

TYPE: Administrative
TITLE: Student Housing
NO.: ADMIN-250
RESPONSIBILITY: Vice President Academic and Students
APPROVED BY: Durham College Leadership Team
EFFECTIVE DATE: January 2025

1. Introduction

In alignment with the Ontario Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024, Durham College is dedicated to providing housing options and related services that support the academic success and well-being of all students.

2. Purpose

This Policy outlines the College's principles, commitments, and available resources to support students in finding suitable housing on and off campus. This Policy applies to all student housing services offered by the College, including on-campus residences, off-campus housing resources, and support services.

3. Definitions

Refer to [Durham College's Standard Definitions](#).

4. Policy statements

4.1 Commitment to Housing Options

- 4.1.1 The College is committed to supporting students to have access to suitable housing by offering supports and information about on and off-campus housing options.
- 4.1.2 The College will guarantee on-campus housing to qualified first-year students who are beginning their post-secondary studies in September. On-campus housing for new January and May-start students is subject to availability.
- 4.1.3 The College will annually review its residence rental rates ensuring that on-campus housing remains accessible to students based on competitive market rates.

- 4.1.1 The College will assess current on-campus housing capacity regularly to identify opportunities for expansion, including new residence buildings or the repurposing of existing spaces based on enrolment projections.
 - 4.1.2 The College will work with student groups to assess preferences and needs in terms of housing types to ensure on-campus housing options meet diverse needs.
- 4.2 Housing Support and Referral Services
- 4.2.1 The College will offer services to support students navigating the rental market, including on-campus residences, homestay, home-share, and assistance with off-campus housing.
 - 4.2.2 Resources will be easily accessible to assist students, including incoming international students, with assistance in finding suitable off-campus housing when on-campus housing options are not available or preferred.
 - 4.2.3 Housing resources and supports will be inclusive, supporting students of all circumstances and backgrounds.
 - 4.2.4 The College is committed to offering on a best-efforts basis, resources and supports to students experiencing extenuating financial challenges impacting their ability to secure or maintain housing.
- 4.3 Community Collaboration
- 4.3.1 The College will list third-party organizations offering housing search platforms, leasing legal assistance, and related services that align with students' needs.
- 4.4 Emergency Housing and Temporary Solutions
- 4.4.1 The College is committed to offering resources and supports to students experiencing temporary or emergency housing situations.
 - 4.4.2 The College will support students demonstrating need to provide financial assistance to secure temporary or immediate housing due to unforeseen circumstances.

5. Procedure

- 5.1. The College will maintain a list of approved third-party organizations that provide housing-related services such as legal advice, lease dispute resolution, and safety resources. This information will be made available online through the College's housing webpage.
- 5.2. The College will offer a guarantee to incoming first-year students seeking on-campus housing who are beginning their studies in September provided they meet all admission, residence application, agreement, deposit, and payment deadlines. Priority will be given to full-time students undertaking their first credential. Access to on-campus housing for January and May-start students will be based on availability.
- 5.3. Students interested in on-campus housing options will be able to locate information about through the Housing webpage, directly with Residence or through Housing resource personnel through the Student Development or the International Education offices.
- 5.4. Information about on-campus residences will be included with offers of Admission.
- 5.5. Students experiencing housing insecurity may contact any Student Service office or Housing resource personnel by email or in person to review options and resources available such as temporary short-term or emergency housing options. Students may also access information about temporary housing resources online through the "Are You Okay" and "Housing Supports" webpages found on the College's website.

6. Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act considerations

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) standards have been considered in the development of this policy and procedure and it adheres to the principles outlined in the College's commitment to accessibility as demonstrated by the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.

7. Non-compliance implications

Non-compliance with this Policy could negatively impact the current and prospective College community and could lead to significant financial loss and damage to the College's reputation.

8. Related Forms, legislations or external resources

None.