

INSIDE

More tips for parents

Copy of Housing and Dining Contract
Terms and Conditions



SUMMER NEWS FOR PARENTS: JULY 2010



Living On Campus

A publication of the University of Northern Iowa Department of Residence

Welcome to UNI!

With the approach of fall semester, late summer becomes an exciting time at the University of Northern Iowa.

The advantages of living on campus are numerous and extend beyond convenience, value and friendships. Students who live on campus earn better grades and are more likely to graduate.

Living on campus is an excellent value. Because the on-campus experience is critical to your student's success, we provide a comprehensive program for residents. Your student brings their own clothes and cleans their room, and we take care of everything else.

UNI provides the room furnishings, communications connections, utilities, food, cleaning services, office services and more. Essentially, we take care of the details so your student can focus on academics and leadership opportunities on campus.

GETTING READY FOR YOUR STUDENT

In addition to completing the preparation of residence halls and dining centers, staff training begins in late July. A major part of that training focuses on helping new students successfully adjust to the freedom and responsibility of living in a campus community.

SUCCESS OVER 2 YEARS

We've heard students tell us that the first year is remembered for friendships and just "getting used to" more complete personal responsibility. The second year on campus, they really soar. That is what the 2-Year Advantage is all about; seeing the on-campus experience as a multi-year opportunity for greater academic success, leadership and community involvement. There is more information about the 2-Year Advantage on page 3.

RESIDENCE HALL CONTRACTS:

A copy of the residence hall contract terms and conditions is included with this mailing for your reference. This contract assures you of our fulfillment of services and assures us of your commitment to your student's housing plan.

MAKE IT A SMOOTH MOVE: INFO ONLINE

The move to campus is a memorable day for families. The room assignment letter included Department of Residence web sites where you'll find useful information as you finish planning for the move to campus: www.uni.edu/dor. We look forward to students returning on move-in weekend!



The Parents' Tipsheet

2-Year Advantage plan

The contract terms and conditions panel of this mailing indicates if your student has already selected the 2-Year Advantage plan. The plan provides an opportunity to freeze rates for two years in addition to avoiding the early move-in fee and the \$200 prepayment for next year. The enrollment period for the 2010-2012 plan continues through August 6, 2010. In recent years, room and meal rates have increased each year. Use the Department of Residence website Smooth Move links to print a contract change form or contact us at the phone numbers or web site listed on the address panel. The terms and conditions of the contract, including cancellation fees, remain in place for two years. The penalty for breaking the contract does not apply if the student is no longer enrolled at UNI.

Move-in weekend

The fall dining and housing contract begins Friday, August 20. There is an early bird option for students who want to move in on Thursday: \$30 will be charged to the student's university bill for early move-in unless they have the 2-Year Advantage plan contract. The volunteer move-in crew will be on duty Thursday, Friday and Saturday to help students get moved into the residence halls. They will be wearing bright t-shirts. Ask them for directions and advice. Ask them to help carry the boxes to your student's room. Also, meals for families helping with move-in will be discounted Thursday and Friday in the dining centers.

Complimentary refreshments

Refreshments will be available in the lobbies of all residence halls on Thursday and Friday. Take a mid-move break or reward yourself for completing the job with a snack and water.



Planner

Residents receive a complimentary calendar/planner at check-in. The Panther Planner includes all campus dates available at the time of publication plus useful directory information for on-campus services and details about Department of Residence policies. Students don't need to bring their own planner to keep track of their social life, work schedule and academic responsibilities. The planner is another benefit of living in the residence halls.



More on page 4





More Time, More Value, More Success

2010–2012 rate freeze is top incentive of the 2-Year Advantage plan

The 2-Year Advantage plan is available to any UNI student with a residence hall contract. It is designed to help students and their families manage the rising cost of higher education and to build stronger communities within the UNI residence hall system. The key component of the plan is a price freeze from year one to year two for on-campus housing and meals. Students retain full flexibility to change rooms, roommate, halls and meal plans; the rate “schedule” stays the same year two. For example, if a student goes from a double room in 2010-2011 to a single room in 2011-2012, the single room rate will be the single room rate set for 2010-2011.

