

Encourage your student to keep the convenience of living on campus.



WINTER NEWS FOR PARENTS: JANUARY 2012



To the parents of
<name>
<address>
<city, state, zip>

Living On Campus

A publication of the University of Northern Iowa Department of Residence

Living on campus puts your student in the best possible position for academic success.

Students use online process to reserve rooms for next year

MORE CHOICES • BETTER CHOICES

One of the big advantages of being a current resident on campus is the privilege of selecting a room for the next year before new student assignments are made. <<>> will receive the recontracting schedule and information will be posted in <<>> residence hall and dining centers. The process to return to the residence halls begins January 18 when students may create their Panther Profile and select roommates(s) online. <<>> can reserve <<>> same room January 30–February 5. Access to any available room on campus begins February 6. <<>>'s original contract date will determine the date and time when <<>> can enter the online system to select a different room on campus.

A link to recontracting information is available on the Department of Residence website.: www.uni.edu/dor. Look for the MORE CHOICES BETTER CHOICES icon for a quick link to recontracting details. Students make the best decisions about housing arrangements for the following fall during January and February. They have the benefit of successfully completing a semester, they have experienced the level of support and convenience of living on campus and they have had a chance to explore other on-campus options at the January open house events. The most and best choices for housing 2012-13 will be available in January and February 2012.

Students who missed out on the 2-Year Advantage last fall may select it for 2012–14 and gain the savings of a price freeze and hold their on-campus priority for the new Panther Village apartments opening Fall 2012 and Fall 2013.

Spring semester dates to remember

January 9	Spring semester classes begin
January 18	Recontracting begins with Panther Profile and Panther Pick
January 20	On-campus communities Open House events
January 30–February 5	Students can select the same room for 2012-13
February 6	Priority Reservation begins for any available space
February 24	Final Priority Reservation date
March 12–17	Spring Break
April 30–May 4	Final Exams

Remember Hugs from Home: www.uni.edu/dor/hugs



Classes, friends are always c

Higher GPA for on-campus students

For the past several fall semesters, the average undergraduate GPA for students who live in the residence halls was higher than the GPA for students living off campus. The information for 2011 Fall Semester was not available at press time, but we expect it to follow the trend of higher grades for students living on campus. Research clearly indicates that students who live on campus earn better grades, are more likely to graduate, are more likely to work with faculty members outside the classroom and are more likely to participate in student leadership opportunities through student organizations. Living on campus is an important part of <<>>'s successful college experience.

Internet band width doubled in December

Students enjoy the high speed Internet connection that comes as part of their residence hall package. <<>> probably relies on the internet to stay in touch with friends and family in addition to accessing important academic resources for classes. **Two important upgrades were put in place in December. The internet band width available to students doubled December 9 and wireless access is now available in every residence hall.** Broadband Internet is part of the Department of Residence commitment to help students achieve their academic goals.

No worries about utility costs

We've already had plenty of cold weather. On-campus students and their families tell us they appreciate not having to worry about fluctuating utility bills. It's a good thing <<>> doesn't have to worry about utility bills and snow removal!

Friends, jobs and academic support close by when you live on campus!

Shull Hall a popular choice for returning students

Shull Hall, located near Piazza dining on the south side of campus has a unique role in campus housing. It is the only all-upperclass (sophomores, juniors and seniors) traditional hall on the UNI campus. Loftable beds will be provided in Shull for Fall 2012. This represents a new level of service for Shull residents.

ROTH apartment and suites are another choice for upperclass students

ROTH apartments and suites are a popular on-campus option for students attracted to apartment style living in an upperclass community. ROTH is located minutes from central campus and is available to sophomores, juniors and seniors in good standing for social and academic standards. Single rooms are available in ROTH.

ROTH residents will have new living room furniture next fall. The campus interior decorator has selected the same furniture that will be placed in Panther Village apartments. All new kitchen cabinets and countertops are among the 2011–12 upgrades.

Looking ahead to Panther Village

There is a lot of buzz about Panther Village, the new apartments opening next fall. Students living on campus have an opportunity to select Panther Village apartments during the recontracting process. We expect Phase I for 204 students to be filled with juniors and seniors who have the earliest access to room selection based on their original contract date. Looking forward, Phase II for 256 students opens Fall 2013. <<>> will have two additional semesters of seniority when the 2013–14 recontracting process begins, so staying on campus next year will be

advantageous if <<>> wants to live in this exceptional on-campus community. The Panther Village apartments will be under the leadership of David Schmid, our most experienced residence life coordinator.

