

## Bemidji State University Policies

<b>Policy Name:</b> Residential Living Requirement Policy	<b>Effective Date:</b> 12/1/2013
<b>Policy Owner:</b> AVP Student Life and Success	Last Review: 5/1/17
	Next Review: 9/1/19

### Policy Statement

Bemidji State University residential living requirement policy states that first-year students who are one-year removed from high school graduation and international students who are classified as unmarried and an undergraduate must reside (as space is available) in university student housing until completion of their first academic year at Bemidji State University.

### Scope and Purpose of Policy

The scope of this policy applies to all first-year domestic and international students. The purpose of this policy is to assure that all domestic and international first year students receive the benefits of living on campus with opportunities to take part in the curricular and co-curricular activities afforded residential life students.

### Definitions

Domestic students are citizens or lawful permanent residents of the United States, or have been granted asylee, refugee or paroled in the public interest status by the United States government.

International students are citizens or permanent residents of a country to which they intend to return other than the United States. International students may be in the United States on an educational, worker or visitor visa.

Residential Living is defined as the shared living experience with other students in on campus student housing units termed residence halls. Most often a meal plan is included in the residential living agreement.

Student housing is defined as housing for students that is owned, staffed, and/or operated by Bemidji State University.

### Procedures

All first-year domestic and international students will be required to make application for university housing unless the student is subject to one of the following exemptions. Certain first-year students will be automatically exempt from this policy but must provide documentation that one of the following criteria is met:

- 1) First-year students who are 21 years of age at least ten days prior to the start of fall term

- 2) First-year students who will be living with parent(s) or legal guardian(s), within 50 miles of Bemidji State University, during the academic year will be exempt from this policy. Student must provide verification.
- 3) Current active military or veteran's status-student must verify by submitting a copy of the DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (if a veteran) or written proof of current military active duty.
- 4) Married and/or with legally dependent children, copies of legal documentation will be required to accompany the exemption form request.

Other criteria that may be considered after review of an exemption request include:

- 5) Independent student status-student must have been declared an independent student for the past two calendar years and not claimed by their parent(s) during the same period.
- 6) Limited credit student-students carrying less than six credits each semester of the academic year.
- 7) Medical and disability circumstances-exemption requests for medical or disability reason will be forwarded to the Office of Disabilities. This office will render a decision and notify the Residential Life Office.
- 8) Other-where it can be demonstrated that special circumstances exist which would create a substantial personal hardship which is exacerbated by living on campus and cannot be remedied by alternative means. Verification of special circumstances will be required.

### **Rationale**

Bemidji State University adopted this policy because of research on the topic of residential living indicating that students who live on campus for at least a year tend to graduate in less time and at a higher rate than those who have never lived on campus.

### **Supporting References**

MnSCU Board Policy 2.10 Student Housing <http://www.mnscu.edu/board/policy/210.html>