The 2-year Advantage plan provides a very real value with the price freeze incentive. The true and lasting advantage comes with the benefits students gain from a multi-year experience in residence hall communities. Students who live on campus live in environments that are diversified and safe, they have academic and social advantages and they certainly have the advantage of more time to be students because of the convenience of services and location.

THE PLAN IS SIMPLE

Those who enter into the two-year agreement have all the rights, responsibilities and opportunities of the single year contract in addition to the rate freeze, waiver of the early move-in-fee and waiver of the \$200 prepayment for the re-contracting process.

Families have let us know they appreciate our response to the rising costs of attending college. The plan was approved by the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, in July 2003.

The 2-Year Advantage plan ensures the residence experience is a more complete partner in the development of students during their college.

ENROLLMENT CONTINUES THROUGH AUGUST 6

To get the 2-Year Advantage contract for 2010-2012, students sign an authorization form to change the student’s current contract. The 2-Year Advantage plan authorization form is on the internet at www.uni.edu/dor

The enrollment period for 2010-2012 continues through August 6, 2010.



If you don't tell us, who will?

You are always welcome to contact the Department of Residence with your suggestions and questions by calling us toll free at **1-866-207-9411** or sending an e-mail to live@uni.edu. If you have access to the Internet, our website also provides information: www.uni.edu/dor.

Dining Dollars

Dining Dollars are a part of your student's meal plan. They are "stored" in a declining balance account that can be accessed with a student uCard. Dining Dollars, which can be used at on-campus locations, add flexibility by giving students access to their meal plan any time of the day.

Students can check their Dining Dollars balance with a cashier at facilities accepting Dining Dollars. Additional Dining Dollars can be added to a student's balance at any time by sending a check to: Dining Dollars, Redeker Center, UNI, Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0252. (We'll need the student's full name and student number to fulfill the request.) Or, order Dining Dollars online: www.uni.edu/dor (Quick Links: Dining Dollars/meal Deals). Additional Dining Dollars make a great gift!

No need to miss a meal

There is no need for your student to miss a meal due to a class or work conflict. There are many options to get a meal, including carryout meals from Dashes at Towers Center and Cafe on the Way at Redeker Center.



ResNet

ResNet is UNI's quick and convenient high-speed Internet connection. There are ResNet connections for each roommate in their on-campus room. An Ethernet card is required to access UNI's network. Ethernet cards are sold at most computer stores and will cost \$50–\$60. (Your student's computer may already have one.)

The ResNet website at www.uni.edu/resnet has details on equipment requirements, Ethernet card recommendations and sign-up procedures. Owning a personal computer is a convenience; it is not a requirement. Students have access to computers and the Internet at computer labs throughout campus. All personal computers connecting to ResNet are required to have the anti-virus software provided by the university installed. The software is available for download when the student completes the ResNet registration process.

On-campus employment

Working at a job, particularly on campus, helps students do four important things:

1. structure time, which helps students attend to homework more effectively
2. learn practical work skills
3. make a contribution to campus life
4. make friends with co-workers

www.uni.edu/dor



More on page 6

An update on can

GRADES MATTER

Once again, the spring term grade reports show the average grade point is higher for freshmen living on campus. The academic advantage of living on campus continues with higher grade points for sophomores, juniors and seniors living on campus.

COMPUTER LABS

Computer labs are located in Department of Residence halls. Students also access computers at kiosks in dining centers, academic buildings and other high-traffic venues.

ARE YOU HELPING WITH THE MOVE-IN?

Your student's meal plan begins Friday, August 20. You are welcome to dine with them in the Piazza at Redeker Center or in the Rialto at Towers Center. Cash, checks, charge to the university bill and Dining Dollars are accepted at both locations.

STUDENT UCARDS

Thanks to cross-campus cooperation, the convenience of uCard use has been taken to a new level. The uCard is used to gain entry to dining centers, the Wellness and Recreation Center, the health center, computer labs and athletic events. It can be used at on-campus restaurants and convenience stores to transfer payment of a purchase to the student's university bill. Students can even charge laundry services in the residence halls and photocopies at the library to their university bill using their uCard (photo ID) issued by the Department of Residence.

The uCard is good for free admission to most student athletic, theater and music events, as well!

