

# Housing and Dining Information

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**Oberlin College**  
Office of Residential Education  
and Dining Services  
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155 N. Professor St.  
Oberlin, OH 44074

Housing: [www.oberlin.edu/resed](http://www.oberlin.edu/resed)  
Dining: [www.oberlin.edu/cds](http://www.oberlin.edu/cds)

This section contains information to help you complete the online Housing and Dining Application. This application, found on the Office of Residential Education and Dining Services web site ([www.oberlin.edu/resed](http://www.oberlin.edu/resed)), allows you to select the type of housing and dining option that interests you. You may indicate personal preferences that help us match you with a roommate, or you may also request a specific roommate.

Additional forms required for several special housing options are located on the web site. These options include program houses, substance-free living, and the quiet floor. If you do not have access to the online documents, contact the office, and the staff will be happy to assist you.

**The Housing and Dining Application and any other housing forms required for your preference of residence-hall type must be submitted online by June 10, 2009.** In addition, the ID card photo request, the co-op application (if you wish to apply to a co-op), and the Obie Dollars deposit (if you wish to have money encoded on your ID card when you arrive) must be completed and received by June 10. These three forms can be found in this book and online.

## Housing and Dining Requirements

As a residential college, Oberlin College believes that having students living and dining together fosters community, discourse, and debate. Therefore, all students are required to live in College housing or in an Oberlin Student Cooperative Association (OSCA) co-op and to participate in one of the dining programs through graduation.

Based on anticipated enrollment, each year a limited number of students who have lived on campus for at least seven semesters will be eligible to receive off-campus (town) housing status. These students are chosen through a lottery system.

Exemptions from the housing and dining requirement are made for the following situations:

- students who have domestic partnerships or are married;
- students who commute from their parent's home (within a 50-mile radius of Oberlin);
- students who are age 23 or older;
- students who are enrolled for five or fewer credit hours;
- students who have underage, dependent children; and
- students classified by the registrar as graduate or special students.

To qualify for an exemption, appropriate and thorough documentation must be submitted by June 10, 2009, to the

Office of Residential Education and Dining Services. More information on requesting an exemption can be found online or you can contact the office.

## Residence Hall Information

Oberlin provides a variety of living options, including apartments and houses, as students progress toward graduation. All College housing is smoke free, and smoking is not permitted in or within 30 feet of any College or OSCA housing.

For first-year students, Oberlin College offers the first-year experience (FYE) halls, Barrows and Dascomb. Programs and communities in FYE halls support a positive and successful transition to college. Within the FYE communities, students also may choose to participate in theme floors, such as sustainability and community service, where they can meet others with similar interests.

For those who have already navigated their way through their first year in college, Noah, Talcott, and Zechiel halls offer the option to build their own unique, upper-class communities. In addition, transfer students have the option of living on the transfer-student floor located in Langston Hall. The floor is specifically designed for incoming and returning transfer students and organized by the Transfer Student Organization. Activities include special events for transfer students to socialize and explore Oberlin and the surrounding community.

Another option on campus includes substance-free housing, located in Barnard Hall. This community offers an environment that supports a student's choice to limit exposure to alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, or the second-hand effects of these substances.

Oberlin's nine program houses offer another housing option. Four of the program houses, French, German, Russian, and Spanish, are centered on the study, practice, and commemoration of those languages and cultures. The remaining five, Afrikan Heritage, Asia, Hebrew Heritage, and Third World houses and the Women's Collective, celebrate and embrace various cultural backgrounds and educate others about them.

Oberlin College also offers a variety of traditional residence halls that are located across campus and range from smaller, more intimate communities of about 70 residents to larger halls able to accommodate up to 250 residents. These halls offer the opportunity to interact with students from all classes.

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## Housing and Dining Information *(continued)*

Detailed information about Oberlin's housing options and answers to frequently asked questions can be found on the Residential Education and Dining Services web site at [www.oberlin.edu/resed](http://www.oberlin.edu/resed). In addition, applications required for program houses, substance-free living, and the quiet floor can be found on the site. You may also contact our staff by e-mail at [resed@oberlin.edu](mailto:resed@oberlin.edu) or by telephone with any housing questions.

