

RUTGERS COLLEGE HOUSING FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS



Rutgers College, the oldest and largest of the residential colleges, houses over 7000 students on the Busch, College Avenue and Livingston campuses. Most first-year students are assigned to one of the first-year halls, Campbell, Clothier, and Tinsley on the College Avenue Campus, or Barr, Allen, Metzger, Mattia and Davidson on the Busch Campus. These halls offer the **First-Year Residential Learning Experience**, which is designed to support and enhance the academic experience and the students' transition to Rutgers.

First-year students may instead request to participate in **Special Interest Housing** on the College Avenue Campus which is described below. Special Interest Sections are mixed groups of first-year and upperclass students with an interest in a particular academic or cultural area.

First-year students can also request housing in Quad II, a Rutgers College hall that is located on the Livingston Campus. This is a hall staffed by Rutgers College and occupied by Rutgers College students both first-year and upperclass. Programs and services are provided to support the first-year experience. If unfilled by requests, the last 150 first-year students who apply for housing will be placed in this hall.

Please note that all Rutgers College residence hall rooms and suites on Busch and College Avenue are smoke free. Residence Hall Association (the student governing group for the residence halls) studied the safety and quality of life issues caused by smoking in residence. After several years of review, they requested that smoking be banned in all residence halls.

The First-Year Residential Learning Experience

The eight residence halls that offer this program are lively, social environments with an emphasis on supporting and promoting the academic experience. Each hall is staffed with a Hall Director and four to eight Preceptors who work to create strong, positive, inclusive communities where students respect and support each other. In addition, each hall has two or three Academic Community Programmers who initiate and support study groups and peer academic support for many first-year courses. They also provide an interactive academic program series that teaches about academic resources and skills and fun activities that encourage intellectual thought and interaction. These are active and exciting communities that help students learn the social and academic skills necessary to succeed.

Special Interest Sections

Rutgers College supports the student-initiated development of living-learning sections that explore and study the specific academic and cultural interests of students. Some of these sections have existed for decades while others are newly created. All of them are governed by student leaders and supported by faculty advisors. **Section members are required to participate in meetings and programs presented by other section members.**

Demarest Hall offers the largest number and most varied special interest sections. These sections, which were established in 1966, can change each year based on student interest and initiative.

Demarest sections for the 2002-2003 year include :

- **Language** sections, which allow students to explore the language and culture of various regions through peer interaction, in-hall presentations, section meetings, and off-campus trips. This year there are sections in French and Spanish. The French section, which offers a 1.5 credit French course within the hall, helps students speak French and learn about French language and culture. The Spanish section focuses on learning and using Spanish while appreciating different cultures within the Spanish-speaking world.
- **Arts** sections, which allow students to explore different types of art through individual work, section meetings and projects, and group interaction. This year there are sections in Creative Writing, Music Appreciation, Performing Arts, and Visual Arts and Film Studies.

Creative Writing supports its members in the production of written work.

Music Appreciation seeks to expand the appreciation of musical forms, genres, and artists.

Performing Arts explores talent with peers, in art forms including music, dance, and theater.

Visual Arts is committed to artistic freedom. The section members believe that the fun is in the “work.”

Film Studies explores film as an art form and discusses the making of films and how they apply to society.

- **Academic** sections, which allow students to study complex and/or controversial concepts through section meetings and projects, debates and lectures, in an open intellectual community. This year there are sections in History, Political Science, Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender Studies, Philosophy and Religion/Spirituality.

History and Political Science is an interactive forum where members raise and discuss current and controversial issues with specific relevance to history and political science.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies explores theories of queer culture through literature, music, history, and politics, and is open to everyone regardless of sexual orientation.

Philosophy provides interested students with a forum to express and exchange ideas of a philosophical nature and to introduce free thinkers with no background in the discipline to philosophical argument, all in an open, eclectic, and diverse living environment.

Religion and Spirituality allows students to express their beliefs and culture while learning about the beliefs of their peers-all in their own home. A warm, non-denominational community has been created through activities and personal interactions to foster discussions and personal growth.

In addition to sections in Demarest, there are two cultural and academic support sections, **Paul Robeson** section (Mettler Hall, 3rd floor) and **Latin Images** section (Frelinghuysen Hall, 3rd floor) that have long and prestigious histories and traditions.

- **Paul Robeson** section, established in 1976, has two main goals: academic excellence and cultural awareness. These are accomplished through academic programs, mentoring and tutoring as well as through programs exploring the African American culture. The Africana Studies department offers a 3 credit course within the hall on “Blacks in History” which focuses on Paul Robeson.
- **Latin Images** section, established in 1977, is dedicated to exploring Latin American culture, developing multicultural awareness and supporting academic success. These are accomplished through academic and cultural programs, academic support and through an atmosphere conducive to studying.

For more information on any of the above contact: Rutgers College Residence Life Office, Bishop House, Room 109, College Avenue Campus, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901 or call (732) 932-7209, or email RutgersSpecialInterest@yahoo.com.

Honors Housing

For more information on Rutgers College Honors Housing, call Assistant Dean Muffin Lord at (732) 932-7964. For more information on the College of Engineering Honors Housing, call Assistant Dean Jeffery Rankin at (732) 445-2212.

Recovering Housing

Rutgers University offers a unique option as part of its on-campus housing program. Students who, as a result of particular circumstances - recovery from a chemical dependency, growing up in an addicted family, or a related recovery - choose to live completely alcohol and drug free, may opt for a special living environment. For more information about this housing option, available only on the Cook Campus, please contact the Alcohol and Other Drug Assistance Program for Students at (732) 932-7976.