THE FIRST 6 WEEKS

We know that the first six weeks of the semester are critical for students' adjustment to college life. In the Department of Residence we are thoughtful of this as we schedule community events that will make students feel at home and get the academic year off to a productive start. "The first six weeks" is a special component of the Resident Assistant training and it is an important component of early semester evaluations of community life.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

campus services and opportunities

HUGS FROM HOME

Hugs from Home is a service provided by 23rd Street Market. Hugs from Home gift packs carry good luck, happy birthday, get well, we miss you and “just because” messages from home.

Each gift pack is loaded with student favorites and is assembled fresh for the occasion. If you can't be there, but you want your student to know they are in your thoughts, consider sending Hugs from Home! Orders can be placed online at www.uni.edu/dor (Quick Links: Hugs from Home).

RECIPES FROM HOME

When we promote home cooking we mean it! Many entrees in our dining centers use recipes adapted from family favorites nominated by our students and staff.

Do you have a favorite family recipe that always satisfies a crowd or an ethnic recipe that is an important part of events that celebrate your heritage? If so, we'd like to try it in our test kitchens! Send it via mail or email to the return address on the address panel of this newsletter.

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH

Curious about what your student is eating? Our menu and nutrition information site is: www.uni.edu/dor (link to Dining, then Menus).

LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Leadership skills are valued and nurtured in the Department of Residence. Students have an opportunity to get leadership training through on-campus workshops and through membership in regional student organizations.

Each residence hall house (45-60 students) has an elected leadership team. Campus leaders credit their early experience in these house leadership roles for their success in campus-wide leadership positions.

If your student enjoys joining with others to accomplish common goals, please support their pursuit of leadership opportunities on campus. Employers are looking for students who are well-rounded and show initiative by making the most of their years in college.



Have a Smooth Move!

Your son or daughter is set for a smooth move to campus if they take advantage of information on the websites listed in the housing assignment letter sent earlier this summer. Details about move-in weekend and checklists that might interest you, too, are at www.uni.edu/dor/SmoothMove. See The Parents' Tipsheet throughout this publication for the answer to the most frequent questions from parents.

Bed lofts

Bed lofts are structures used to elevate bed frames and mattresses to make more space in student rooms. Residents in Bartlett Hall, Campbell Hall, Hagemann Hall, Lawther Hall, and ROTH are provided with loftable beds.

Students in the other residence halls are provided a bed frame and mattress. If your son or daughter wants to have a bed loft, we recommend contacting Collegiate Marketing BedLoft.com, 1-866-651-5638, for rental.

Structural requirements for building lofts are online at: www.uni.edu/dor/SmoothMove.

Room measurements are not exact for every room. The room layouts are online at www.uni.edu/dor (link to Housing, then to Residence Halls). We recommend that you wait to build the loft until you arrive on campus.



Furniture storage

Bed ends, springs and mattresses may be stored in the residence halls (except Bartlett, Campbell, Hagemann, Lawther and ROTH rooms, because lofts are provided). Students should contact the hall office or residence hall staff after they arrive, if they have questions.

Parking pass

Most students do not need a vehicle while going to school at UNI. If your son or daughter plans to have a vehicle on campus, they need to purchase a parking permit. This can be done on opening weekend or online at http://www.uni.edu/pubsaf/parking_Division/ (online permits are available through August 15.)

Patience

First impressions are lasting! Fortunately, UNI families are known for having patience and good humor during the busy move-in weekend. A wait for an elevator or cart will provide an opportunity to meet someone who is going through the same moving experience! You are welcome to bring your own two-wheeler moving dolly. Remember, it's not a race; staying calm and offering/accepting help will make move-in day memorable for all the right reasons.



Getting acquainted

There are special events planned to welcome new students each day of move-in weekend. The schedule is posted in each residence hall. Please encourage your student to extend or accept an invitation to attend these events.

A New Chapter

CONSIDER THE END AS YOU PLAN FOR THE BEGINNING

Higher education is more than a vehicle for good jobs and higher life-time salary potential, yet few parents and students will approach college without seriously considering job possibilities and earning power after college.

To increase the possibilities for success with the job search after UNI, consider with your student these opportunities:

- Active participation in residence, campus and other leadership positions
- Membership and active involvement in academic or service organizations
- Volunteer work
- Part-time employment on campus
- Attendance at music, theater, art and athletic events
- Participation in intramurals and/or other campus activities

In general, students benefit by engaging in constructive, challenging and fun interactions outside the classrooms, laboratories and library.

