LIVING ON CAMPUS

THE FUNDAMENTALS OF THE RESIDENTIAL EXPERIENCE

Northwestern | RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

PART OF A

BIGGER PICTURE

RESIDENTIAL LINGO

RESIDENTIAL AREA

A residential area is a cluster of buildings across which residents can enjoy amenities and programming near their room. While each has its own character, the consistency of features, services, and staffing across areas ensures equitable access to resources.

RESIDENCE HALL

Ranging in size from a few dozen residents to a few hundred, each residence hall has its own unique advantages and vibe. These diverse communities offer students all they need for a meaningful residential experience.

RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE

Residential colleges are led by faculty and elected student leaders. They have a sense of community that comes with multi-year residents and enduring faculty affiliations. Some colleges have a unifying theme that shapes the culture and traditions.

FACULTY-IN-RESIDENCE

Faculty-in-Residence are Northwestern faculty members who live on campus to engage with students. They routinely welcome students into their homes and attend events within their residential areas.

RESIDENT DIRECTOR

Resident Directors are live-in Student Affairs staff who coordinate the network of care and support for students living on campus. They do this both through direct work with students and supervision of Resident Assistants.

RESIDENT ASSISTANT

Resident Assistants are undergraduate staff members dedicated to the wellness of individual students and the health and safety of their entire floor. They foster a sense of belonging for all students living on campus.

FACULTY CHAIR

A Faculty Chair leads each residential college by mentoring students to help set a vision for the community, and maintaining a cohort of faculty and staff affiliates who engage with students at meals and events.

HOUSING MASTER PLAN

In 2013, Northwestern began a strategic plan for the renovation and construction of campus residences to enhance the residential experience. New amenities and multifunction spaces are transforming campus as the plan progresses.

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT

Northwestern has a two-year residency requirement for all incoming first-year undergraduate students. All incoming transfer students are required to live on campus for their first year. This institutional initiative is designed to support students' social and academic transitions.

LIVING IN YOUR RESIDENTIAL AREA

"hubs of activity with many ways to meet your neighbors"

EVERYTHING WITHIN REACH

While Northwestern's campus is more compact than many others, we know it can feel sprawling to new students, especially in winter. That's one reason why residential areas are hubs of activity. Partner offices routinely bring their services into areas, including after business hours. Areas also have dining venues, 24/7 operations desks, game lounges, and a mix of other amenities like fitness rooms.

ACADEMIC LINKAGES

While living on campus for their first two years, students across majors take many common introductory courses from math to foreign languages. Students can take many of these courses in classrooms located in residential areas. As a bonus, drop-in tutoring for courses is offered on nights and weekends. Aside from the convenience of being near their campus home, it's a great way to get to know neighbors for studying and socializing.

PLUGGED IN

Melissa Foster | ***Faculty-in-Residence***

Being deeply involved in academic programs, students and faculty alike risk missing the vibrancy of the larger university. Living on campus keeps me plugged in, and the same is true for students. I've hosted events with fascinating guests recommended by residents but previously unknown to me. I've also introduced residents to my field with outings to the theatre and musical performances in area venues. While enjoyable in and of themselves, these occasions hopefully make it easier for students to engage with faculty in other settings.

HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Aaron Klama | ***Resident Director***

It is a joy to work with the Residential community at Northwestern. Wildcats bring an impeccable work ethic to their day-to-day activities, and it is an honor to watch each and every student grow in their own way. The best advice I can give for incoming students is to immerse yourself in the campus experience. Go to events, make new friends, try new things and just find your new sense of normal.

LIVING IN *Your* BUILDING

> *"more than a place to sleep, so your preferences matter"*

STUDENT CHOICE

At many institutions, housing assignments are made with no student input. At Northwestern, students can communicate their preferences to influence where they live. What matters most to you? Remember, your academic program is not your housing destiny. You can decide whether it's more important to be near academic buildings, downtown, athletic facilities, or some other landmark. Would you prefer a large or small building? Do you want the experience of living in a residential college? Is co-ed, single gender, or all gender housing the best choice for you?

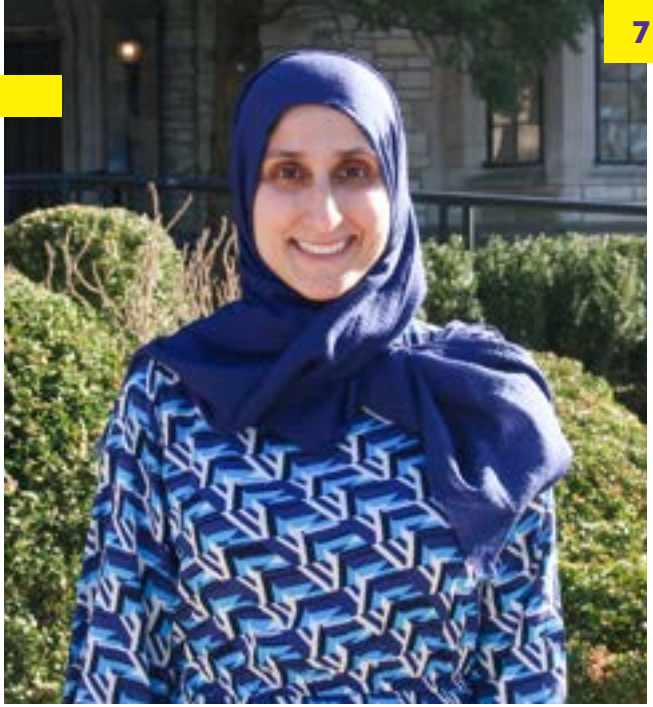
CARING COMMUNITIES

You may hear the word "dorm" on other campuses, but not here. Our buildings are more than places to sleep. Resident Assistants on every floor get to know everyone individually, bring residents together, and help address student challenges. In residential colleges, students are part of a larger community that includes mentorship from affiliated faculty and staff.

A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

*Fatima Khan | **Faculty Chair***

It is my honor and privilege to serve as Faculty Chair of Shepard Residential College (SMQ). As a multi-thematic residential college, I get to meet students from all different schools and majors that normally would not show up in one of my classes. There's so much I love about Shepard, but some of my favorite activities are our weekly Fellows' Lunches where we discuss everything and anything with our Faculty Fellows and all the cooking that happens year-round in our kitchen. A big part of our culture is socializing over munchies and trying all sorts of different foods. At the end of spring quarter, we put on an amazing BBQ that showcases the culinary talents of the students. As a smaller residential college, Shepard is cozy and we get to meet the partners, children and pets of our Fellows. Everyone works very hard to provide an inclusive and warm space that feels like home.



SPECIAL CONNECTIONS

*Jenna Lee | **Resident Assistant***

Being an RA has helped me reflect a lot about the role of community in the places we live in. Being able to support residents, get to know them, and foster community between them and with myself has been a very fulfilling experience. Leading events to help bring them together and being a friendly face for residents at the various desks has been a wonderful way to meet people and make people feel welcome. Moving to campus can often be intimidating, especially if students feel like they don't know anyone from their hometowns who are here at Northwestern, and part of being an RA to me is making sure that students feel comfortable and confident in navigating that transition and finding community wherever it might suit them. I hope to be a resource for all residents to find what they are looking for.

Living on campus is a uniquely Northwestern experience!

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Northwestern University Residential Services

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