continued year after year. In interviews, it became evident that my experience as an RA provided an excellent opportunity to enhance both my written and verbal communication skills. I also learned to have an open perspective on everything in my life. As an RA, I was trained to be able to adapt at a moment's notice, and I carry that adaptability with me everyday."



Student playing frisbee between Randolph & Mason Halls.

## *Applications due Friday, January 31*



Students sharing an activity in Virginia Hall.

# Theme Housing:

## *Visualize your living community*

Conceptual Living Communities (CLCs) are student-driven residence hall theme housing groups. CLCs are great opportunities for upperclass students to express their individuality and shared interests with others in the residential environment. Whether it is an already-established student group or an emerging interest, students are encouraged to create their living experience. CLCs have access to spaces before the housing selection process takes place, and the students involved get the added benefit of skipping the typical housing selection in-person process.

CLCs are set up to enable students who share common educational endeavors or common extracurricular interests the opportunity to live together in campus housing. The fact that each community is created by students, for students makes CLCs a unique and dynamic housing option.

Conceptual Living Communities must have a minimum of eight members. Students living in CLCs plan group and community events. If the group is not academically-based, the learning aspect can take place a number of ways. For instance, if the group was formed around the idea of loving the practice of playing video games, members can teach each other inside tricks of the trade and educate the wider UMW community about the culture of video gaming.

Imagine a student (let's say *Georgeanne*) has an interest (let's say *knitting*). She asks around and finds seven others who also enjoy knitting. They talk about how they want to live together in a community of knitting-appreciation - the activities they want to plan, the possibilities of teaching others how to knit! *Georgeanne* applies to be a CLC, and the Knitting Lovers group is granted housing, with the members getting assigned before other students. Next year, they collaborate, *knitting happily ever after!*

# Housing Accommodation Requests

## *Air Conditioned Housing Accommodations - Requests due Thursday, February 27*

Students diagnosed with a medical condition (such as asthma, or allergic rhinitis and sinusitis) wishing to have air conditioned housing, should submit an Air Conditioned Housing Accommodations request with provided medical documentation. Some of the residence halls are not equipped with central air conditioning. Students applying should have a serious need and health concern for accommodations in air conditioned buildings. Continuing students who have previously been approved for Air Conditioned housing should resubmit their requests for next academic year.

## *Other Housing Accommodations - Requests due Tuesday, February 18*

For housing accommodation requests in addition to, or other than air conditioned housing, please refer to the Office of Disability Resources website.

University of Mary Washington  
Residence Life and Commuter Student Services  
1301 College Avenue, Marye House  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401  
540/654-1058 • reslife@umw.edu

# How to decide whether to live on campus or off campus



*Hallmates pose together at graduation.*

**Decisions, decisions!** Don't fret - we have some helpful tidbits using the *Six Step Decision Making Model*.

**Identify:** *Clearly identify the opportunity.* I'm able to select whether to live on campus or off campus next year based on my wants and needs.

**Explore:** *Explore as many options as possible.* Make a list of compatible roommates and places to live. Ask around. Compare and contrast.

**Examine:** *Examine options for appropriateness.* What is most important to you? What do you value? Is your current roommate situation meeting your needs? Is living with friends a good idea? Do you need a fresh start? What are your deal-breakers? Look ahead to next year, and ask yourself questions to help examine your options. Is it more important to be near campus? Have you compared potential off-campus lease agreements, rental charges, and amenities? Are you prepared to live off-campus, or is the convenience and security of living on campus better for your needs right now?

**Select:** *Select the best option.* Make the best decision for you.

**Implement:** *Implement option.* Commit to live either on or off - and follow through with that decision. If living on-campus, complete your Housing and Dining Services Agreement between February 13 and 27. If living off-campus, examine your lease before you sign it. Know what you're getting into.

**Review:** *Review results.* Live and learn next year.

*Looking forward to campus housing*