Academic success that is supplemented with experiences, as noted previously, increase recognition by prospective employers and increases a student's confidence that they can compete and succeed.

One more point: The odds are much better that a student will supplement his/her education with constructive involvement the longer they live on campus.

Get the 2-Year Advantage: Consider the end as you plan for the beginning!

YOUR CHANGING ROLE AS A PARENT OF A COLLEGE STUDENT

Whether this is your first, second, third, final or only experience with launching a child from your homelife toward the exciting life in our campus community, you have plenty of company!

Though your student is leaving your home and day-to-day presence, they still need you in different ways. They need you to let go. They need to know that you believe in them. They need to be able to make mistakes. Students who feel trusted are more likely to stand up for themselves, more likely to try challenging new experiences and more likely to have open communication with parents.

Students who feel mistrusted are more likely to look to others for support, more likely to keep secrets and more likely to defy authority.

Fall events at the University of Northern Iowa that involve families include Family Weekend, October 1-3, and Homecoming, October 23. We hope you'll stay informed through UNI communication to parents and through your student.

We're looking forward to August when UNI students return to campus!

Good Luck With The Moving Experience

University of Northern Iowa Residence Halls

2010-11 Contract Terms and Conditions: Freshman Students Contract

I. Payments and Refunds

- A.** New resident applicants must submit a \$200 prepayment and a one-time non-refundable \$25 application fee with this contract (check or money order payable to University of Northern Iowa or with a credit card if contracting online). The \$200 prepayment will be applied to the student's first university bill after residency has begun. Returning students will be billed for only the \$200 prepayment fee upon recontracting.
- B.** Space in a residence hall is reserved when both the signed contract and \$200 prepayment and \$25 application fee are received from the applicant and his/her admission to-- and enrollment in-- the university has been approved. Rooms will not be held past the first day of classes.
- C.** The university reserves the right to refuse to assign housing to an applicant, refund the \$200 prepayment, and make all final decisions as to assignment for room and meals.
- D.** Responsibility for housing and meal charges becomes effective as per the Terms and Conditions, Section III, unless the contract is cancelled in writing before such charges are to begin. Charges will be adjusted for housing and meals when the contract and occupancy begins later than the start of the second week of classes.
- E.** The Board of Regents, State of Iowa, determines the rate for housing and meals at the University of Northern Iowa, and reserves the right to change rates upon giving 30 days notice. If the rates are increased during the term of the contract, the student has the option of accepting the new rates or terminating his/her contract when the rates become effective. Written notification is necessary to terminate the contract.
- F.** Refunds and credits will be made in accordance with Section III of this contract.

