



# RETURNING STUDENT HOUSING GUIDE

Academic Year 2026-2027



**Hope** COLLEGE

RESIDENTIAL LIFE  
AND HOUSING

# Where can I live?

Hope housing is designed to grow with you as a student. First and second-year students at Hope typically live in a residence hall. This allows you to meet new people, understand what it's like to live in a community, and solidify a smaller group of people to transition into a cottage or apartment with. Most of our housing is based on a double/triple room occupancy in facilities without air conditioning. Additionally, we house students by floor or unit based on biological sex. (If you have specific needs for your housing, make sure you read the "Requesting a Housing Accommodation" section.)

In your third year and beyond, many students transition into a cottage or apartment. This allows students to move into an environment with their smaller community of friends and live more independently with the security of the college staff and facilities to support them. In cottages and apartments, students learn to clean and care for a home. Some students choose to make some or all of their meals. They experience living with a group of people with whom they are friends. This type of living helps them gain skills in supporting people, giving/receiving feedback, and working through frustrations and differences together.

# How do I fill out my Housing Application?

All enrolled degree seeking students who plan to attend Hope College for the 2026-2027 academic year must complete a Housing Application! You will have the option to select from three different applications:

**Off-Campus Application:** For students who meet the established criteria of being in their fourth year (senior), over the age of 23, married or the parent of a minor child as per the Residential Life Housing Policy. *Application is available from November 7, 2025 to January 23, 2026*

**Parent Commuter Application:** For students who are commuting from their parent/legal guardians' primary residence which must be within 35 driving miles of campus. *Application is available from November 7, 2025 to January 23, 2026*

**On-Campus Housing Application:** For students who plan to live on-campus and will be a full-time enrolled, degree-seeking student. Within the on-campus housing application, you will be able to inform us of your housing plans, including entering the selection process for a cottage, apartment or hall, requesting to stay in your current location (restrictions apply), or attending a Fall off-campus study program. *Application will be available starting January 5, 2026 to February 13, 2026.*

Returning students who are not currently enrolled but plan to readmit for the fall semester must have their readmission approved and enrollment deposit paid by February 1, 2026 in order to participate in the returning student housing process. Students who are approved for readmission and pay their enrollment deposit after February 1, 2026, will be part of the incoming student housing process which takes place during the summer months.

### To access the Housing Application:

- Log into your [Hope Housing Portal](#), select HOPE-Student SSO Login, using your Hope Credentials (including @hope.edu)
- In the header at the top of your portal, select "Application."
- Select "Academic Year 2026-2027"

Email [housing@hope.edu](mailto:housing@hope.edu) with any questions.

# How do I live in a residence hall?

Students who are not housed during the Cottage/Apartment process will be entered into the Open Room Selection process (more detailed info found [here](#)). This process will be held in-person on April 14 and 15..

For Open Room Selection, you will be randomly assigned a Room Selection number and arrival time based on how many years you have been in college attendance. This number will dictate the time you will be selecting your room. All women will select their rooms on Tuesday, April 14 and all men will select their rooms on Wednesday, April 15. A few notes about Open Room Selection:

- When you select a room, you will name your roommate. After receiving your Room Selection numbers, you and your roommate should select your room using the lowest number assigned to you.
- All hall rooms will not be available to select at Open Room Selection. Rooms where students elect to remain in the next academic year (see page 5) as well as rooms strategically selected for incoming first year students will not be included in open room selection.



# How do I live in a cottage or apartment?

In some cottages, the RA of the cottage names the people who will be living with them. However, most RAs oversee their cottage as well as neighboring cottages, which allows us to put many cottages into the Apartment/Cottage Application process. Apartment complexes have one to two RAs per complex leaving the rest to be assigned in the Apartment/Cottage process.



Students planning to apply for a cottage or apartment need to fill out the On-Campus Housing Application in their [Hope Housing Portal](#). Select "Entering the selection process for a hall, cottage, or apartment" within the application," and click Save/Continue to complete the rest of the application..



The applications to apply for a cottage or apartment are separate applications and will be available within your [Hope Housing Portal](#) under Cottage/Apartment Applications starting on **Monday, February 23, 2026**. These applications will have rolling deadlines based on apartment/cottage size.

Only currently enrolled returning students who will be registered for on-campus classes for the fall semester are eligible to participate in the Cottage/Apartment Application Process.

**You may NOT apply for a cottage or apartment if you:**

- Have been named to live with an RA or
- Received off-campus or parent commuter status or
- Are planning to attend an off-campus study program for the fall semester or
- Are a new incoming and/or transfer student

Open cottages and apartments are distributed to students based on the groups' cumulative earned credit score. Because of the varied sizes of cottages/apartments, there are multiple due dates to be considered for different housing configurations.

