



## FRESHMAN RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT POLICY

---

Mississippi State University is committed to providing its students with a comprehensive educational experience. The University has determined that for most four-year students, living on-campus, as compared to off-campus living, has numerous educational and social benefits. In recognition of the value of the living-learning experience associated with on-campus living, effective the 2008 Fall Semester, Mississippi State University has required first-year students to live on campus in residence halls. All Mississippi State University students are also required to review and adhere to the policies and regulations of Mississippi State University. Policies relating to students may be reviewed at [http://www.msstate.edu/web/student\\_policies.html](http://www.msstate.edu/web/student_policies.html). The Mississippi State University Honor Code may be reviewed at <http://students.msstate.edu/honorcode/>.

All First Time Freshman attending the Starkville campus are required to live in university residence halls. First Time Freshmen are not permitted to live in fraternity or sorority housing. For purposes of this policy, a First-Time Freshman is defined as: (1) A student who has never attended a college or university; or (2) a student who has previously attended any college or university for the first time in the prior summer term; or (3) a recent high school graduate who graduated in May and enrolled the following Fall term (regardless of summer enrollment); or (4) a student who successfully completed the twelve hour Summer Developmental Program regardless of the institution attended; or (5) a first-time MSU student with advanced standing (AP, CLEP or college credits earned before high school graduation). A First Time Freshman who first attends MSU in a Fall Semester is required to live in a university residence hall for the Fall and subsequent Spring semesters. A First Time Freshman who first attends MSU in a Spring Semester is required to live in a university residence hall during the Spring semester only. A First Time Freshman who first attends MSU during a Summer session is required to live in a university residence hall during the subsequent Fall and Spring semesters. The residency requirement is not applicable during summer sessions.

Exemptions to this requirement must be made in writing (on a Release Request Form obtained from the Department of Housing and Residence Life, or our web page at <http://www.housing.msstate.edu>), and submitted by July 15 for Fall Semester release, or November 15 for a Spring Semester release to the Department of Housing and Residence Life.

Students who fail or refuse to comply with the Residency Requirement Program and/or who furnish false information to a University official or office in connection with a request for exemption will be referred to the Dean of Students office for further action.

Exemptions may be granted to students who:

1. Are twenty-one (21) years of age or older, having reached that age no later than the first day of classes. A copy of the certificate of birth must be submitted as documentation.
2. Are married. A copy of the certificate of marriage must be submitted as documentation.
3. Have custody of dependent children. A copy of the certificate of birth must be submitted as documentation.
4. Are veterans who have completed 2 years active military service. Documentation must be provided to verify.
5. Who live with parent(s)/guardian(s) whose current permanent primary place of residence is not more than 30 miles from Mississippi State University – Starkville Campus. Proof of permanent primary residence and proof of guardianship must be submitted as documentation.
6. Have a personal compelling circumstance. A letter concisely and fully describing the circumstance and any supporting documentation must be attached.



PROCEDURES FOR REQUESTING EXEMPTIONS FROM THE  
FRESHMAN RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT POLICY

---

I. A written request for exemption must be submitted on a Freshman Residency Requirement Exemption Request Form and received in the Department of Housing and Residence Life on or before the following dates based upon the student's intended first term of enrollment at Mississippi State University.

- Fall Semester first enrollment – July 15
- Spring Semester first enrollment – November 15

II. All correspondence regarding exemption requests should be addressed to:

Department of Housing and Residence  
Life Office of Administrative Services  
Residency Requirement Request  
P.O. Box 9502  
Mississippi State, MS 39762

Phone: (662) 325-3555

Fax: (662) 325-4663

E-mail: [housing@saffairs.msstate.edu](mailto:housing@saffairs.msstate.edu)

III. The Housing Appeal Review Committee will review written requests for exemptions which are received by the applicable deadline. The Housing Appeal Review Committee will send a decision (approval or denial) on the exemption request to the student's msstate.edu email account.

IV. Students may appeal, in writing, the denial of a request for exemption to the Housing Appeal Board consisting of faculty, staff and students.

- A. Written appeals must be submitted to the Department of Housing and Residence Life no later than ten (10) working days after notice has been sent that a request for exemption has been denied.
- B. The appeal must state concisely the reasons the denial of the exemption request should be reversed and should include any new evidence which the student contends supports the appeal.
- C. The appeals board may consult with other units of the University, including, but not limited to, the Student Health Center, Office of Student Support Services, the Dean of Students Office, and the Office of Financial Aid.
- D. The appeals board will communicate its decision in writing to the student.
- E. The decisions of the appeals board will be final.



**MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™**  
HOUSING AND RESIDENCE LIFE

RELEASE REQUEST  
FRESHMAN RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First MI Permanent phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
MSU ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Term Applied for Exemption: \_\_\_\_\_

I am requesting exemption from the Mississippi State University Freshman Residency Requirement Program for first year students. The specific qualifying factor is:

- \_\_\_\_\_ A. I am now / or will be prior to the first day of classes, 21 years of age or older.  
(Attach a copy of your birth certificate.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ B. I am married.  
(Attach a copy of your marriage certificate.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ C. I have custody of dependent children.  
(Attach a copy of your child's birth certificate.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ D. I am a veteran who has completed 2 years of active military service.  
(Attach documentation.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ E. I live with my parent(s)/guardian(s) whose current permanent primary place of residence is not more than 30 miles from Mississippi State University – Starkville Campus.  
(Attach proof of permanent primary physical residence and if applicable guardianship documentation and MS drivers license)
- \_\_\_\_\_ F. I have a personal compelling circumstance

Students who fail or refuse to comply with the Residency Requirement Program and/or who furnish false information to a University official or office in connection with a request for exemption will be referred to the Dean of Students office for further action. Once housing contract is signed, first-year students are no longer eligible for FRE but can go through a contract appeal process.

Requests for exemption must be received in the Department of Housing and Residence Life Administrative Services office on or before the following schedule:

- July 15 for Fall Semester
- November 15 for Spring Semester

For information regarding requests for exemptions, please contact the Department of Housing and Residence Life at (662) 325-3555 or visit our website at: [www.housing.msstate.edu](http://www.housing.msstate.edu).

<b>For Office Use Only</b>	Date Exemption Request Received: _____
Initial Decision: <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied	Date: _____ Initials: _____
Date Appeal Received: _____	Appeals Committee Decision <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied Date: _____