



**UConn**  
DEPARTMENT OF  
RESIDENTIAL LIFE

# Living On-Campus

The Parent & Family Connection  
to UConn's On-Campus  
Residential Community

## Role of In-Hall Staff:

### *Resident Assistants, Assistant Residence Hall Directors, and Residence Hall Directors*

*Sheila Morgansmith, Associate Director Residence Education*

Residential Life's Mission Statement states that we enhance students' personal, interpersonal, and intellectual growth by creating safe and inclusive environments, innovative programs and by fostering meaningful relationships. One of the main ways we work to accomplish this mission is through our Residence Hall staff. I thought I would take a little time to let you know what they do for your students and our community.

Our fundamental staff position is that of the Resident Assistant, or RA. They are undergraduate students who live and work right in the residential communities with your students. They are the first point of contact for students and the number one resources in the halls. As their title suggests, they are there to assist students. They are well-trained and supported so that they can help students with mediating conflicts, building relationships, and learning about themselves and others. The RAs hold duty shifts to provide resources to students when traditional offices are closed, as well as address and document policy violations. These students are leaders on campus and balance the hard work of supporting individual students while managing the needs of the community.

We also have several graduate students working in our halls and they fill the role of Assistant Residence Hall Directors or ARHDs. This is a key role in the growth and sustainability of Student Affairs as a profession.

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These staff members work side by side with the professional hall staffers and share a portion of the responsibility for directing the activities in the residence halls. This is a crucial developmental experience for graduate students in our field and grows with the needs of UConn's Higher Education and Student Affairs master's program.

Last, but certainly not least, is the Residence Hall Director (RHD) position. They are the live-in professionals who set the direction for and manage the administrative functions of a residential area. The services they provide students are broad, but all tasks center them as educators. Among their varied responsibilities, they supervise the undergraduate and graduate staff of an area, resolve conduct violations, advise student organizations (including Hall Associations), and serve in duty rotations for large portions of the campus. They steer our Residential Learning Model (curricular educational plan for the residence halls), working to adapt our efforts to fit the needs of their community. They approach each task with a commitment to student learning and growth.

The services [Residence Hall Directors] provide students are broad, but all tasks center them as educators.

I am happy to provide you this glimpse into the lives of the staff that make our halls a home away from home for your students. I hope you can join me in appreciating the hard work and dedication that they provide for the students every day!

## Care Packages for Students in Isolation

In an effort to practice kindness and combat feelings of social isolation on campus, two student organizations, the Residence Hall Association (RHA) and Undergraduate Student Government (USG), created isolation care package kits. RHA strives to provide a high quality on-campus experience to residential students. USG advocates on behalf of students to university administration. Together, they partnered to develop 235 kits that serve as a morale booster for those who receive a positive COVID-19 test result. Their shared goal was to ease the transition for students to their temporary assignments and to encourage healing and self-care.

Provided in each kit was a fuzzy throw blanket, Kleenex, activity/puzzle books, colored pencils, first aid supplies, notebooks, and snacks to name a few!

Kits also included links to academic and mental health resources, along with a way for students to present feedback on the items. University Catering volunteered to take part in this initiative by delivering the kits to students with their regularly scheduled hot meals. Teamwork creates a stronger and more unified UConn Nation.

Stay healthy, Huskies!



*Members of RHA and USG sitting in front of the completed kits after putting them together*



*Example of complete isolation care kit for students after receiving a positive COVID-19 test result*

# What is the Residential Learning Model (RLM) and How does it help your student?

*Amy Crim, Director of Residence Education*

We believe that as a result of living on campus, students will grow personally, interpersonally and intellectually. We implement our educational efforts through the Residential Learning Model, or the RLM as we refer to it, with our Hall Director (HD) and Resident Assistant (RA) staffs. While a student lives on campus, their values, ideals, and ability to develop interpersonal relationships grow significantly. The Residential Life staff supports and challenges students in many ways and the Residential Learning Model is one tool we use to accomplish that.

Families can expect that all residents who choose to engage, have had one or more intentional interactions with their RA. These interactions focus on RAs building meaningful and positive relationships, as well as creating a space to understand and support residents wants and needs. RAs also hosted a community meeting during the first few days after fall move in where they discussed community living and created shared expectations. During the semester, residents have also had at least one focused conversation with their RAs centering around academic goals, campus involvement, and emotional well-being.

Students should have completed a Huskymate Agreement with their roommate/s to open conversation around expectations for sharing space. This agreement includes questions for residents to discuss such as: How will we communicate with each other and how will our living space be cleaned? This is a proactive agreement that residents meet with their RA to discuss to better open the door to help solve those issues that arise when students live together. The Huskymate Agreement is open all year for students to reenter and update as they need. This is a good place for a family member to encourage their student to refer back to if there is a roommate conflict.

While the RAs have these conversations and meetings, they also conducted what we call Fire, Health and Safety Inspections. These are announced in advance, and enter the space to visually check for any Housing Contract violations (candles, electronic scooters, etc.). RAs work hard at scheduling specific times to enter and go through resident's rooms with them to create a safe and collaborative living space. Throughout the semester, RAs also update their floor bulletin boards. We strategically plan for topics relevant to the time of the year to help students think about a topic or to provide useful information.

In addition, the RAs are always busy with duty shifts and rounds of the halls. They are available for students to ask questions and get information that will help them to be successful here at UConn. We believe that by living on campus, students learn so much about how to be a good roommate and a positive community member and we feel fortunate that you entrust your student to us while they live in our Residence Halls!





Living in on-campus housing is not only about living close to your classes, it's about the relationships you make and learning more about yourself while you are part of this community!



## Winter Recess Housing Reminder

All students who plan on staying on campus at any point during Winter Recess, December 20, 2021 to January 15, 2022 must fill out a Winter Recess Housing Application. Students living in apartment areas or Husky Village are required to fill out this application in order for Residential Life to have accurate records of all students who plan on being here at any point over Winter Recess.

Students who are planning on staying on campus for Winter Recess Housing are unable to participate in the Mid-Year Move Room Change Process. If a student plans to remain on campus for Winter Recess and wishes to change assignments for the Spring Semester they must wait until the Spring Room Change Process which opens up approximately 2 weeks after the semester begins.

Additional Information about Winter Recess Housing: <https://reslife.uconn.edu/winter-break-housing/>



# Important Dates

## November 19<sup>th</sup>

Spring 2022 housing application deadline for new spring residents

Midyear Move Room Change application deadline

## November 20<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>

Thanksgiving Recess - no classes, halls remain open

## December 19<sup>th</sup>

Halls close at noon for Fall 2021; students can request to remain over Winter Recess for additional fees

## January 1<sup>st</sup>

2022-2023 housing application available; room and roommates selected online in Spring 2022

## January 15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>

Halls Open for Spring 2022

## January 18<sup>th</sup>

First Day of Classes for Spring 2022

## February 11<sup>th</sup>

2022-2023 housing app deadline for returning residents

## March-April 2022

Spring 2022 residents choose rooms and roommates online for 2022-2023

## March 12<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>

Spring Recess - no classes, halls remain open

## May 9<sup>th</sup>

Halls, Suites, Northwood Apts, Stamford housing closes at noon for Spring 2022

## May 15<sup>th</sup>

Hilltop & Charter Oak Apts close for Spring 2022

**We are here for you and your students if you have any questions!**



### Contact Information

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<https://reslife.uconn.edu>



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We encourage all residents to use #LiveonandLearn to showcase the benefits of living on campus!

