

LIVING  
ON  
CAMPUS

THE FUNDAMENTALS OF THE RESIDENTIAL EXPERIENCE

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.

**FACULTY-IN-RESIDENCE & RESIDENT DIRECTOR**

**FACULTY CHAIR**

**RESIDENT ASSISTANT**

**YOUR FLOOR**

**RESIDENCE HALL OR RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE**

**RESIDENTIAL AREA**

**NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY**



**YOUR ROOM**



# 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 approach faculty in other educational settings.



## FRIENDLY FACES

*Dani O'Hara* | **Resident Director**

I've met students from all over the world who become Wildcats on move-in day, if not before. While the first year at Northwestern is exciting, it's not familiar yet. It takes a while to learn your way around campus buildings and resources. I try to be a friendly face of the institution so residents know where to go sooner rather than later. Some conversations happen in one-on-one meetings, but plenty happen at social and educational programs around the area or over a meal. Regardless of the setting, I'm here to support and connect residents to campus.



# LIVING IN BUILDING

*your*

**“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.



## DEEP QUESTIONS

*Mark Witte | Faculty Chair*

Classroom interactions with students can be so limiting. First, there are the shy students who aren't comfortable speaking up in front of the whole class. Then there are the deep questions that are beyond the scope of the class, or even terrific but off-topic questions. In the lecture hall, I can't really fix any of these...but over lunch, everything works so much better! It's a different kind of learning, but real and wonderful.



## SPECIAL CONNECTIONS

*Sid Ahuja | Resident Assistant*

As a transfer student, I appreciate how tough the transition to college can be, and the role an RA can play in it. I work to make my floor an environment where residents feel comfortable approaching me and confident that I will always be there for them. From being present and active in the building to having lunch with each of my residents to learn their stories, I've developed a special connection with each of them.



“ Living on  
campus is  
a uniquely  
Northwestern  
experience! ”



[WWW.NORTHWESTERN.EDU/LIVING/](http://WWW.NORTHWESTERN.EDU/LIVING/)

[HOUSING@NORTHWESTERN.EDU](mailto:HOUSING@NORTHWESTERN.EDU)

847-467-HOME (4663)

 Northwestern University Residential Services

 residentialservicesnu