If you would like to apply for a cottage or apartment you should:

- **Identify the people you want to live with.** Students must be currently enrolled returning students who will be enrolled for on-campus classes for the fall semester (*students participating in off-campus study programs for fall semester, have received off-campus or parent commuter status or are new incoming/transfer students are not eligible for this housing process*).
- **Understand the cost of the housing you are applying for.** The 2026–2027 housing costs can be found at the Business Services website. (*Housing costs for 2026–2027 will be published in early February 2026.*)
- **Submit the appropriate apartment/cottage application by the published deadline.**
  - Only one application may be submitted per group per application process.
  - No applications will be accepted if there are "openings" in the application (e.g., 10 students on a 10-person application).
  - You will need to list the earned credits for each student on the application. You can view your earned credits on your unofficial transcript. Credits you are currently taking during the spring semester *do not* count towards this total.
- **NOTE:** All students on the cottage/apartment application **must** have a completed 2026-2027 On-Campus Housing Application.

Then, the Housing Office will complete the following steps:

- All cottage/apartment applications are reviewed for accuracy, earned credit verification and student eligibility to be part of an application process
- Cottage/apartment applications are ranked from highest to lowest earned credits.
- Once the application deadline has passed, the housing units available for the application process are awarded starting with the top credit-bearing group and will continue down the list until all housing units have been distributed, giving consideration to balance the amount of male/female groups and those with approved housing accommodations.

If your group receives an apartment or cottage, the group leader will be sent an email with instructions on how to accept the housing unit and assign the individuals listed on the application to the available rooms within the housing unit. A deadline to complete this step will be given within the email. If it is not confirmed by the deadline, the group will forfeit the awarded unit, and it will be given to the next group.

If your group does not receive an apartment/cottage, you can reconfigure your group and apply for an apartment/cottage process that is still available. If, at the completion of the apartment/cottage process, you do not receive an apartment or cottage, you will automatically be entered into Open Room Selection.

Students can view our apartment/cottage housing options on the [Housing Units and Details](#) spreadsheet, which will provide information about the number of residents, amenities and pricing tier. Be aware that not all housing units listed on the spreadsheet will be available in the apartment/cottage process. Only housing units that do not house an RA or are not used for married/family housing will be part of the Apartment/Cottage Application process.

The 2026–2027 Housing and Meal Plan Costs can be found on the Business Services website. (*Housing and Meal Plan rates for 2026–2027 will be published in early February 2026.*)

# How do I request off-campus or parent commuter status?

Because we are a residential college, we value the learning, relationships, and community students gain while living on campus. In a student's fourth year at Hope, they can choose to continue living on campus or seek off-campus housing. Seeking off-campus housing gives students the opportunity to continue growing in independence while remaining on campus gives you unique housing options, without the hassle of year-long leases and landlords, as well as continued guidance and support from the college.



Before applying, please review the [Residential Life Housing Policy](#) to understand the criteria students need to meet in order to be eligible to request off-campus or parent commuter status.

## Criteria to apply for Off-Campus Status

- The student is in their fourth year (*calculated based on years of attendance, regardless of academic standing based on credits*)
- The student is 23 years old at the start of the academic year (*August 31, 2025*)
- The student is married with proof of marriage (*requires verification of a marriage license*)
- The custodial parent of a minor child (*requires verification of the child's birth certificate*)

## Criteria to apply for Parent Commuter Status

- The student is commuting from their parent/legal guardian's primary residence which must be within 35 driving miles of campus
  - *Primary residence is defined as the one place where an owner of the property has their true, fixed and permanent home. A family-owned apartment or house that is not the parent/legal guardian's primary residence, or the residence of other relatives or friends, does not qualify.*

Currently enrolled students interested in living off campus or commuting from their parent/legal guardian's primary residence **must apply annually**. Approval for off-campus or parent commuter status is for the requested academic year only.

Please note that the college is not obligated to grant off-campus status to students who have entered into rental agreements before proper approval has been given. Students are strongly advised not to sign a lease before receiving off-campus status.

The college reserves the right to deny off-campus or parent commuter applications submitted by students who do not meet the criteria listed above or have been subject to college disciplinary action.

Choosing to live off campus or commute from home can change your financial aid package. You are asked to contact the Financial Aid Office at 616.395.7765 or [finaid@hope.edu](mailto:finaid@hope.edu) to verify any potential impact to your financial aid package before applying.

Students who are approved for off-campus or parent commuter status are not eligible to participate in the on-campus housing application process, and are not guaranteed the availability of on-campus housing if plans change.

Students who do not directly meet the criteria listed above may apply only in rare cases where there is an exceptional individual circumstance.