### Emergency Alert System

In order to communicate quickly with the entire College community, Oberlin College's emergency response system uses multiple delivery methods to provide emergency information via cell phones, landlines, voicemail, text messaging, and web page alerts. ConnectED®, the NTI Group with which Oberlin College has contracted, will send information to the entire campus community in the event of an emergency.

Each student can select up to two e-mail addresses and six contact numbers to store in the system's database. The system can send voice messages to landlines and cell phones and text messages to cell phones, e-mail addresses, TTY/TDD devices for the hearing impaired, and other text-receiving devices. During an emergency, members of the College's Emergency Response Team will issue an alert to the entire campus community. The alert will be sent to each stored contact phone number and e-mail address.

The ConnectED® database is prepopulated with your name, e-mail address, and a fictional phone number. You can access this data during the summer or once you arrive on campus by going to the [www.oberlin.edu/warn](http://www.oberlin.edu/warn) web site and clicking the "Update Your Info" tab. You will need your official Oberlin e-mail address (usually in the format of first-name.lastname@oberlin.edu, your address is available on PRESTO) and your ID number, which is the T number provided on the cover of this book.

### Telephones

For ease of communication and for emergency situations, we encourage students to connect a landline phone in their room. Students in College housing are provided with basic telephone service that includes on-campus and local calling free of charge. Students may borrow a handset from the Office of Residential Education at no charge for the academic year. Voicemail is available free of charge to all students.

Students may choose to bring their own phones. The only restriction on personal phones is that 2.4 GHz cordless telephones are not permitted, as they interfere with wireless data networks. The Telephone Office cannot maintain personal phones brought to campus.

### The Roommate Assignment Process

Matching roommates is a challenging task, and the Office

of Residential Education strives to find compatible roommates for all incoming students. For roommate matching to be as successful as possible, please provide honest answers in the personal preferences section of the online application. To pair roommates, the Office of Residential Education uses a combination of computer and manual matching methods, basing roommate pairs on indicated housing preferences and important qualities in the roommate relationship.

The Office of Residential Education welcomes specific roommate requests and will do its best to honor them. For a specific roommate request to be fulfilled, both students must mutually request one another on the housing application.

### Meal Plan and Dining Hall Information

The Campus Dining Service (CDS) program at Oberlin College is operated by Bon Appétit Management Company and offers a variety of meal plan options to meet the needs of students and their unique schedules. The CDS program offers a wide range of food options with an emphasis on healthy cooking from scratch, local foods, creative vegan/vegetarian offerings, and sustainable practices.

Oberlin believes that the first semester of the first year is a time of uncertainty and does not want first-year students to worry about their daily meals. During their first semester, first-year students can choose one of the following meal plans:

- 19 meals per week (approximately three meals per day), with Flex Points, or
- 14 meals per week (approximately two meals per day), with Flex Points, or
- 12 meals per week (approximately two meals per day during the week), with Flex Points.

Board meals may be used at Stevenson, Lord/Saunders, Dascomb (meal equivalent) and the Science Cart (express meal).

During the second semester, more options are available.

CDS operates two all-you-can-eat resident dining facilities (Stevenson and Lord/Saunders Dining Hall at Afrikan Heritage House). Stevenson offers regional and traditional American cuisine as well as an extensive range of vegetarian and vegan options. Lord/Saunders features southern home style cooking influenced by African and African American cuisine. CDS also runs five additional unique dining operations: a carryout food court (Dascomb), a café-marketplace (Wilder DeCafé), a sit-down restaurant (Wilder Rathskeller), a light-fare carryout kiosk (Science Center Cart) and a gourmet coffee and pastry café (Azariah's Café) in the main campus library.

In an effort to reduce packaging waste, which ultimately goes into the landfill, Oberlin has introduced the Dascomb Re-usable Container Program. Food from Dascomb is served on china when eating in the dining hall, or it can be

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carried out in a reusable container or a traditional discard-after-use container. Oberlin encourages participation in the Re-usable Container Program by giving students \$0.25 in Flex Points with each use. For more information about the program, visit [www.oberlin.edu/cds/social/reusable.html](http://www.oberlin.edu/cds/social/reusable.html).