Redeker Center is being expanded to accommodate the additional students on the south side of campus who will want to continue their meal plan and enjoy dining in the Piazza. Meal plans are optional in Panther Village. More information is available on the Department of Residence website: What's Happening: www.uni.edu/dor.

More meal plan choices

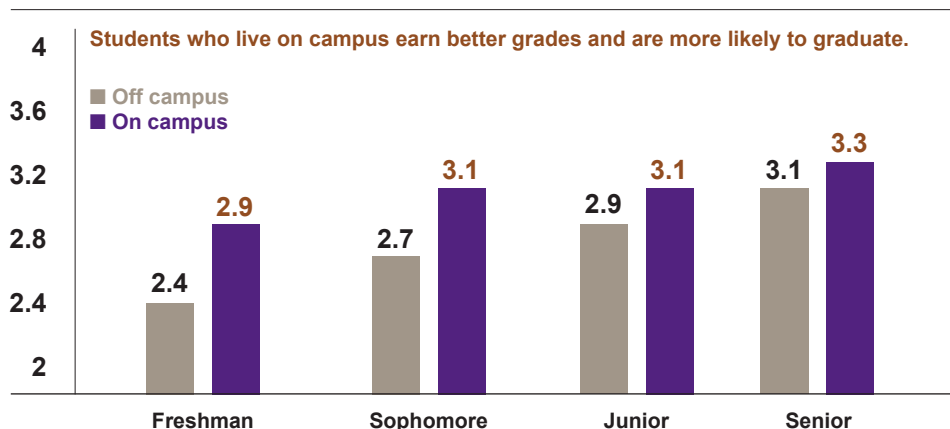
Students returning to residence halls have more meal plan options. <<>> can select a meal plan that fits her lifestyle, 19, 14 or 10 meals per week or 150 meals per semester. A common misunderstanding we hear from residents is that they don't like being charged for meals they don't eat. We do not charge for all the meals. WE know the average resident eats less than three meals per day and that is what we base the room and board charges on. If we charged for all 19, 14 or 10 meals, rates would be much higher!. In addition, most plans include Dining Dollars which give <<>> flexibility to

eat at Maucker Union and other campus locations. <<>> and other students enjoy the variety at every meal in the Piazza and Rialto. (We hope <<>> doesn't expect as much variety while <<>>'s at home!)

- Returning students have more meal plan choices
- Your student gets the freedom from cooking, and the convenience of eating close by.
- Living on campus is a student's direct connection to college life.
- On-campus students make more friends, they're close to classes and life is hassle-free.
- Living on campus is a good value, which includes rent, food, ALL utilities, cable television and wireless broadband Internet.
- There are not costs for commuting!

Average grade points Spring 2011

A comparison of students living on campus and living off campus.





This is the time of year when many students, and their parents, are making the decision whether to live on campus or off campus for the next academic year.

As you and <<>> review the advantages of returning to campus, know that the level of service available to members of the on-campus community cannot be matched by off-campus landlords. The on-campus package includes rent, food, utilities, ALL utilities, cable television and wireless broadband Internet. All furnishings and cleaning services are provided. On-campus residents live closer than close to campus; they are ON campus where they can make the most of all the opportunities available to them at UNI.

Keep in mind that on-campus residents have a trustworthy security system and a reliable, fair landlord. The academic year residence year plan frees students in the summer to return to family homes and jobs or accept internships in other places without the hassles of subleasing or paying for two places. If you and <<>> decide it is worth the money to go ahead and move off campus, we strongly encourage you to visit the apartment and obtain references about the landlord before the lease is signed. If the landlord pushes you or <<>> to sign the lease before providing references, be cautious.

Issues to consider when living off campus:

- What happens if a roommate cannot pay their share of the rent or bills? (This gets messy!)
- Does <<>> have the extra time to buy food and preperer/ clean up three meals a day?
- Does <<>> enjoy a variety of meals? (Is mac and cheese or pizza for every meal a good choice?)
- Does <<>>'s finances handle fluctuating utility bills?
- Is <<>> informed of winter snow removal obligations in off-campus housing?
- Does <<>> have the extra time to drive to campus a couple times each day, find a parking spot and walk the extra distance to class?

When making the decision about where to live, be sure to look at the entire picture. Living on campus is a smart choice.

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