Dear Parents of Incoming Students,

Congratulations on your student’s acceptance to Elon University and welcome to the Elon community! As your students begin the process of signing up for housing, we want to provide you information and suggestions on how you can be most helpful in this process. Below, please find basic information about housing and selection, ideas for how to help your students manage expectations, background on roommates, and also information how to best access assistance.

First, we wanted to make sure you are aware of some basic information about housing:

- All students are required to live on campus for their first two years. First-year students live in residence halls, predominately in double rooms in traditional halls, flats and suites.
- The first-year student housing application is online from mid-April to mid-May. All incoming students should plan to fill out and submit their application during this time.
- Incoming students’ housing assignments are made based on deposit date order (not based on when online housing applications are submitted). Each year 50-100 students with the latest deposit dates do not receive assignments until early August (after cancellations have come in). This is a normal process that occurs each summer. Please be assured, if your son or daughter is placed in temporary housing, they will receive an assignment before too late in the summer.
- For future reference, we are unable to house all upperclassmen in campus housing. Sophomores live in double rooms as well as in the flats, suites, and residence halls. A small number of sophomores will live in apartments, Greek housing, and singles. The housing selection process for returning students begins in mid February and concludes in March.

The next area to be aware of is related to helping your students manage assignment expectations:

- Like the rest of us, students are very concerned about where they live.
- It’s easy for students to get “hung up” on one housing location. If students have only heard about or toured a couple residence halls, they may get their minds set on living in those places. We ask your assistance in preparing your student to understand they may live in many positive locations on campus that will be successful for them.
- Students will not preference a building on the housing application. They will rank the four neighborhoods available for incoming students.
- In an effort to help their student, some parents have completed the online housing form for them. We suggest that you encourage your student to complete the form on their own.
- Please consider encouraging your student to apply for one of Elon’s numerous Living Learning Communities (LLC). LLCs are groups of students residing in the same residential area, who interact academically and socially with each other and faculty, and who share the same academic major, program or interest. Elon’s LLCs are currently ranked top 10 in the nation through US News and World Report; they are a unique opportunity for student connection, engagement and learning. In addition, LLCs receive premier placement prior to all other housing decisions. For more information, please visit the Residence Life LLC website.

Helping students manage roommate relationships is another area where you can be of assistance. Students tell us that it is who they live with, rather than where they live, is the first challenge for them to navigate.
• Encourage your student to contact their roommate ASAP and to speak openly about their needs, interests, habits, etc.
• Don’t let your student decide within the first few conversations that they cannot live with their assigned roommate. Relationships take time and work! Residence Life makes all assignments without regard to race, color, national or ethnic origin, ability, sexual orientation, etc. and will not grant roommate changes based on those reasons.
• Help your student understand that difference is good. Roommates do not need to be best friends or do everything together. This only limits their interactions across campus.
• Encourage your student to speak with their roommate regularly during the year. We have found that the most successful roommates meet weekly to discuss how things are going in the room. The least successful avoid conflicts until they fester and become irresolvable.
• Very few Elon students have shared a room before and most tend to avoid conflicts, particularly face-to-face. Your student will be more apt to complain to you than to speak directly with their roommate. Encourage them to be open and honest about their concerns and behaviors as opposed to letting unresolved tensions mount.

Finally, we wanted to talk about **how you can best access assistance for situations that arise.** We have tried to place as much information as possible on the residence life website at [http://www.elon.edu/e-web/students/residence_life/](http://www.elon.edu/e-web/students/residence_life/) (see the Incoming/New Transfer Student section), including approximate general room measurements, links to sign up for ordering everything from carpets to microfridges, and rates and schedules, etc. We want to help whenever possible. Please contact our staff in the main residence life office at 336-278-7300. We just ask that you understand we are working to place over 1400 first year students along with 1600 returning students. Therefore, please check the website before calling, and know that during particularly busy times, for example immediately after assignments are posted online, it may take as much as a couple days to return your call.

We look forward to seeing you in the fall.

Sincerely,

MarQuita Barker
Associate Director of Residence Life Operations