Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)  
On-Campus Housing

Benefits of living on campus

What is the housing policy?
All undergraduate students with fewer than 58 earned credit hours are required to reside in on-campus housing. For first-time freshmen, on-campus housing is defined as residency in Holmes, Merner, Pfeiffer, and Beckwith Hall or the CAU Suites.

For students that are not first-time freshmen, but have fewer than 58 earned credit hours, on-campus housing is defined as residency in the CAU Suites or Brawley Hall. Heritage Commons is designated for upperclassmen with 28 or more hours and graduate Students.

Why should I live on campus?
Residence halls offer a great opportunity to meet new friends, get involved, and find other people with common interests. Residence halls are more than just a place to sleep. Residents have access to studying areas, and Internet connections in each room. When you live on campus, you are close to classes and places to eat and enjoy other recreational activities, like the Student Center. All halls have card-operated laundry rooms and coin operated vending machines. Trained Residence Life staff members have been specially chosen for their desire and commitment to assist and be accessible to students.

In addition, research shows that students that reside on campus experience a number of benefits compared with students that do not reside on campus.*** The benefits include:

- Higher GPA
- Higher Retention
- Higher Graduation Rate (within 4 - 6 years)
- More likely to attend graduate or professional school (i.e., law school, medical school, etc.).

*** Research by Alexander Astin, Gregory Blemling, Ernest Pascarella, Patrick Terenzini, Paula Wilcox, Sandra Winn, Marylynn Fyvie-Gauld, and Vincent Tinto has discussed this in their student development and retention writings.
What is the difference between a residence hall and off campus?

Clark Atlanta University residence halls offer convenience. Your housing fee is all you pay—no hook-up or monthly charges for cable TV, water, gas, electricity, or rent. Your contract allows you the flexibility to go home during winter and summer breaks, co-op, or student teach and no hassle with finding someone to sublet your 12-month apartment lease.

What's in my room?

Traditional Style (Merner Hall, Holmes Hall, Pfeiffer Hall)
Rooms contain two twin beds, two desks, two chairs, two closets or wardrobes. Internet access is provided. Microwave and refrigerator sets can be rented or students may bring their own. One per room.

Suite Style (CAU Suites)
Rooms contain two beds, two desks, two chairs, two closets or wardrobes and a mini refrigerator and microwave. Internet access is provided.

Apartment Style (Brawley Hall and Heritage Commons)
Private room contains a bed, desk, dresser, chair, closet or wardrobe. Residents who choose to live in Brawley or Heritage will share a living room, kitchen and bathroom.

Does housing provide linens?
No, but there is a link on or website where you can purchase linen. CAU Residence Life receives a small portion of the fee and we use it for our student programs throughout the year.

What size sheets do I buy?
Twin Extra Long (All halls except Heritage Commons)
Full Sheets (Heritage Commons)

Are the rooms carpeted?
No
Can I bring my own furniture?

Yes and no. You’re encouraged to make your room as homey as possible. We have provided you with all the essential furniture, but if you have a favorite chair, desk, chest, or whatever, you can bring that, too. You cannot remove any of the original furniture from the room. You will be charged for any missing furniture when you check out.

Are any of the halls air-conditioned?

Yes, all the residence halls at Clark Atlanta University are air-conditioned.

Who cleans my room?

You and your roommate are responsible for the daily cleanliness of your room. Your residence hall custodians are responsible for cleaning hallways, lobbies, community bathrooms, and other community areas outside of your personal room. In addition, monthly cleanliness health checks will be conducted and rooms found unsatisfactory will be assessed a fine.

Can I study in the residence hall?

Studies have consistently shown that freshmen living on campus are more likely to return to the University for their second semester than those living off campus. The Department of Housing and Residence Life and the Office of Information Technologies have combined resources to provide extensive services to students in the residence halls, such as Wi-Fi, wall internet connection and study areas.

Can I smoke in my room?

No! All residence halls at Clark Atlanta University are smoke-free. Violators will be directed for judicial sanction.

Is there a telephone in my room?

No. However, in most halls there is at least one phone in the lobby or office on which local phone service is provided free of charge.
**Do I get cable TV?**

Yes, each room has a cable TV hook-up that is also paid through your room housing cost. Students only need to supply a cable cord connection from the wall to TV to activate. Students can order additional channels by contacting Comcast directly and will be responsible for any additional cost. There are televisions in the lobby areas with cable and are available for student use 24 hours a day.

**Can I have a car on campus?**

Yes, but you must buy a parking decal and have it displayed on your vehicle at all times. Parking is only permitted in specific areas designated by your decal, and you will get a boot placed on your vehicle (at owner’s expense) if you are caught parking in a lot without the proper decal. Failure to abide by this rule can lead to your car will be towed. Good spaces are limited, so you’re encouraged to walk, ride a bike, or use the shuttle. To purchase your parking decal, you must register your vehicle with the LAZ Parking (located on the 1st floor of the parking deck).

**Finding a roommate**

**Will my best friend and I be able to live together?**

The earlier you both complete your applications, the better your chances will be for you to be roommates. Many lasting and rewarding friendships have resulted from meeting and living with a new person. Furthermore, all first year students will live in Living-Learning Communities by their majors so your best friend would need to have the same major.

**How will you assign me to a room?**

The room selection process is done through the housing portal online at [http://residencelife.cau.edu/StarRezPortal/](http://residencelife.cau.edu/StarRezPortal/). After you pay your Confirmation fee (for new students) or room reservation fee (returning students), go to the Residence Life Webpage and click Apply Now or use the link above. You will need to log on with your email credentials. You are encouraged to click the How to Apply link if this is your first time using the portal. Follow the instructions to complete the process. Make sure that you state any special conditions such as allergies, disabilities, etc. on your application.
What happens if I cannot get along with my roommate?

We strongly encourage you to speak with your roommate and strive to come to an agreement that will work out best for both of you, at the beginning of the semester. Please utilize the roommate agreement form provided at the beginning of the semester that both roommates have to complete, agree and sign. In the event you feel you need more assistance, contact your Resident Assistant or Hall Director.

Housing contract

What is my housing contract?

Your online housing contract is a legally binding, nine-month contract similar to one you would sign if you rented an apartment. A contract is offered once an assignment is made. Housing contracts are valid for one nine-month school year (2 Semesters) and may be terminated only because of marriage, pregnancy, co-op, transferring schools, extreme illness, or death. If you are enrolled at Clark Atlanta University and you have signed your housing contract, you will be responsible for all housing fees for each semester of your contract.

Security and card readers

What is visitation?

Visitation is a set time where students can come to the hall, check in with the staff and fellowship or study with their classmates. Students can check in up to two people. The checked in guest must be with the resident at all times and the guest is only permitted to use the guest bathroom.

Freshmen visitation hours are 6:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Monday through Sunday

How do you keep unwanted visitors out?

All halls have state-of-the-art security systems. Outside doors are locked 24 hours a day and can be accessed only by card readers. Your Student Identification card is how you enter the halls so be very careful with this card. There is a fee for lost or replacement cards.

Do I have a curfew at night?

No. As an adult in college, you are responsible for your actions. It is a good idea to let your roommate or the residential staff know where you are going and when you’ll be back, so you can be found if an emergency arises.
Will friends from off-campus have access to my building?

No. Friends (or parents or solicitors for that matter) from off campus will not be programmed to have access through the card accessible door. All guests should use the front entrance to the building. Limiting access to only certain people is the heart of our intentions to make our halls as secure as possible. Please note that all guests with a valid ID card will be permitted in the residence halls during visitation hours (see visitation hours).

What if I lose my ID card?

You should call the Panther Paw Office between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, to cancel your lost ID card so it cannot be used by anyone else for building access or Flex dollars. After hours, you should report a lost card to the Campus Safety. You may purchase a new ID card for $25 in the Panther Paw Office during business hours.

What if my ID card does not work?

If your card does not work, then get a residence hall staff member to check to see whether you are using the card correctly. The staff member can help you determine what the problem is and how to correct it.

Between semesters

Do I have to take my stuff home between semesters or during school breaks?

No. If you are returning to the same room after the Winter break, you may leave your things. The halls will be locked during the holidays, but you are advised to take all valuable items home with you.

What if I can't go home; can I stay in my room?

No. All residence halls will be closed between semesters.

Connectivity

Do the halls have Ethernet Connections?

Yes, all the residence halls have Ethernet Connections. All residence halls common areas are wireless enabled. Contact the OITC Help Desk for more information at (404) 880-6482.
Are there hall computer labs?

No, residents are strongly encouraged to bring their own computers. However, computer labs are located in academic buildings across campus for students’ convenience.

How do I get an E-mail account or reset it?

All new students are given an email account. Go to the Help Desk at Harkness Hall or call the OITC Help Desk at (404) 880-6482 to reset it.

Fees

How much does it cost to live on campus?

Costs vary. Please copy the following link to your browser for detailed pricing.