



## STUDENT LIFE POLICY

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**NUMBER/TITLE:** SL-713, CO-ED HOUSING

**Covered Individuals:** All Students

**Covered Locations:** All Locations

**Effective Date:** October 18, 2022

**Strategic Priority:** SP 1

**HLC:** Criterion 1C, 3B

**Consultations:** VPASA, AVPSL, Assistant Dean of Students, Coordinator of Student Engagement, Director of Counseling, Student Government Association

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### POLICY STATEMENT

Co-ed housing allows different sexes to inhabit the same suite or apartment within the University Villages or Hofmaster and Lee apartments.

### PURPOSE

The Department of Residence Life at Upper Iowa University is committed to offering comfortable, welcoming, and secure housing options for all students. UIU respects the privacy of all students and will not require students to provide a reason for wanting to live in a coed housing option; however, this housing option does not allow romantic couples to reside together.

### DEFINITIONS

*Co-ed residence hall*- the building itself houses both male and female students and where students can live with whomever they choose, regardless of gender, by mutual agreement

*Co-ed suite/apartment* – a suite or apartment that is mixed gender. The suitemates may be mixed gender, but the roommates are the same sex.

*Cohabitation* – at least two individuals living within a residence hall room, suite, or apartment

*Roommate* – a person occupying the same room as another.

*Suitemate* – someone who shares the bathroom/living room/kitchen in the residence hall suite or apartment but does not share a bedroom. Bedrooms are typically adjacent.

*Single-gender residence halls* – a residence hall where an entire building, floor, or wing is exclusive to one gender.

### POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Co-ed housing is available to all students eligible to live in the Villages, Hofmaster and Lee apartments. Returning students may apply during the room selection process in the spring semester. When submitting the application, each prospective student must sign and agree to the terms of the application for co-ed housing.

Students wanting to participate in co-ed housing within Residence Life must submit the form at the time of application.

The following policy and conditions apply to students who elect to live in a co-ed suite within the Villages or apartment in Hofmaster or Lee, on the Upper Iowa University Fayette Campus.

- Students may choose to request suitemates of any gender.
- Roommates must be of the same gender within their room.
- Residence Life will only honor those requests made by all parties living within the same suite.
- Only students with eligibility to live in the Villages or Hofmaster and Lee apartments, are allowed to apply for co-ed housing in these living communities.
- Returning students must apply with their prospective roommate and suitemates following all of the same processes and deadlines of all students entering the housing selection process.
- Students will not be required to disclose their reasons for opting to live in co-ed housing, although romantic relationships within the same suite are not permitted according to the “Upper Iowa University Cohabitation Procedure,” with the exception of a legally married couple.
- Students will not be assigned to co-ed suites or apartments unless they have completed the necessary paperwork in accordance with the policy. Although we at Upper Iowa University understand that each individual is of consenting age (18 years or older), we do encourage our students to speak with their parents or guardians regarding living in co-ed housing.
- When living in a suite-style room or apartment, conflicts are common. We strongly encourage our applicants for co-ed housing to choose suitemates based on common room etiquette and utilize a roommate contract. Room change requests due to roommate conflicts will be addressed the same as any other conflict.
- With the instance of a vacancy within a suite that is co-ed, the vacancy can be filled with the same gender that is vacated due to gender-specific rooms. All parties must again agree to the addition of a new individual in the co-ed suite/townhouse. This student must also be eligible to live in the Villages, Hofmaster, or Lee apartments in accordance with the residence policy. Failure to accept a new roommate without valid concerns will result in a single room charge to the room that has the vacancy.
- Any suite within the Villages or apartment within Hofmaster or Lee apartments, can be co-ed. The default suite in the Village or apartments in Hofmaster and Lee will be single-gender unless the students select a suite/room that is co-ed. Once a suite/room is designated co-ed, it will continue to be co-ed until the students no longer inhabit that suite.
- The suites in the Villages, as well as the apartments in Hofmaster and Lee, have in-house bathrooms that offer personal privacy with the ability to lock the door when occupied.
- Garbee Residence Hall is not available for Co-ed Housing due to private bathroom availability and location.

## **CUSTODIAN**

Assistant Vice President for Student Life

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS, FORMS, AND POLICIES**

### **Cohabitation Procedure**

Cohabitation (living within a residence hall room or suite) is not permitted for couples who have a romantic relationship at Upper Iowa University. This is regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity. Residence Life may alter visitation access or enforce a room change if a romantic relationship is discovered between roommates or suitemates within a co-ed room.

**HISTORY**

<b>New/Revision Number</b>	<b>Date of Action/Approval</b>	<b>Revision Change</b>
SL-713	April 17, 2023	Policy statement added, strategic priority added, residence hall specific information added.
SL-713	February 15, 2023	Policy put into new template.
SL-713	February 21, 2024	Policy revised to co-ed language