

2023-2024 Housing Contract

Department of Residential Life, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Notice: Read all provisions of this Contract before signing. You are legally bound by these contract terms. All Housing Contracts are in effect for one academic year or that portion of the academic year remaining at the time occupancy begins. Once signed, a contract can be terminated only under the specific guidelines listed in the contract cancellation and contract release sections of the Contract. Any exceptions to provisions contained therein must be approved by the Department of Residential Life. All notices required under this contract shall be sent to: Director of Residential Life; 111 Carkoski Commons, Mankato, MN 56001. You may also email it to reslife@mnsu.edu.

1. Parties:

This Contract is made by and between Minnesota State University, Mankato's Department of Residential Life, and the student, referred to as Resident, signing the Contract. Minnesota State University, Mankato, and Resident, in consideration of the rents, covenants, and considerations which follow, do hereby agree with each other as follows:

2. Eligibility:

- Any person who is an enrolled student at Minnesota State University, Mankato may enter this Contract. Resident agrees to vacate the assigned room within 24 hours upon loss of status as an enrolled student during this Contract period. Exceptions to this policy must be approved by the Director of Residential Life or their designee.

3. Duration:

- Subject to the provisions of Sections 9 and 10, this Contract is binding for the entire academic year (Fall Semester and Spring Semester) or that portion remaining at the time Resident begins occupancy.
- Charges under this contract for room and meal plan are for the period from August 17, 2023, through May 3, 2024, except for the Winter Break period (December 9, 2023, through January 4, 2024). Resident will depart by December 8, 2023 and may return January 5, 2024. If a newly admitted student for the spring 2024 semester, Resident may move in January 4, 2024.
- The University may immediately terminate this Contract, reenter, and retake the premises upon Resident's failure to make payments as required under this Contract or for any other violations of the terms of this Contract or any violation of University or Departmental rules and regulations.
- The University may deny an application for university housing or terminate an existing housing agreement if it determines an individual's conduct and/or criminal convictions indicate an actual or perceived threat to the University community, including students, faculty, staff, and guests.
- Winter Break: An additional fee will be charged to Residents who wish to stay over Winter Break. Residents may stay in their assigned room during other break periods at no extra charge. If a continuing enrolled student, Resident may return to their Spring Semester room beginning January 5, 2024.
- If Resident is a continuing enrolled student, Resident may leave personal belongings in their assigned room during break periods at no charge, although the University is not responsible for loss, theft, or damage.
- If Resident elects to remain in the residence halls or apartments during any of the break or interim periods, all policies and regulations as outlined in this Housing Contract, the *Residential Life Student Guide*, and the *Residential Life Stadium Heights Student Guide* will apply, and Resident will be held responsible for adhering to all such policies and regulations.

4. Premises and Services:

- The University agrees to assign housing in one of the residence communities and food service under the terms stated in this Contract and described in the *Residential Life Student Guide* and the *Residential Life Stadium Heights Student Guide*, which are, by reference, made a part of this document.
- The University further agrees that it will provide a housing staff in accordance with University policy to provide a living experience that complements the academic interest of Minnesota State University, Mankato.

5. Resident Agrees:

- Resident agrees to abide by the terms of this Contract.
- Resident agrees to observe all rules and regulations of Minnesota State University, Mankato, and the Department of Residential Life as listed in the *Residential Life Student Guide* and the *Residential Life Stadium Heights Student Guide*.
- Resident agrees to conduct themselves in a manner that allows the quiet enjoyment of the residence halls and apartments by other residents.
- Resident agrees to make payment of all fees as specified by the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees.
- Resident agrees to receive notices of housing reservations, changes, housing facility information, emergency notices, and other Residential Life information via telephone or text message to the telephone number provided in the housing application.