In those circumstances, the student will be asked to meet with a member of the Off-Campus Housing Committee and/or provide additional documentation explaining their situation. Requests will be reviewed and decided upon by the Off-Campus Housing Committee, but approval is uncommon for students who do not meet the standard eligibility requirements. Decisions of the Off-Campus Housing Committee are final.

Those who are found to falsify information to meet criteria will be taken through the conduct process for being in violation of the Residential Living Policy and Dishonesty Policy.

If you are interested in applying for Off-Campus/Parent Commuter Status for the 2026-2027 academic year, follow the steps below:

- Log into your [Hope Housing Portal](#) by selecting “HOPE - Student SSO Login” and using your Hope email credentials
- In the header at the top of your portal, select **“Application”**
- Select the correct term for which you are applying, **“Academic Year 2026-2027”**
- When prompted you will select either **“Requesting Off-Campus Status”** or **“Requesting Parent Commuter Status”** and click Save/Continue to complete filling out the application.

Questions regarding the off-campus/parent commuter application process can be directed to [housing@hope.edu](mailto:housing@hope.edu).

*For returning students, the deadline to apply for off-campus or parent commuter status is January 23, 2026. If you missed the deadline and still wish to apply, email [housing@hope.edu](mailto:housing@hope.edu).*

# What are housing costs?

The housing costs for the 2026-2027 academic year will be posted on the [Business Services website](#) in early February.

The cost of housing is a “tiered” based system based on characteristics such as amenities and square footage. Within the residence hall tiers, there will be a single, double, and triple room rate. Within the cottage and apartment tiers, there will be a shared room rate (double/triple) and a single room rate. You can see the different tiers below:

<b><u>Tier</u></b>	<b><u>General Definition</u></b>
Standard Residence Hall	Classic residence halls (community bathrooms)
Premium Residence Hall	Cook Hall (AC and suite bathrooms)   rooms with private/semi-private bathrooms
Standard Cottage/Apartment	Standard apartments   No AC
Standard Plus Cottage/Apartment	Standard cottages, no AC   Standard apartments with AC
Premium Cottage/Apartment	Cottages with AC   2-person or updated apartments
Premium Plus Cottage/Apartment	Cottages and apartments with premium amenities

You can see which tier housing units fall into in the [Housing Units and Details](#) spreadsheet.

# How do I request to stay in my current room?

If you are requesting to stay in your current room, you will fill out the On-Campus Housing Application in your [Hope Housing Portal](#). Select "Requesting to stay in my existing residence hall room" within the application and click Save/Continue to complete the rest of the application.

You will also be asked to indicate the roommate that you would like to live with. This can be your current roommate, or you can name a new roommate to join you next academic year. If you do not indicate a roommate, the open space will be added to the Open Room Selection process.

*Note: Requesting to stay in your location is **not permitted** in Apartments, Cottages, Dykstra, Lichty, Scott, or single or handicap accessible rooms in residence halls.*

# What if I don't have a roommate?

As in past years, you can post information on the [Looking For A Roommate](#) website. You can also view other students' postings in an effort to help identify a roommate.

If you do not have a roommate when you select your room, the Housing Office will look at your housing preferences and match you with a current student who does not have a roommate or an incoming transfer, new or exchange student who does not have a roommate.

# What if I'm studying off-campus in fall?

We just need to know your plans! We ask that you fill out the Housing Application in your [Hope Housing Portal](#). Select "Studying off-campus (Abroad or Domestic) for Fall" within the application and click Save/Continue to complete the rest of the application.

For Spring 2027 housing, we will contact you in early November to make housing arrangements for the Spring semester when you are back on campus.





# What if I have or need to request a housing accommodation?

Some people need specific types of housing or specific amenities in their housing because of a personal condition. If you have a condition that substantially limits major life activity (including allergies), you may be eligible for specific housing accommodations. To inquire, request or renew housing accommodations, you must contact [Disability and Accessibility Resources](#) (DAR). DAR works with you to understand your needs, compile any necessary documentation, and make accommodation determinations. These determinations are given to Housing, and we identify housing that meets the accommodations.

In order to guarantee a housing placement for an approved accommodation, the above process must be completed for cottage, apartment, and residence halls **by February 1, 2026**. Any accommodations approved after these dates will be fulfilled as space becomes available.

Students who identify as transgender and have questions or concerns about their housing options should contact Associate Dean for Residential Life and Education Kristyn Bochniak at [bochniak@hope.edu](mailto:bochniak@hope.edu).

If you are concerned about the housing structure and do not have a condition that limits major life activities, please contact [housing@hope.edu](mailto:housing@hope.edu).