II. Conditions of the Contract

- A.** The residence hall contract includes housing and meal service for the entire academic year (fall semester and spring semester), or the term that the student is enrolled. The 2-Year Advantage contract extends the term to two academic years. Charges will be adjusted for room and meals when the contract begins later than the start of the second week of classes.
- B.** Each student is automatically a member of a residence hall government. A residence hall activity fee (RHAF) is billed at the beginning of each semester.
- C.** The residence life coordinator reserves the right to reassign students who are without roommates, should they not find someone in their own choice. In all cases, final determination of room assignments rests with the university.
- D.** Rooms may be occupied by the residents from the beginning to the end of any semester but not during fall/spring semester breaks, except in Bartlett, Bender, Dancer, Lawther, Noehren and Shull. Residents who are not registered for the next grading period, or are not otherwise eligible to continue residency, must vacate their rooms by the last days of finals, except for graduating students who must vacate their rooms by 9 am on the day following graduation. Failure to check out by the required date, including those who cancel their contract during the break period (but remain enrolled at the university), will result in a charge of \$30 plus an assessment for the entire break period (at a cost of up to \$30 per day). Arriving prior to the date the contract begins will result in a daily charge.
- E.** Room space cannot be sublet nor can a contract be transferred, sold or assigned to another person; the contract is with the named parties only. Exchanges, transfers and vacating of rooms require the written permission of the residence life coordinator.
- F.** The university, in order to maintain its regulations and property, reserves the right to have its authorized personnel enter and inspect residence hall rooms as it deems necessary.
- G.** Residents will be charged for university property missing from a resident's room and for property damages beyond normal wear.
- H.** The university is not responsible for loss or damage of goods or personal property. Private insurance is encouraged for the student's protection, since no exceptions are made.
- I.** Each resident agrees to abide by all current policies which have been established by the University of Northern Iowa, the residence hall staff and the residence hall student governments. Copies of all said policies shall be made available to the student online at www.uni.edu/dor upon request. Changes in policies occurring during the academic year shall be made known by posting said changes in each residence hall. Violation of any of the standing rules mentioned above, or any other conduct deemed to be such as to require the removal of a student from a residence hall for the best interest of the other residents, shall be grounds for termination of the contract by the university.
- J.** All students who live in the University of Northern Iowa residence halls must contract for a meal plan. All first year out-of-high-school students must select a Community meal plan option for the entire academic year (fall semester and spring semester) or the term the student is enrolled.
- K.** A meal plan entitles the student to eat meals in the dining centers and use Dining Dollars in any Department of Residence dining and retail operation. Meal privileges are not transferable, negotiable or saleable to other individuals.
- L.** Dining Dollars are flexible spending dollars which are part of most meals plans. They can be used to purchase food, beverages or additional meals in Department of Residence dining facilities including convenience stores, food carts, restaurants and dining centers. Additional Dining Dollars may be purchased anytime on-line at www.uni.edu/food and may be charged to the university bill. Dining Dollars are accessed with a u-card.
- Dining Dollars are non-transferable, saleable or refundable. If you cancel your meal plan, you will be charged for Dining Dollars you have used. Dining Dollar balances left at the end of the fall semester will carry over to spring semester. Dining Dollar balances left at the end of the spring semester will not carry over or be refunded.

II. Conditions of the Contract continued:

- If you cancel a meal plan or change to a meal plan without Dining Dollars, you are billed for the Dining Dollars used in addition to the weekly meal rate prorated for the time you had a meal plan.
- If you change your meal plan, Dining Dollars change to the level provided on the new plan, but adjusted for any amount used prior to the change. If prior to the meal plan change, you used more Dining Dollars than the new plan provides, you will be billed for the amount of Dining Dollars used above the level of the new plan.
- M.** Refunds or credits will not be made for meals not eaten, except for confirmed cases of prolonged illness or other unavoidable absences in excess of seven consecutive calendar days. All requests for exceptions must be in writing to the Department of Residence. No refunds will be provided for Dining Dollars that are not used prior to whenever a contract is cancelled or at the end of an academic year.
- N.** Special menus to comply with dietary requirements of religious faiths or denominations are not provided.
- O.** Regular meal service begins with breakfast on the Friday before classes begin in August and with dinner on Sunday night before classes begin in January; meal service ends with the meal following each semester's last scheduled final examination.
- P.** Meals are provided according to the meal plan selected.

III. Termination of Contract and Meal and Room Charges

- A.** A housing and meal contract is for the entire academic year(s) or for the period of time a student is enrolled during the academic year(s). If the contract covers the entire academic year, the contract is effective as of the Friday before classes begin. The contract is between the university and the named student and/or his/her guarantor, and is not saleable, transferable, or cancelable except only as follows:

Incoming student cancellation of a single year contract:

Before May 1	\$200 prepayment refunded
May 1 and thereafter	\$200 prepayment forfeited; in addition, 40% penalty is applied to the remainder of contract, plus inclusive weekly room and meal charges.

Returning resident cancellation of a single year contract:

Before May 1	\$200 prepayment forfeited
May 1 and thereafter	\$200 prepayment forfeited; in addition, 40% penalty is applied to the remainder of contract, plus inclusive weekly room and meal charges.

Incoming student cancellation of a 2-Year Advantage contract:

Before May 1 of first year of contract	\$200 prepayment refunded
May 1 and thereafter	\$200 prepayment forfeited; in addition, 40% penalty is applied to the remainder of the 2-year contract, plus inclusive weekly room and meal charges.

Returning resident cancellation of a 2-year Advantage contract:

40% penalty is applied to the remainder of the 2-year contract, plus inclusive weekly room and meal charges.

