2019-20 Room Selection Newsletter for Eastman Undergraduate students

This Newsletter includes preliminary information for students about how to proceed with room selection for next year and important room selection dates. Final information and specific instructions will be distributed directly to students by their RA during the week before Spring Break.

2019-20 Room Selection Highlights

- Housing application, room selection, and meal plan info will be made available on April 3, 2019.
- Sophomores and Juniors are required to live on campus due to the 3-year residency requirement.
- Priority for room selection is based on Class Year (ex. juniors select rooms before sophomores).
- Each student is assigned a selection day and time (proxy forms are available for absent students).
- Cluster housing means having the ability to identify one or up to two additional floor-mates to live near you.
- Student Accounts must be financially cleared in order to participate in room selection. Check with the Bursar for specific information about your financial account. Sophomore and junior students are guaranteed housing.
- Dual Degree students that receive their financial aid from Eastman must live on either the River Campus or the Eastman Campus; regardless of location, the 3-year residency requirement is in effect.
- Effective July 1, 2017, Eastman is smoke and tobacco free. There is no smoking including use of vaporizers or e-cigarettes, in the Student Living Center or any place on campus.

Student Living Center Facts

UR Dept. of Public Safety has an office in the Student Living Center. Their trusted presence is easily felt with an increase in the safety and security of our residence hall.

Eastman students use the Red and Orange Line shuttles to get back and forth to the River Campus (ex. taking a class, exercising at the Athletic Center, and visiting friends). While they do not run 24/7, the shuttles cover the academic course schedules with travel time built in to accommodate both campuses. Remember to bring UR ID.

**Basement Level:** Kitchen, Laundry Room, Updated Game Room (Spring 2019), Updated TV Lounge (Summer 2018), Reed Room, Bike Storage Room, Storage (some fees apply) for residents, Study Lounge, and Physical Therapy Office

**First Floor:** Public Safety, SLC Front Desk, University Health Services, University Counseling Center, mail and package rooms, Orchestra Pit, Media Lab, Ciminelli Formal Lounge (New Couches Summer 2018), Dining Services, Dean’s Dining Room, and Offices of Student Affairs, including Offices for Residential Life and Student Activities

**Upper Floors:** Every floor in the Tower and the Houses has a designated lounge space. These communal rooms were renovated in the summer of 2017 with fresh paint and have new furniture. Many lounges also have newer flat-screen televisions, microwaves, and tables for studying or enjoyment.

**New Furniture:** Rooms in the tower floor of 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14 received new furniture in the Summer of 2018. We plan on replacing the furniture in the rest of the tower this summer. This means that 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 of the tower will also have new furniture Summer 2019.
Average Single Room Characteristics in the Tower (New Foliot Brand Furniture)
(some variances with views of the City or Lake Ontario)

Rooms sizes are approximately 9’x11.5’ (103 sf) to 10’x13’ (130 sf).

Students on these floors typically share bathrooms with between 9-12 other students.

Every room comes fully furnished with an Extra-Long Twin mattress (80”x36”), bedframe, desk, chair, (2) 2-drawer stackable dressers, and a wardrobe. Each room has wireless internet and a wired Ethernet port.

Average Single Room Characteristics in the Houses
(some variances with views of the City or the Courtyard)

Room sizes are approximately 9’x11’ (99 sf) or 9’x11’ (103 sf) or 10.5’x12’ (125 sf).

Students on these floors typically share bathrooms with between 12-15 other students.

Many 4th floor rooms in the houses have slanted ceilings and skylights. Many students enjoy these rooms for their charm and natural lighting.

Every room comes fully furnished with an Extra-Long Twin mattress (80”x36”), bedframe, desk, chair, 3-drawer dresser, and a wardrobe. Each room has wireless internet and a wired Ethernet port.

How does room selection work?

Every eligible student will get detailed room selection information before spring break. Hard copies will be distributed by your RA and are also available from the Office for Residential Life. Digital versions will be available on our website. Try to attend your floor meeting or an open forum where the room selection information will be discussed. For those students living off-campus and would like to move back on, housing information packets will be available at the Office for Residential Life (100 Gibbs Street) by request. The description below generally explains how the process will work for students who are participating in the regular room selection process.

There are three steps to the room selection process. The first step is to complete an application. The second step is to select a room (please bring Student ID). And the final step is to select a meal plan.

The room selection process is based on class year seniority. Each student receives a specific time for selection. Graduate students, rising seniors, and juniors will receive the earliest days and times to select their room, followed by rising sophomores. Room selection times are random and assigned within each class year. Every student who submits a housing application will have a selection time assigned.

All students who participate will get a single occupancy room. Back by popular demand – The ability to cluster with one or two friends – this means that you will have the ability to select rooms near each other. Each student will designate the other students with whom they are interested in living nearby. There must be a mutual designation in place for each student – once they have selected you as a floor-mate, you will have the ability to select rooms based on the person with the earliest selection time. If you are planning to select a single without clustering, you will not designate floor-mates.