6. Rates and Payments:

- Payments are due when invoiced or, if necessary, payment in installments can be arranged with Student Financial Services. Account information is available online. Bills will not be mailed.
- Failure of Resident to satisfy the financial obligations stipulated under this Contract may result in denial of further meals (without refund), suspension of services, a hold on registration and official records, and/or eviction from the residence communities.
- In default of payment, Resident is liable for all legal costs and collection fees which accrue in obtaining payment.
- The rates for 2023-2024 will be determined by the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees in spring 2023 and published by the Department of Residential Life as soon as they are available. All rates are subject to change at any time due to decisions made by the Department of Residential Life, the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees, or the State Legislature.

7. Prepayment:

- A prepayment of \$250 must be submitted prior to the first semester of occupancy. This prepayment will be applied to the room and meal plan charges of the first semester of occupancy.
- The prepayment is refundable only under the provisions of Section 9 of this Contract.

8. Room Assignment:

- The University will not discriminate in room assignment based on race, color, creed, national origin, disability, or status regarding public assistance.
- Room assignments will be made according to Departmental procedures and, when possible, in accordance with preferences that the student requests. No specific assignment based on Resident's request is guaranteed. Failure to honor preferences will not void this Contract.
- The University reserves the right to consolidate vacancies by requiring any Resident to move from single occupancy of double rooms to double accommodations in the same residence community.
- The University reserves the right to change room assignments for reasons of health, safety, or repair services; for disciplinary reasons caused by the Resident; or for unresolvable incompatibility of roommates.
- Resident may be temporarily removed from a student room if resident is deemed a threat to themselves or to the residence community. A resident so removed has recourse as described in the *Residential Life Student Guide* and the *Residential Life Stadium Heights Student Guide*.

9. Contract Cancellation:

- This Contract is binding for the entire academic year or that portion remaining at the time Resident begins occupancy, except as provided in this section and in Section 10.
- Resident may cancel the Contract only before the first semester of occupancy. Written notice of the cancellation must be provided to the Department of Residential Life according to the following schedule.
 - If first semester of occupancy is Fall Semester: \$200 refunded if cancellation is postmarked on or before July 1, 2023. No cancellations accepted after August 16, 2023, or after an approved early check-in, whichever comes first.
 - If first semester of occupancy is Spring Semester: \$200 prepayment refunded if cancellation is postmarked on or before December 8, 2023. No cancellations accepted after January 4, 2024, or after an approved early check-in, whichever comes first.
- All cancellations must be in writing to the Department of Residential Life. Notice of cancellation to the Admissions, Financial Aid, Business, Registration and Academic Records, or to other University offices does not constitute notice of cancellation of this Contract to the Department of Residential Life.