The Campus Dining Services (CDS) Flex Points program is a declining balance account that can be used at any venue on campus operated by CDS. CDS Flex Points can be used to purchase additional meals at the all-you-can eat dining facilities as well as à la carte food at the other operations. CDS Flex Points are not meant to support regular daily meals purchases, they are provided to expand your dining flexibility and provide opportunities to treat yourself to our retail services (e.g., purchase a smoothie at the DeCafé).

Food is currently provided in one of the dining facilities from 7:30 a.m. to midnight on weekdays and from 9:30 a.m. to midnight on Saturdays and Sundays. Meals and CDS Flex Points are automatically deducted from a student's board plan when the student presents his or her ID card at the register.

More detailed information about Oberlin's dining program, daily menus, and meal plans can be found on the dining section of the Residential Education and Dining Services web site ([www.oberlin.edu/cds](http://www.oberlin.edu/cds)).

### Special Housing and Dining Accommodations

The Office of Residential Education and Dining Services understands that some students may have medical conditions that require special housing and or dining accommodations. The College successfully meets the needs of most students, and only in rare instances must students needing accommodations live off campus or not participate in a meal plan. For more information or to request the forms required for housing and dining accommodations, visit the residential education web site at [www.oberlin.edu/resed](http://www.oberlin.edu/resed) or call or e-mail the office.

In addition, students requesting housing and or dining accommodations based on disability must contact the Office of Disability Services at [www.oberlin.edu/disability](http://www.oberlin.edu/disability) and complete the disability self-disclosure form found in this book. For accommodation requests to be considered, forms must be received by June 15, 2009.

### Notification of Housing and Dining Assignments

Students who complete and submit their applications by June 10 can review their housing and dining assignments, along with roommate contact information, beginning the week of July 13. Information will be available by logging on to the Residential Education Housing System.

Students who complete and submit their applications after June 10 can review their housing and dining assignments beginning the week of July 20.

Check-in for new students will begin at 9 a.m. on Tuesday,

August 25. To check in, go to your assigned residence hall. If you need to request an earlier check-in date, visit our web site for information about the approval process and associated fees. The deadline to request an early arrival without additional penalty fees is August 7, 2009.

### Oberlin's Co-op System

The Oberlin Student Cooperative Association (OSCA) is a student-operated option that provides at-cost housing for 175 students and dining services to 630 Oberlin students. OSCA operates four room-and-board houses and five board-only facilities.

OSCA members are responsible for all aspects of operation of their houses, from cooking and cleaning to ordering food and managing budgets. Each co-op member works roughly five hours per week for the co-op, which results in prices that are lower than those charged in College-operated residence and dining halls. Membership in OSCA is determined annually by lottery.

One of the board-only co-ops, the Brown Bag Co-op, is available to third- and fourth-year students who live in College Village Housing or have been granted off-campus housing status. Members of this board-only co-op sometimes dine together and sometimes "brown bag" food to cook in their own residences.

For an application or information about OSCA, its organizational principles, operations, and individual co-ops, visit the OSCA web site at [www.oberlin.edu/osca](http://www.oberlin.edu/osca). You may also contact OSCA directly at OSCA, Oberlin College, Wilder Hall, PO Box 118, Oberlin, OH 44074-0118 (440-775-8108 or [osca@oberlin.edu](mailto:osca@oberlin.edu)). Office hours are Monday through Thursday, noon to 4 p.m. The office is closed on Friday.

### Obie Dollars

Obie Dollars is an optional declining balance account that can be used instead of cash at any CDS dining facility, including Azariah's Cafe, as well as at computer printers and copy machines across campus, laundry machines in several residence halls, and at select stores in the city of Oberlin (including the bookstore). Obie Dollars are programmed into a student's ID card. If you are interested in this convenience option, complete the Obie Dollars Deposit form included in this section, or download and complete the form that is available online.

### A Note for Parents

Campus Dining Services offers a selection of "Thinking of You" packages for students that can be ordered for special occasions or simply as care packages. Information and an order form can be found on the CDS web site at [www.oberlin.edu/cds](http://www.oberlin.edu/cds). To order a package, complete the form and mail it with your payment. If you have questions about this program, contact the CDS staff in the Catering Office at 440-775-8420.