



I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Texas Southern University (TSU) maintains a First-Year Student On-Campus Residency Requirement to foster academic success, student engagement, and a supportive campus community. Research indicates that living on campus during the first academic year significantly enhances retention rates and provides students with vital access to University resources and services that support the transition to University life. This policy establishes the residency requirement for first-year students and outlines the criteria and procedures for seeking an exemption.

This policy shall be administered in a nondiscriminatory manner consistent with applicable federal and state law.

II. RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT PROVISIONS

A. Applicability: All incoming freshman students enrolled in twelve (12) or more semester credit hours are required to reside in University-operated housing, including all residence halls and University-owned apartment facilities, subject to space availability.

B. Duration: Duration: All first-time, first-year undergraduate students (hereinafter “freshmen”), defined as students who have not previously enrolled in a postsecondary institution following high school graduation (excluding dual credit or early college programs), are required to reside in university-owned or university-operated housing for a minimum of two (2) consecutive primary academic semesters (fall and spring, or spring and fall, as applicable), beginning with the student’s initial term of enrollment. The requirement must be satisfied through continuous enrollment.

C. Summer Academic Sessions: The residency requirement does not apply during summer academic sessions.

D. Approved Exemption: Students who receive a written exemption from the Student Housing Department in accordance with the guidelines of this policy are not subject to the First-Year Student Residency Requirement.

III. EXEMPTION ELIGIBILITY

The University recognizes that certain circumstances may exempt a student from the First-Year Residency Policy. To be considered for an exemption, students must meet one (1) of the following criteria and provide the corresponding documentation to the Student Housing Department:

MAPP 05.02.01 First-Year Student On-Campus Residency

Requirement
Section Student Affairs
Area Housing and Residential Life
Original 03/31/2014
Updated 04/14/2026



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A. Age: Students who are twenty (20) years of age or older, having reached that age no later than the first day of classes. A copy of the student’s birth certificate is required as documentation.

B. Marital Status: Students who are legally married. A copy of the certificate of marriage is required as documentation.

C. Dependents: Students who have legal custody of dependent children. A copy of the certificate of birth (for the child) is required as documentation.

D. Military Service: Students who are veterans and have completed two (2) years of active military service. Official documentation, such as a DD-214 or a current Leave and Earnings Statement (LES), must be provided to verify time served.

E. Local Parental Residency Exemption: Students who reside with parent(s) or guardian(s) whose current permanent primary place of residence is located within a twenty-five (25) mile radius of the University campus. A notarized Statement of Residency from the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) is required as documentation.

F. Compelling Circumstance: Students who demonstrate significant and documented personal circumstances that make compliance with the residency requirement unduly burdensome may be considered for an exemption. In these cases, the University evaluates whether the student’s needs are best served through an off-campus residency.

Examples of compelling circumstances include:

- **Financial Hardship:** Documented financial circumstances that cannot be reasonably addressed through available financial aid resources or alternative campus housing options.
- **Family Obligations:** Significant, documented family responsibilities, such as primary caregiving duties for a dependent or immediate family member.
- **Health-Related Concerns:** Verified health-related circumstances that require alternative living arrangements and are not otherwise addressed through the University’s established ADA/Section 504 accommodation process.
- **Extraordinary Circumstances:** Other unforeseen or exceptional situations as determined by the University on a case-by-case basis

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Submission Requirements:

A letter concisely and fully describing the circumstances, along with all supporting documentation, must be submitted to the Student Housing Department by the deadlines identified in Section IV of this policy.

G. Students with disabilities or medical conditions may request reasonable accommodations or exemptions from the residency requirement through the University's ADA/Section 504 process. The University will engage in an individualized, interactive process to determine appropriate modifications.

IV. EXEMPTION PROCEDURES

A. Submission of Requests: All students seeking an exemption must submit a written request using the "Release Request Form" (Exhibit A), accompanied by all required supporting documentation, to the Student Housing Department. Release Request Forms must be submitted by the following deadlines:

Fall Semester Release: July 15

Spring Semester Release: November 15

B. Appeals Process: Students may appeal a denied exemption by submitting a written request to the Division of Student Affairs (or its designee) within seven (7) business days of the notification. To be considered, the appeal must include new supporting documentation not previously provided. The Division (or designee) will issue a final determination, which concludes the appeal process.

V. ENFORCEMENT

Students who fail or refuse to comply with the Residency Requirement Program and/or who furnish false information to a University official or office in connection with a request for exemption may be referred to the Dean of Students Office for disciplinary action, in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.