

College Housing

Welcome to “College Prep News” – helpful tips from EducationQuest Foundation on how to plan -- and pay for college.

Hi! This is Maggie from EducationQuest.

When it comes to choosing a college, there are many things to consider to help you find the right fit; including the many housing options that are available.

After all, college will probably be the first chance you have to live - *and do laundry* - on your own! This is why today’s podcast is all about college housing.

To begin, find out what your options are. Many schools offer different kinds of housing, ranging from traditional dorms to the newer apartment-style suites popping up on campuses across the country.

Your residence hall might be for men- or women-only, or it could be a mixture of both, separated by room, floor or wing. There may even be learning communities available, where students you live with are in the same field of study.

A fraternity or sorority may also be a housing option, so get the necessary details from the Greek Affairs office on campus.

Of course there are also students who don’t live on campus, who prefer instead - as rules allow -- to stay at home with a parent or guardian, or in later years, in an off-campus apartment. These can be less expensive options if you’re operating on a tight budget.

The main point is, colleges have rules that determine *who* gets to stay in *which* residence halls. And they have rules that determine *who can live off-campus*. So ask a college representative about housing rules and how they might apply to you.

One aspect of college housing that may cause some anxiety is the subject of roommates. You may wonder: *Do I have to have a roommate? Can I choose my roommate or are they randomly assigned? What if we don’t get along?*

Since you'll be sharing tight quarters for nine months, those are questions you'll definitely want to ask your college rep.

Still, consider that most schools ask questions on the housing application to make a good match between roommates. They will also provide contact information so you can get to know your roommate before school starts and determine who is bringing what -- I mean really, who needs two televisions?

Also – keep in mind that you'll need to make a housing deposit—in effect saving your space in the dorm for the coming fall. So, make sure to find out *how much* the deposit is, *when* it's due, and *if it's refundable* if you change your mind.

Lastly, it's important to know that the cost of housing is part of the total cost of college. Whether you live on or off campus, it is often second only to tuition in terms of cost. So, don't forget to plan for this expense!

That concludes this segment of *College Prep News*. Thanks for listening!

For free help with college planning, visit EducationQuest.org for information and resources - and to find the EducationQuest location nearest you.

EducationQuest Foundation is a nonprofit organization with a mission to improve access to higher education in Nebraska.