



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
Division of Student Affairs
Office of Student Life

FRATERNITY AND SORORITY HOUSING EXEMPTION POLICY
2007-2008

Introduction

There is a shared responsibility between social or service fraternity and sorority chapters and Syracuse University to support the financial stability of these organizations. It is the responsibility of the chapter to require its members to live in their chapter house and to fill all available beds or individual living spaces throughout the academic year. Recognizing this shared responsibility, this housing exemption program was created by Syracuse University to assist chapters in meeting the financial obligations of operating a chapter house. This process allows qualified rising sophomore members of recognized social and service fraternity and sorority chapters to be exempt from the two-year University residency requirement, provided these individuals commit to live in the fraternity or sorority chapter house for one full academic year.

Eligibility To Receive Exemptions

To be eligible to receive a housing exemption, all of the following requirements must all be satisfied:

- a. The chapter house must be located within the Planned Institutional District (PID) of the City of Syracuse;
- b. The chapter must hold a minimum rating of **Chapter In Good Standing**;
- c. Only initiated members in good standing may reside in the chapter house;
- d. Juniors and seniors must fill a minimum of 65% of the available beds or individual living units in the chapter house, and sophomores may fill no more than 35% of the available beds in the chapter house.
- e. Sixty-five percent of available beds or individual living spaces in the chapter house must be demonstrated to be filled to the satisfaction of the Office of Student Life for the chapter to be eligible for any housing exemptions.
- f. The student(s) identified for a housing exemption by the chapter must be (1) currently registered at the University, (2) an initiated member of the chapter, and (3) hold a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5.

The Fall Semester Housing Exemption Process

The fall semester housing exemption process is for current first-year students who are living in University housing and seeking to live in a chapter house during their sophomore year.

- a. Rising sophomore members should never assume that they will be granted a housing exemption; therefore, chapters should advise all of their rising sophomore members that they should participate in

the housing assignment reservation process, including payment of the required housing deposit, coordinated by the Housing Office. Those individuals who are granted a housing exemption will be permitted to cancel their housing agreement and will receive a refund of their housing deposit.

- b. In February, chapter presidents are required to attend a housing exemption information meeting where they are notified of the housing exemption policy and process and are provided with the necessary paperwork to submit a request for housing exemptions.
- c. Exemptions requested during the spring semester for the following academic year are dependent upon the chapter meeting the occupancy requirements for junior and senior members that will be living in the chapter house the following academic year. A chapter will be eligible for housing exemptions **only** if 65% of the available beds or individual living spaces in the chapter house are occupied by junior and senior members during the following academic year (fall and spring) as demonstrated by signed housing agreements or other proof satisfactory to the Office of Student Life. If the chapter meets this requirement, housing exemptions for rising sophomores will be provided for up to 35% of the available beds in the chapter house.

Example: A chapter house has 40 beds in the house. The house must be occupied by 26 juniors and seniors (65%) for the chapter to be eligible for 14 housing exemptions for rising sophomores (35%). If the chapter has 25 or fewer juniors and seniors living in the house, the chapter will receive no housing exemptions.

- d. Utilizing the Housing Exemption Request Form, the chapter president must submit a prioritized list of names for the appropriate number of housing exemptions by the deadline established by the Office of Student Life. It is the responsibility of the chapter president and house manager to submit only the names of those students who meet the minimum GPA requirements. Any incorrect information submitted by the chapter will result in the chapter not being eligible for housing exemptions.
- e. The chapter president will be given the authorization letters, indicating that a student has been approved for a housing exemption. It will be the responsibility of the chapter president to distribute the authorization letters to his/her members.
- f. Each student will be required to take his/her approval letter to the Housing Office (Steele Hall) by the specified date to cancel his or her housing agreement for the following academic year. Failure to cancel the housing agreement by the specified date will result in loss of the housing exemption and the assessment of all charges applicable to student housing.
- g. Except for unforeseen and or extraordinary circumstances, **no exemptions will be granted other than during the spring semester for the following academic year**, as described above. Chapters seeking additional exemptions outside this process must make a request in writing to the Office of Student Life, which will determine whether and to what extent additional housing exemption assistance is appropriate.
- h. Syracuse University reserves the right to modify or terminate this program at any time.