- B.** Residents contracting for only spring semester must cancel by December 15 of the previous semester, to receive their full refund. Cancellation after December 15 will result in full forfeiture of the \$200 prepayment. After the first day of residency or the first day of classes for spring term, whichever comes first, cancellation of the contract by an enrolled university student will result in forfeiture of the \$200 prepayment and a 40% penalty for the remainder of the contract period, plus inclusive weekly room and meal charges.

- C.** No refunds or credits for any changes will be made without approval of the Department of Residence. Requests for changes, including cancellation of the contract, must be submitted in writing to the Department of Residence. For current residents, no refunds or credits will be made within the final six weeks of spring semester. Residents will only be considered for release from their contract by filing a "Residence Hall and Dining Contract Release Application." This application is available in the residence hall office. An appeal board will review the application and a decision in regard to the appeal will be submitted in writing to the student.

- D.** When a student's occupancy of a residence hall room is involuntarily terminated as a result of university action, the student will be penalized 40% of the unused portion of the contract period plus inclusive weekly room and meal charges until the move-out is complete.

- E.** Individuals who pose a danger to themselves and/or other residents may not be eligible to live in university housing. Registered sex offenders and persons who should be registered as such are not eligible for university housing.

- F.** If admission to UNI is withdrawn, no penalty will be applied to the contract. Inclusive weekly charges for room and meals would be assessed, and the prepayment refund policy would remain as states above.

- G.** The student agrees that if the university uses legal counsel, a collection agent or other person to enforce this agreement, the student will pay the collection costs, attorney's fees, court costs and other expenses incurred by the university in obtaining payment of amounts due under this agreement and/or enforcing this agreement, and interest at the highest rate allowed by law on any unpaid balance.

Last updated: September 2009

This is the first of three newsletters you will be getting this year from the UNI Department of Residence. The purpose of the newsletter is to help you learn more about on-campus living at UNI.

Your comments, compliments and suggestions help us continue to expand and improve the experience students receive while living in UNI residence halls. When you have a suggestion or comment on Department of Residence services, please let us be the first to know! (staff directory below) Thank you.

Toll free 866-207-9411
pat.beck@uni.edu



Department of Residence
Redeker Center
University of Northern Iowa
Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0252

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
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UNI

To the parent(s) of:

Sign up for the 2-Year Advantage through August 6!

Housing contract
"terms and conditions"
is on page 7.

live@uni.edu



Directory

Please save these numbers and feel free to call if you have questions about on-campus housing or dining.

Bartlett Hall

Adrienne Appler
Residence Life
Coordinator
Ruther Dixon,
Secretary
(319) 273-2671

Bender Hall

David Lemon
Residence Life
Coordinator
Andrea Stallman,
Secretary
(319) 273-2658

Campbell Hall

Josh Sankey
Residence Life
Coordinator
Deanna Ubben,
Secretary
(319) 273-2552

Dancer Hall

Amanda Mesirow
Residence Life
Coordinator
(319) 273-2376

Hagemann Hall

Lisa Jicinsky
Residence Life
Coordinator
Louie Hartman,
Secretary
(319) 273-2580

Lawther Hall

Alisha Scaggs
Residence Life
Coordinator
Janet MacTaggart,
Secretary
(319) 273-2148

Noehren Hall

Alexis Olson
Residence Life
Coordinator
Dawn Hines,
Secretary
(319) 273-2229

Rider Hall

David Schmid
Residence Life
Coordinator
Lynne Lemert,
Secretary
(319) 273-2249

ROTH

Deb McConahie
Residence Life
Coordinator
Karen Bender,
Secretary
(319) 273-7051

Shull Hall

TJ Warren
Graduate
Residence Life
Coordinator
Karen Bender,
Secretary
(319) 273-2080

Department of Residence

(319) 273-2333
www.uni.edu/dor
Toll Free:
(866) 207-9411

We Hope To See You On Campus This Fall!

October 1–3
Family Weekend

October 2

Rootbeer Floats
2:00–3:00 p.m.
Piazza and Rialto

Football Game 4:05 p.m.

Family Fest dinner after
the game
Piazza and Rialto

October 23

Homecoming Football
game, 4:05 p.m.

November 20

Thanksgiving break
begins. Residence halls
remain open.