Accessible housing at Mizzou

Department of Residential Life
University of Missouri
Your decision to attend MU is the beginning of an exciting journey, but you may have questions about how well our facilities will fit your needs. Some questions probably deal with safety, accessibility and ease of mobility across campus. Helping you meet those needs is important to us.

The Department of Residential Life at MU is committed to providing and improving accessible spaces for students with disabilities. Residential Life will help provide appropriate housing accommodations for students who show a documented need.

This brochure provides information about MU’s residence halls and related facilities. MU facilities at various locations around campus are ADA accessible, but each building will have different options and provide different arrangements. We encourage you to visit our campus and tour the halls that interest you.

Housing Accommodations
If you are a first-time college student, our residence halls are available to meet your housing needs. University Student Apartments also offer accommodations for undergraduate students over 21, graduate students and students with families.

Students who need accommodations (e.g. wheelchair accessible room, room modifications) within a residence hall or apartment must register with the Disability Center and complete a Student Request for Housing Accommodation form (disabilitycenter.missouri.edu/accommodations-services-policies/housing.php) as soon as possible after admission to MU. Early communication with the Disability Center ensures Residential Life has time to find the best possible accommodation, whether in a residence hall or on-campus apartment.

Accommodations covered under ADA:
The earlier students start the process, the better. Providing the Disability Center with documentation about your specific requirements allows them to assist Residential Life in providing exactly the right housing accommodation for you. Questions can be submitted through the Disability Center website at disabilitycenter.missouri.edu, by emailing disabilitycenter@missouri.edu or by calling the office at 573-882-4696 (voice) or 573-234-6662 (video phone).

Other special housing needs:
Additional reasons for special housing requests may include cultural/religious beliefs or gender identity/exploration or expression. Students must provide documentation to Residential Life in writing (fax or email are acceptable) before the request can be considered. Contact Residential Life if you have any questions.
Learning Community Options
Residential Life at MU is nationally recognized for its Learning Communities (LC) and Freshman Interest Groups (FIG). These programs (reslife.missouri.edu/lc-fig) enable undergraduate students with similar interests or majors to live together or near each other. Students who live in a specific hall because it is fully suited to their individual needs are welcome to join any community of their choice, even if it is located in a different hall, and participate in all community activities.

FIGs and Learning Communities are available to all residents who choose to live in a residence hall. These programs are not available in University Student Apartments. Transfer students can participate in Transfer Interest Groups (TriG) in both residence halls and apartments. Once you apply to the University, you will receive information about housing at MU and all the available options. If you are interested in becoming a part of a Learning Community, FIG or TriG, contact Residential Life.

Campus Access
A Campus Accessibility Map is available online at accessibilitymap.missouri.edu. The map can be used to locate curb cuts and Residential Life buildings in relation to other buildings on campus. For detailed information on accessibility within the residence halls or apartments, contact Residential Life.

Amenities
In addition to Learning Communities and FIGs, all residence halls across campus offer kitchens and laundry in close proximity and dining facilities and computer facilities nearby. Other amenities vary by hall. University Student Apartments offer a more independent living arrangement and include a full kitchen and private bathroom. Some offer laundry hook-ups.

Break-time Availability
All University Student Apartments are open throughout the year, but only certain residence halls are available during academic breaks and summer sessions. See reslife.missouri.edu/rates-amenities for more information on residence hall availability.

Room Modifications
With appropriate advance notice, certain room modifications — hands-free door access; lowered clothes racks, shelves and mirrors; hands-free faucets; hand-held showers — are easily accomplished. Although independent living devices are the responsibility of the student, Residential Life provides necessary power sources. Visual and audio alarms are provided in a number of designated rooms. Students with visual or hearing disabilities who benefit from these alarms must indicate their need when registering with the Disability Center. This ensures assignment to an appropriately equipped room. There are no costs associated with these adjustments.

Your Best Bet: Communicate Early!
Although modifications can be made to rooms at any time, the best plan is to communicate with Residential Life and let us know your specific needs. With information from the Disability Center and your assistance, we can find a space that best meets your needs.
Personal & Other Assistants
Recruiting and supervising personal care assistants (PCAs) are the responsibilities of the student. However, campus and community resources are available to help students with recruitment.

The Disability Center provides a PCA Resource Guide, which includes contacts and resources for recruiting attendants. You can request a copy by contacting the Disability Center.

The MU Career Center (career.missouri.edu) also provides an online help-wanted service where students can advertise positions.

As with any other accommodation, the presence of a PCA can affect the type of housing Residential Life can offer. Make sure to let us know as soon as possible if you will be hiring a PCA(s).

Service Animals
University policy states service animals assisting individuals with disabilities are generally permitted in most MU facilities and programs. Residential Life strongly recommends that any student with a service animal register with the Disability Center. To register, and for more information regarding MU’s service animal policies and procedures, visit disabilitycenter.missouri.edu/accommodations-services-policies/service-animals.php.

Dietary Needs
Campus Dining Services (CDS) has registered dietitians on staff who can assist students with special dietary needs. Contact a member of the management staff for assistance at the dining locations you visit. For specific nutritional information about campus dining locations, visit the CDS website: dining.missouri.edu. For more information or to set up a time to meet with a dietitian, contact CDS at 573-882-FOOD (3663).

