



## Residential Housing Policy

The University of Arkansas at Monticello is committed to providing students with a comprehensive educational experience. The University has determined that for most traditional college students, living on-campus, as compared to off-campus living, has a multitude of educational and social benefits. Numerous studies have indicated the following regarding students who live on-campus:

- They earn better grades and have higher GPA's than non-resident students.
- They develop stronger ties to the college and have a greater feeling of community with their peers.
- They report having greater opportunities to interact with faculty and feel more connected to their educational experiences.
- They build more meaningful and lasting relationships with their peers.
- They recount more satisfaction with their college experiences than students who live off-campus.
- They tend to graduate at a higher rate and finish college sooner than non-resident students.

In recognition of the value of the on-campus experience, beginning with the 2025 Fall Semester, the University of Arkansas at Monticello will require all undergraduate full-time students (enrolled in 12 hours or more), who are LESS than 21 years of age (as of the 1<sup>st</sup> day of class each academic term), and who have completed LESS than 60 credit hours (as of the 1<sup>st</sup> day of class each academic term) to live on campus for the academic year. *This requirement excludes summer sessions.*

This policy is not applicable to students enrolled full time at the Colleges of Technology at Crossett and McGehee; however, students attending those campuses do qualify and are welcome to reside in University Housing on the Monticello campus.

Students who fail or refuse to comply with the Residency Housing Policy 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. Disciplinary action could include responsibility for all back charges for room and board incurred while living off campus.

### **Exemption Request**

To request an exemption from the residency requirement, visit [www.uamont.edu](http://www.uamont.edu) and click on the "Life at UAM" tab, then select "Housing." Under the "Housing" section, choose "Forms and Links" and click on "Housing Exemption Request." You will then be prompted to log in using

your UAM credentials. After logging in, complete the Housing Exemption Request form. This form must be submitted by July 20<sup>th</sup> for a fall semester release or November 15<sup>th</sup> for a spring semester release. Students admitted after the above dates who seek exemption from the Residential Housing Policy must submit the exemption petition as soon as possible after admission notification, but no later than the 1<sup>st</sup> day of classes each academic term. Students who have not secured housing on campus or completed an exemption form by July 20<sup>th</sup> for fall or November 15<sup>th</sup> for spring will incur housing charges in the amount of the lowest housing rate for that term.

In the event of unforeseen changes in a student's circumstances due to illness or other personal reasons, some petitions may be considered after the above dates. Unless it is clearly established that illness or personal reasons which were not known prior to the above dates have arisen to necessitate a student's living off-campus, a student should not expect to be relieved of the housing requirement.

If you encounter any issues or need assistance, feel free to reach out Residence Life at [reslife@uamont.edu](mailto:reslife@uamont.edu) or call 870-460-1405.

### **Exemption Criteria**

- ❖ The following criteria **WILL** exempt a student **WITHOUT** having to file an Exemption Request
  - *21 years of age or older* on or before the first day of classes for that academic year. Any student who will attain the age of 21 prior to the first day of classes of the following spring semester may request termination of his/her academic year lease; however, the lease termination policy will still apply.
  - *Completion of 60 Credit Hours* by the first day of classes for that academic year. Any student under the age of 21 who will attain 60 credit hours or more prior to the first day of classes of the following spring semester may request termination of his/her academic year lease; however, the lease termination policy will still apply.
  
- ❖ The following criteria **WILL** exempt a student but will **REQUIRE** filing an Exemption Request with the appropriate documentation.
  - *Living with parents or legal guardians* at their primary residence **and** commuting to campus from within 45 miles of the Monticello Campus.
    - Documentation: A completed Parent/ Guardian Residence Verification from the parent or guardian verifying that his/her son or daughter will be living at the primary residence. The parent or guardian will also be required to submit a copy of a utility bill with the parent's/guardian's name and address listed on the bill as a part of the verification process.
  - Google Maps will serve as the primary tool to calculate the distance from the primary residence to the University (346 University Dr. Monticello, AR 71656). This will ensure

accuracy and consistency in determining whether a student qualifies for off-campus housing.

- *Married or have children.*
  - Documentation: A copy of marriage license.
  - Documentation: A copy of the child's birth certificate
- *Active-duty military experience (at least one year)*
  - Documentation: DD-214 discharge document

❖ The following criteria **MAY** exempt a student and will **REQUIRE** filing a Housing Exemption Request. Such exemptions will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Housing Appeal Review Committee.

- *Extreme medical condition and/or disability* for which on-campus accommodations cannot be made.
  - Any student requesting this exemption should contact the Office of Special Student Services located Student Success Center Suite 101G; phone 870 460-1026; TDD 870 460-1626; Fax 870 460-1926.
- *Personal compelling circumstance.*
  - Documentation: A concise letter which fully describes the circumstance along with any supporting documentation.

An application for exemption from the on-campus housing requirement does not guarantee nor imply that an exemption will be granted. A student should assume that his/her request has not been granted until he/she receives written notification of approval and should not make other living arrangements, enter into a rental/ lease agreement with a third-party realtor or lessee until such notification. Having already signed a lease with an off-campus landlord will not be considered a valid reason for an exemption.

## **Appeal process**

The Director of Housing or Dean of Students will provide the initial review of the exemption request(s). Approved request(s) will be notified in writing via email to the student's official UAM email address.

Any request needing additional review will be automatically referred to the Housing Appeal Review Committee. This Committee will review requests for exemptions which are received by the applicable deadline. The Housing Appeal Review Committee may consist of other departments of the University, including, but not limited to, the Student Health Center, Office of Special Student Services, the Dean of Students Office, and the Office of Financial Aid. It will be the responsibility of the Director of Housing and Residence Life to assemble the committee. After reviewing the Housing Exemption Request, the Committee will send a decision regarding the exemption request to the student's official UAM email address.

Should the request be denied, the student may submit a written appeal to the Vice Chancellor of Student Engagement (VCSE).

- A. An electronic appeal must be submitted to the Residence Life email ([reslife@uamont.edu](mailto:reslife@uamont.edu)) no later than ten (10) working days after notice has been sent that a request for exemption has been denied. The appeal will be forwarded to the VCSE.
- B. The appeal must concisely state the reasons the denial should be reversed and should include any **NEW** evidence which the student contends supports the appeal.
- C. The VCSE will communicate a decision to the student's official UAM email address.
- D. The decision of the VCSE will be final.