10. Contract Release:

- a. Resident can request release from the Contract beginning the first day resident checks in for the semester. Such releases are subject to the approval of the Director of Residential Life or their designee. Such releases will be considered for the following reasons:
 - 1) Non-admission, withdrawal from all classes, dismissal, or graduation from the University.
 - 2) Serious medical or health problem which impedes Resident's ability to fulfill the terms of the Housing Contract.
 - 3) Marriage during the Contract term.
 - 4) Affiliation with Minnesota State University, Mankato programs that are away from the Mankato campus, i.e., internships, practicum, study abroad.
 - b. Written documentation for all these releases is required by the Director of Residential Life or their designee.
 - c. Release for the above reasons will include the following costs:
 - 1) A prorated weekly charge for the period that a room was assigned and available to Resident.
 - 2) A charge for food service assigned and available to Resident.
 - 3) A \$30 administrative charge.
 - d. If Resident re-enrolls after declining to participate in a MSU program away from campus for which a contract release was granted, i.e., internships, practicum, or study abroad, or after withdrawal or dismissal during the term of this Contract, Resident agrees to fulfill the balance of the Contract.
 - e. Release requests for the entire Spring Semester received less than 21 days prior to the end of Fall Semester may be subject to a late charge of \$20.
11. Contract Assignment:
- a. Resident cannot transfer this Contract. Neither may Resident sublet any part of the rental premises or meal plan. Resident may mitigate damages in case of contract non-release. (See Mitigation of Damages section in the *Residential Life Student Guide* or the *Residential Life Stadium Heights Student Guide*).
 - b. Contracts are not transferable from one academic year to another.
 - c. Residents are required to live in the room to which they have been assigned.
12. Food Service:
- a. All contracts include a meal plan unless arrangements have been made in writing with the Department of Residential Life. A limited number of Maverick 250 Dining Dollar contracts are available. Assignment to a room and meal plan of a student requesting a room with Maverick 250 Dining Dollars contract is the prerogative of the University and does not void this Contract.
 - b. Food service will be provided every day of the week except during semester breaks and other breaks in the University academic calendar.
 - c. The University reserves the right to adjust meal hours and service locations.
 - d. The University reserves the right to determine the time of the first and last meals offered before and after each break.
 - e. Credit is not given for meals missed.
 - f. Food contracts are not transferable.
13. Check-in and Check-out:
- a. Resident agrees to occupy their room no later than the first day of classes for each semester of this Contract unless prior written notification has been received by the Department of Residential Life. The registration status of Resident failing to claim their assigned room by the third day of classes will be checked. Resident who is not registered will lose the assigned space and forfeit the prepayment. Resident who is enrolled for classes will be financially obligated for the full portion of this Contract.
 - b. Resident will, upon occupying a room, complete and sign a room condition report form, which will be a record of the room condition. Any damages identified at the time of check-out which are not contained on the initial room condition report shall be attributed to Resident. Resident is financially responsible for any such damages.
 - c. Resident must check-out and vacate the room within 24 hours after a loss of student status. Resident must check-out and vacate the room within 24 hours of contract release, last final examination or by the established hall closing time for the semester, whichever comes first. If Resident does not sign up and pay to stay on campus during the semester break, Resident will be required to vacate the room by the established hall closing time for the semester.
 - d. Failure to properly check-out of the room, including an improper room change, will result in the assessment of a \$50 charge in addition to any other damage charges.
14. Right of Entry:
The University, its officers, employees, and agents shall have the right to enter upon said premises at reasonable times for the purpose of routine inspection and repair, preservation of health, safety, and quietude, and when there are reasonable grounds to suspect that laws or University policies are being violated by Resident.
15. University Non-Liability:
The University is not responsible for damage or theft of Resident's personal property, including money. Residents are encouraged to carry appropriate personal property insurance.
16. Unavailability of Premises:
In the event that any of the premises which are the subject of this Contract, which for the purpose of this provision shall include any and all areas, in and about the residence community, should be partially or totally lost, destroyed, or otherwise unavailable because of fires, strikes, acts of God, or other events so as to render them unfit or unavailable in whole or in part for the purposes of the Resident, then either the University or the Resident shall have the right to immediately terminate this agreement. The University shall not be liable to the Resident for any damage occurring as the result of such termination.
17. Limits of Reservation:
A Contract for a room in a residence hall or apartment does not indicate admission to the University. Conversely, admission to the University does not guarantee a Housing Contract.
18. Complete Agreement:
This Contract and the *Residential Life Student Guide* and *Residential Life Stadium Heights Student Guide* represent the entire agreement between the parties and no oral promises between the University and Resident are binding therein. In Witness whereof, the parties have caused this Contract to be duly executed intending to be bound thereby.

I understand that, if available, space will be reserved for me based on this application. I realize I can cancel my reservation in writing, online, or by email on or before July 1, 2023 (or December 8, 2023, for Spring Semester applications), to receive a \$200 refund.

I understand that if I submit my application after July 1 for Fall Semester (or December 8 for Spring Semester), I am not eligible for a refund. I certify that I have read the terms and conditions of the Housing Contract and agree to the conditions stated therein.

I understand this contract is binding for the entire academic year.

Name of Student (Please Print) _____
Last First MI

Student's StarID/Tech ID _____ Date _____

Signature of Student _____ Parent's Signature (if student is under 18) _____

Authorized University Official _____ Date _____