



## Housing & Dining Contract Exemption & Contract Release Practice Directive

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<b>Department:</b> University Housing
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<b>Effective Date:</b> July 1, 2019
<b>Revised Date:</b> July 1, 2022

### Authority:

Regent Policy Document(s): [Regent Policy Document 24-2 \(formerly 72-6\): Freshman/Sophomore Residence Halls Requirement: Former Wisconsin State University Units Only](#) , [Regent Policy Document 23-2: Health, Safety, and Security at UW System Institutions](#)

UW System Policy: [UW System Administrative Policy 136: Required Disclosures for Participation in Certain UW System Services and Programs](#)

### Objective:

The University of Wisconsin - Whitewater strives to ensure our students feel supported and engaged in all aspects of their higher education experience which includes, but is not limited to, their room and board arrangements. Our campus recognizes the connection between supportive, on-campus living environments and student engagement, as well as values how this connection increases student retention, success and graduation.

### Statement:

Our campus puts the academic success of our students as a top tier priority, and student retention is fundamental to our ability to carry out this mission. Students housed on campus are more likely to have higher retention rates. Ample research across the United States over the last 30 years has provided compelling evidence that students who live in university-provided housing perform better academically, and enjoy a higher degree of satisfaction with their college experience, than students who live off-campus or commute.

The University of Wisconsin System has a long-standing policy to house Freshman (First Year) and Sophomore (Second Year) students. In support of greater student success, and in accordance with UW System policy, UW-W Freshmen (First Year) and Sophomore (Second Year) students are expected to have an on-campus housing and dining contract. Regent Policy 24-2 states:

“Those freshman and sophomore students who are not veterans, married, or living with parents or guardians, shall be required to live in a university-operated residence when such accommodations are available”.

Regent Policy 24-2 also authorizes a limited exemption process, which the University has utilized in the past.

This Practice Directive, along with its corresponding Contract Exemption and Contract Release Procedure documents, highlight UW System student housing policies surrounding the on-campus housing and dining requirement, and describes the processes around the aforementioned exceptions.

**Procedures:**

[Housing & Dining Contract Exemption Procedure](#)

[Housing & Dining Contract Release Procedure](#)

**Searchable Words:**

Housing Exemption, Housing Contract Release, Housing, On-Campus Housing, Freshman, First Year, Sophomore, Second Year, Residence Halls Requirement, Residence Hall, Housing Requirement.