Enhancing Personal Safety
Upon arrival, notify your Residence Hall Coordinator of your medical concerns and specific needs. Your safety and well-being are of the utmost importance to us. Your Residence Hall Coordinator will help you develop an emergency plan that meets your needs.

Although phone service is not immediately provided, you can set up service through Division of IT in most halls upon arrival on campus (doit.missouri.edu). In addition, the City of Columbia’s Smart 911 service can provide specific information about your special needs to police, fire and ambulance personnel if an emergency situation arises in or near your building. Forms for this service are available at Smart911.com.
Adaptive Computing Technology (ACT) Center
Address: N18 Memorial Union, 518 Hitt St.
Website: actcenter.missouri.edu
Phone numbers: 866-396-2380 (toll free)
573-884-2828 (local)
573-882-5116 (fax)
Hours: Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Adaptive Computing
The Adaptive Computing Technology (ACT) Center helps students with many types of disabilities gain access to computing resources on the MU campus. Examples of services provided by ACT include creation of digital textbooks, adaptive workstations and technology consultations, which focus on finding a hardware or software solution to meet your needs so that you can successfully complete your academic work.

Parking and Transportation
Parking & Transportation Services can issue a campus parking permit to accompany your state-issued permit. Employees and students are required to pay a parking fee equal to the current parking rate. Use of a disabled permit is limited to the individual who has been issued the state disabled tag. Parking for personal assistants can also be arranged by contacting Parking & Transportation Services.

The Missouri Department of Revenue requires your physician to complete a “Physicians’ Parking and Transportation Statement for Disabled Persons’ license plates/placard” form. This form can be obtained from your physician’s office or from the Parking & Transportation Services Office located in Turner Avenue garage. Once the form is completed, take it to a Department of Revenue office to acquire a state disabled permit. The Missouri Department of Revenue may charge a nominal fee for each permit.

Parking & Transportation Services will issue a temporary disabled permit for two weeks to be used until your state disabled permit arrives. Out-of-state students may bring in a permit from their home state with receipt of issue from that state.

Academic (for classes)
Free lift-equipped shuttle service
Service is offered 7 a.m. to 5 p.m, Mon. through Fri., during Fall and Spring semesters (except during breaks). For more information, call 573-882-4696.

City of Columbia
lift-equipped shuttle service
Call 573-874-7290 to request a mailed application or schedule pick-ups. Visit www.comoconnect.org for an online application and more information.

Campus Shuttle Service
An intra-campus, lift-equipped shuttle is available during the Fall and Spring semesters. Call Parking & Transportation Services two weeks before coming to MU for more information. There is no shuttle service during the Summer session.
Contact the Disability Center at 573-882-4696 to make arrangements for lift-equipped shuttle service from your location to wherever you need to go on campus during Fall and Spring semesters, Monday to Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
what’s next?

1. First steps

☐ Submit an application to the university.

☐ Submit disability documentation to the Disability Center, and request a housing accommodation form. **Disability Center: 573-882-4696 (voice) or 573-234-6662 (video phone), disabilitycenter.missouri.edu**

☐ Disclose a need for a service animal. **Disability Center: see above for contact information**

☐ Contact Residential Life regarding requirements for accessible housing. **Residence Halls: 573-882-7275, reslife@missouri.edu. Apartments: 573-875-1133, mureslifeapartments@missouri.edu**

☐ Consider joining a Learning Community or FIG (TrIG). **Coordinator of FIGs & TrIGs: 573-882-3447, mureslifefigs@missouri.edu**

☐ Pay the $300 university enrollment fee the spring before coming to MU. **Office of Admissions: 573-882-7786**

☐ Pay the $325 Residential Life housing prepayment and $25 non-refundable processing fee for residence halls the spring before coming to MU. **OR fill out an apartment application with non-refundable $25 application fee. University Student Apartments: 573-875-1133 mureslifeapartments@missouri.edu**

2. Summer planning

☐ Make special arrangements for parking for you and your PCA(s). **Parking & Transportation Services: 573-882-4568, muparking@missouri.edu**

☐ Contact Residential Life to arrange door access if you will have PCAs during your stay at the residence hall. **Door Access: 573-882-4440**

☐ Contact Campus Dining Services to make arrangements if you have special dietary needs. **Campus Dining Services: 573-882-3663**

☐ Please consider a computing assessment through the Division of IT’s Adaptive Computing Technology office, which can help you gain access to computing resources at MU and find the correct hardware and software to assist you with your computing needs. **ACT office: 573-884-2828, actcenter@missouri.edu**

☐ Contact Residential Life Planning and Design to discuss options for modifications to your room in order for Residential Life to serve you best. **Jessica Brownfield: 573-884-9583 brownfieldj@missouri.edu**

☐ Set up shuttle service if needed. **Disability Center: 573-882-4696 (voice) or 573-234-6662 (video phone), disabilitycenter.missouri.edu**

☐ Set up landline phone service with the Division of IT: **doit.missouri.edu/services/voice. Register with the City of Columbia for Smart 911 for landline or cell phone: www.smart911.com**

☐ Go to all your classes, and make sure they are accessible.

3. Final details
The University of Missouri-Columbia does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability or status as a qualified protected veteran. For more information, call Human Resource Services at 573-882-4256, the Director of MU Equity/Title IX Coordinator at 573-882-9069 or the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights.