



Clark Atlanta University Office of Residence Life and Student Development

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **How do I register for housing?** Students can register for housing by completing a residence life application on the Clark Atlanta University website.
2. **Do I get a refund on my safety deposit for room registration if I don't get the room I requested?** No. Safety deposits do not secure a specific room; it only secures a space on campus. The funds will go towards the room the student is placed in.
3. **What type of housing is available?** Clark Atlanta University provides several different housing facilities:

Traditional Housing: Merner Hall; Pfeiffer Hall; Holmes Hall

- Includes two twin sized beds, two desks, two chairs, two closets or wardrobes. Internet access is provided.

Suite Style Housing: CAU Suites; Beckwith Hall

- Includes two twin sized beds, two desks, two chairs, two closets or wardrobes, a refrigerator and microwave. Internet access is provided.

Apartment Style Housing: Brawley Hall; Heritage Hall

- Includes 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. Internet access is provided.

4. **Are the Residence Halls safe?** Yes. Each residence hall requires an access, via PAW card in order to enter. The PAW card is issued during freshman orientation. Only students who live in the building and residence faculty and staff will have access inside.
5. **Is there cooking in the halls?** Traditional housing facilities such as, Pfeiffer, Merner and Holmes Hall do not have community kitchens. However, the halls do provide community microwaves, which can be utilized to prepare food. Students are also required to have a meal plan which they can use to acquire meals.

Non-traditional housing facilities, such as Beckwith Hall have community kitchens. The suite and apartment style housing facilities, such as Brawley Hall, Heritage Hall and the CAU Suites have individual microwaves within the units.

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6. **When do the Residence Halls open?** Residence halls open a week prior to the beginning of classes.
7. **Is there cable in the halls and internet access?** Yes. Each room is equipped with a cable and Ethernet jack / Wi-Fi.
8. **What do I do if I need special accommodations?** All residence halls are equipped with wheelchair accessible entryways and have handicap bathroom facilities and rooms. If residents have special needs that require other accommodations, they can file them with the Health and Wellness Center.
9. **Do all freshman students have to live on-campus?** Yes. All freshman and first-year students are required to live on campus.
10. **Is there housekeeping?** Yes. There is housekeeping and maintenance staff that meets the service needs of each residence hall. The housekeeping staff upkeep the community bathrooms and commons areas, as well as restocks toiletries (paper towels and toilet paper). This however does not replace the need for students to maintain the cleanliness of their personal living spaces and overall presentation of the residence hall. Community fines will be administered if the cleanliness of the community living area becomes unmanageable. The maintenance staff is on-call for emergency facility issues, as well as everyday in-house issues from bed adjustments to air conditioner repairs.
11. **Where can I do laundry?** There are washing machines and dryers located in each of the residence halls. Residents can utilize laundry facilities with funds that are personally added to the PAW cards.
12. **What is the housing policy?** All undergraduate students with fewer than 58 earned credit hours are required to reside in on- campus housing. For new freshmen, on-campus housing is defined below:
 - a. New Freshmen Females, CAU Scholarship Students — Holmes, Merner, & Pfeiffer
 - b. New Freshmen Male & CAU Scholarship Students – Beckwith Hall
 - c. Beckwith Hall New Transfer Students
 - d. CAU Suites New Transfer Females

For students that are not new freshmen, but have fewer than 58 earned credit hours, on campus housing is defined below:

- e. New Transfer Females - CAU Suites 200
- f. New Transfer & Returning Females and Males - Brawley Hall and Heritage Commons
- g. Graduate Students - Beckwith Village

13. **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. When you live on campus, you are close to classes, places to eat and other recreational activities, like the student center and gym. All halls residence 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.

Some of the benefits include:

- a. Higher GPA
 - b. Higher Retention
 - c. Higher Graduation Rate (within 4 - 6 years), More likely to attend graduate or professional school (i.e., law school, medical school, etc.)
14. **What size sheets do I buy?** Every Residence Hall on campus requires Twin Extra Long sheets with the exception of the Heritage Commons. The Heritage Commons require Full Sheets. All students must bring a mattress pad/cover for their bed.
15. **Can I bring my own furniture and television?** Yes, and no. You are encouraged to make your room as homey and as comfortable as possible. For your convenience, we have provided you with all the essential furniture, but if you have a favorite chair, desk, chest, or whatever, you may bring that as well. However, you cannot remove any of the original furniture from the room. If you do so, you will be charged for any missing furniture, upon check out. You are encouraged to bring your own television, but there is also one provided in the lobby area.
16. **Can I study in the residence hall?** Yes. Studies have consistently shown that freshman 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.
17. **Can I smoke in my room?** No! All residence halls at Clark Atlanta University are smoke-free. Violators will be directed for judicial sanction.
18. **Can I have a car on campus?** Yes. All students with a vehicle 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 being towed. Good spaces are limited, so you are 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).
19. **Finding a roommate: Will my best friend and I be able to live together?** The earlier

you both complete your housing applications, the better your chances are to become 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.

20. **How will you assign me to a room?** All first-year students will be assigned to a room based on their major. Students will log on to the portal to complete an application after their Confirmation fee (for new students) or Room Reservation fee (returning students) is paid. The link to the housing portal is <http://residencelife.cau.edu/StarRezPortal/> or go to the Residence Life Webpage and click “Apply Now”. You will need to log on with your campus domain/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.
21. **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 the 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 are required to complete, agree and sign. In the event you feel you need more assistance, please contact your Resident Assistant or Assistant Director.
22. **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 only be terminated for the following reason(s):
 - a. Marriage
 - b. Pregnancy
 - c. Co-op assignment
 - d. Transferring schools
 - e. Extreme illness
 - f. 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.

23. **Security and card readers: What is visitation?** Visitation is a set time where students can come to the hall, check in with the designated staff and fellowship or study with their classmates. Please note, students can only have up to two guests and/or visitors at one time. Once checked in, all guests and/or visitors must remain with the resident at all times and the guest is only permitted to use the guest bathroom.
24. **Freshmen Visitation Hours** are 6:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Sunday through Sunday, with only 2 guest per resident. Each guest must have an AUC ID. Upperclassmen Visitation Hours are 4 p.m. - 12 a.m. Monday through Friday 12 p.m. - 12 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. There is a 2 guest per resident limit and all guest must have a state issued or a current university ID.

25. **How do you keep out unwanted guests and/or visitors?** 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.
26. **Will friends from off-campus have access to my building?** No. Friends, parents or solicitors from off campus will not be programmed to have access through the card accessible door. All guests will be required to 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. All guests with a valid ID card will be permitted in the residence halls during visitation hours only (see visitation hours for details).
27. **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.
28. **What if I can't go home; can I stay in my room?** No, all residence halls will be closed between semesters.
29. **Fees: How much does it cost to live on campus?** Costs vary. Please copy the following link to your browser for detailed pricing. <http://www.cau.edu/division-of-finance/Student%20Accounts/2019-2020-undergrad-tuition-fees-5-16-19.pdf>
30. **Other information: When is Move in day?** Please see the Academic Calendar on the university's webpage for Move-In Day, Check Out and Holidays.
31. **Do all students have to have a meal plan?** Yes, all students are required to have a meal plan. See schedule below: Freshmen: Platinum Unlimited Meal Plan Sophomores: Panther Silver Meal Plan Juniors, Seniors and Graduate on-campus students: Block 60 Meal Plan Juniors and Seniors Student off-campus: Block 30 Meal Plan
32. **Do I need renter's insurance?** Yes. CAU is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Please check with your homeowner's policy to see if they can do an addendum or purchase renters insurance through another company. The university will distribute information during orientation and Move-in about student personal property insurance.