Depending on remaining availability and floor-mate designations, students will have access to all floors within the Student Living Center. As a general rule, you must have the right number of students to cluster on a particular floor (ex. If there are 2 spaces available on a floor and you have 3 persons, you must choose a different floor). For the purposes of this room selection process, nearby rooms are defined as adjacent to or across from each other. Rooms must be selected reasonably nearby and on the same floor (reasonable solutions must be approved by ResLife Staff).
Once the room selection process is underway, students who have decided they want to cluster need to determine who among them has the best selection day and time. The student with the earliest day and time will be able to look at the remaining available spaces and pull all confirmed floor-mates (up to 2 other students) into the housing space selected. For example, Student A has a selection time of Tuesday, at 4:02pm. Students B and C are all confirmed floor-mates. At 4:02pm, Student A comes to the room selection event, checks the floor availability on 14T. **Student A selects rooms 1405T, 1406T, and 1412T and then assigns each floor-mate to a specific room on the floor.** Each of the 3 students will then receive confirmation of the floor and rooms. Each will also be prompted to sign their meal plan form. Since these rooms have already been selected on their behalf, Students B and C will not need to select during their own lottery time.

**What’s your strategy?**

Check out the floor plans in advance — available on **April 15, 2019**. Remember, just because you fall in love with a particular location or room, doesn’t mean it is available or that the space is always right. Use the floor plans to familiarize yourself with the Student Living Center, not to pick a particular space. “This side of the building faces Lake Ontario; this side of the building faces the courtyard; this side of the building gets the morning sun, etc.”

Figure out your strategy in advance. Where would you like to live? What if all the rooms are taken? Have you considered living on a different floor? Do you want to live in the houses or would you rather live near your friends? Consider multiple scenarios and be flexible – be prepared to try something new and different.

There are 222 single rooms available. Everyone who participates in the room selection process will have a single room within the Student Living Center.

If you want to cluster together on a floor, each student will need to mutually designate each other in order to be put together. More specific details will be available in the room selection materials given to you by your RA in April.

Remember, this is a random room draw process and not everyone gets the best time and day to select their room. Be assured that ultimately, this system is the most fair and everyone is guaranteed housing.

Students who have a prior commitment during their assigned room selection time may identify a proxy when they submit their application. Proxies may include either other students or the Office for Residential Life staff. Proxies make a room selection on your behalf. Proxy forms are available in your housing application material and by request from the Office for Residential Life prior to room selection. Proxies must present their Eastman ID card at room selection.

**Special Interest Housing (all-female, quiet floors, and more)**

The Student Living Center will continue to offer all-female and quiet floor spaces. If you are interested in living on either of these floors, please make this known when you submit your housing application.

**Back by popular demand** — Apply to create a Special Interest Housing community. Do you have a group of friends, a club or organization that wants to be dedicated to living a more active lifestyle, raise awareness of a social issue, represent a diverse student group, explore a living and learning community, commit to community service projects, or perhaps you have an alternate interest you feel will shape your Eastman experience?

If you answered yes to this question, consider creating a new special interest community. These are spaces where residents learn about leadership, progress initiatives, and develop community building skills. They are united by a common interest and they allow a small group of individuals to be more proactive in their living arrangements. There are no additional room charges for a special interest housing space. Some groups and organizations may want to work with the Eastman Students’ Association for additional floor funding.
In order to be considered a special interest housing floor and have a dedicated space in the tower or corridors of a house, we are looking for at least a group of 6 students. Contact rbones@esm.rochester.edu to begin your application. The deadline for any new group is April 15, 2019 (see below). Join now and help shape this community.

Please note: If you are interested in forming a Special Interest Housing group, you must still submit individual applications, but the room selection process will be different. Contact the Office for Residential Life before the room selection process begins for more information.

Off Campus Living Options for Seniors

Seniors are eligible to live off campus. The Office of Student Affairs provides assistance, education, and support to students who are looking for housing and residing off campus.

Living off campus gives seniors flexibility and a greater sense of independence. There are several off campus housing choices in and around the Rochester area. Many students look forward to being a part of a neighborhood where they can immerse themselves in all of Rochester’s cultural and social opportunities.

Seniors moving off campus are not required to complete a housing application, but are required to sign-up for a commuter dining plan. The commuter dining plan form will be available at the Office for Residential Life. Additionally, look for the Off Campus Housing Fair in April.

Stop by the Office of Student Affairs (100 Gibbs Street) or check out our website for more resources.

Important Dates to Remember (2019)

April 3   Special Interest Housing Applications Available
April 3   Housing Selection applications and Contract Language Guidelines distributed to rising Juniors and Sophomores
April 4   Housing Selection Presentation (all students are welcome)
April 15  New Proposals for Special Interest Housing Due
April 15  All Housing and Dining Applications are Due by 12:00pm
           (incomplete applications will be assigned a room and a meal-plan)
April 15  Housing Selection Info Q&A (open to all students)
April 22  Room Selection Times Posted and Emailed to all students
April 29  Graduate and Rising Senior Selection Day (begins @11:00am)
April 29  Rising Junior Selection Day (begins @6:00pm - see posted times)
April 30  Rising Sophomore Selection Day (begins @6:00pm - see posted times)
May 12    The Student Living Center closes at 12:00pm (see RA for details)
August 24 The Student Living Center reopens at 9:00am (Upper-class move in)
December 16 The Student Living Center closes at 12:00pm (Winter Break)

Note: We invite you to start calling the building the “Student Living Center.” It is no longer a “DORM.” It is much more than a place to sleep. We want our residence hall to reflect the fact that we believe in community.” The Student Living Center is a residence hall, a student union, a place to connect with friends, and living space with opportunities all around you. We hope you see that a residence hall affects the lives and personal development of the students who live here.