Movin’ On

From home to the hill:
A guide for your transition to Mount Mercy University!

Residence Life 2015-2016
Table of Contents

In The Beginning
Residence Hall & Apartment Options ................................................................. 2
Campus Facilities and Amenities ........................................................................ 2

Things to Bring
Clothing ................................................................................................................. 3
Bed & Bath Linen .................................................................................................. 3
Toiletries & Laundry Supplies ............................................................................. 3
Other possibilities ................................................................................................. 3

Things to Consider
Luggage ............................................................................................................... 4
Mail ...................................................................................................................... 4
E-mail & Internet Software .................................................................................. 4
Lofts ...................................................................................................................... 5
Refrigerators ........................................................................................................ 5
Storage ................................................................................................................ 5
Pets ....................................................................................................................... 5
University Switchboard ..................................................................................... 5
Parking ................................................................................................................. 5
Insurance ........................................................................................................... 6
Safety ................................................................................................................... 6

Opening Day
Procedure ........................................................................................................... 6 & 7
What is an RA? .................................................................................................... 8

Roommates & Community Connections
What is an RA? .................................................................................................... 8
Connecting With Your Roommate ..................................................................... 8 & 9
Room Transfers .................................................................................................. 9
Connecting With Your Community ..................................................................... 9 & 10

Additional Info
Recycling ............................................................................................................. 10
Break Information ................................................................................................ 11
Questions???? .................................................................................................... 12
In The Beginning…

Regina Hall
Features double rooms with loftable/bunkable beds, private sinks, two closets, and common restrooms. (Regina rooms are also furnished with peg-board wall sections which may be used for hanging shelves, photos, etc.). Floor plan views can be found on the campus housing page of the Mount Mercy University website.

McAuley Hall
Features doubles (two people to one room) and triples (three people to two rooms) and private bath shared with an adjacent room. A limited number of single rooms/singles with private bathroom are available.

Campus Apartments and Suites
Primarily students who are 21 years of age or older, or are of junior class standing, may choose to live in campus apartments or suites. All apartments and suites are furnished, have computer network hookups and cable hookups. Also, each has temperature controls including air conditioning.

Andreas House Suites: Located just to the west of Lundy. Feature four bedrooms, two baths and a vanity area, convenience kitchen (microwaves, no stoves), and living room.

Lower Campus Apartments: Located across the main campus drive from Warde Hall. Feature two bedrooms, living room, full kitchen, and one bathroom.

Campus Facilities and Amenities
In all campus residences, the college provides beds, dressers, and desks. We have VERY minimal basic desk chairs available if needed. Each room has cable hookup as well as internet ports for each resident. The Regina Basement, McAuley Penthouse, and 2nd floor Andreas House provide kitchen areas. Stove top cooking is permitted in these areas. Ice machines are located in the Regina Basement laundry rooms.
Things to Bring…

Clothing
Since dresser and closet space are limited, you may want to keep school break times in mind when you decide what to bring this trip. Fall or Thanksgiving breaks are good times to consider exchanging your summer items for fall/winter items, for example. When you select clothing, keep in mind that most Mount Mercy settings are informal. You will also want to be prepared, however, for special occasions, recreational activities and varying weather conditions.

Bed & Bath Linen
You will need to bring your own pillow, pillow cases, sheets, blankets, bedspread, mattress pad, towels and washcloths. We recommend extra-long twin sheets.

Toiletries & Laundry Supplies
If space becomes critical when packing, these items are available locally. However, an initial supply will make the hectic period of the first week a little easier. Each residence hall floor has an ironing board and iron for your use. All residents will have access to free laundry.

Other Possibilities to Bring
- Compact Refrigerator - max of 4.5 cu. ft., one per room
- Power Strips—consider energy efficient options!
- Desk Chair
- Fan
- Desk Lamp
- Microwave
- Area Rug
- Robe/Shower Shoes
- Alarm Clock
- Headphones
- TV
- Camera
- A few basic dishes
- Silverware
- Bicycle
- Rec. Equipment
- Wastebasket
- Computer/Laptop
- Calendar/Planner
- Memo Board

Coordinating the furnishings and arrangements of your room/apartment is a good opportunity to become better acquainted with your new roommate(s). Some things you may want to discuss or consider are:
- Sharing belongings
- Who is brings TV, refrigerator, microwave, etc..
Things to Consider

Luggage
If you plan to ship some of your possessions in advance, please advise shippers that luggage should arrive on campus no earlier than Saturday, August 22, 2015.

Mail
When you check into your room or apartment, you will be assigned a mailbox. Mail sorting will work most efficiently if your mail is addressed in the following manner:

Name (last name is important)  
Mount Mercy University  
1330 Elmhurst Drive NE  
Mailbox number & Residence Hall/Apartment  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402

All mail is delivered to the mailroom in Lundy. Student mailboxes are located in the University Center. Packages are delivered to the mail room and students will be notified through campus mail about pick up.

Email & Internet Software
Every student is assigned a university email (@mustangs.mtmery.edu). Residence Life and many other departments will communicate with you only via this university email. To that end make sure you are regularly checking your university email (or forwarding it to another email account). Students can find the instructions to connect to the university wireless internet on MyCampus. A good plan would be to download a copy of the instructions to your device before coming to campus in the fall. You can also gain free access to Microsoft 360 software with your university supplied email address. Instructions for this are also located in MyCampus.

IMPORTANT
The following items are NOT permitted:

- Candles
- Incense
- Weapons
- Fireworks
- George Foreman or other indoor grills
- A toaster, toaster oven or hot plates
- Any cooking appliance other than a microwave (coffee makers with auto-shut off permitted)
- Command Strips
Lofts
The loftable beds provided by Mount Mercy are the only lofts allowed on campus; no other lofts will be permitted.

Refrigerators
Many students choose to bring a small refrigerator to keep snacks and refreshments readily available in their room. You will want to discuss this with your roommate as only one refrigerator is allowed per room. In order to be a continually sustainable campus, we ask that you limit these larger appliances to one per room. When you are considering which refrigerator to purchase, keep in mind that the unit may not be larger than 4.5 cubic feet.

Storage
There is limited storage space available in the residence halls. Fire regulations prohibit storage of cardboard boxes, paint, and other flammables. Only under a few specific circumstances will Residence Life approve the storage of any belongings over the summer.

Pets
Many pets that may be suited to a private home are not compatible with a residence hall setting. Fresh water fish (maximum tank size allowed is 20 gallons) are the only pets that are permitted in residence hall rooms or apartments. If it can breathe atmospheric air, it is not a freshwater fish and therefore is not allowed!

Information Desk
The Information Desk number is (319)363-8213. When the information desk is closed, it will be answered by an automated attendant system. When the automated attendant answers, enter the four digit extension for the person you are calling. If you do not have the extension, you may dial “0” for an operator.

Parking
Students living in Regina and McAuley generally park in the Prairie Drive lot (or “the Pit”). Parking is free, however, you will need a parking tag, one of which is provided to each student at no charge. Parking tags are required, and vehicles without tags will be ticketed. Replacement or second vehicle parking tags may also be issued for a fee of $2.00. Tags may be obtained at the University Center Information Desk.
Insurance
The College assumes no responsibility for loss, theft, or damage to personal property. Most home owner’s insurance can be applied to personal belongings in your residence hall. Renter’s insurance is another option to consider. We strongly encourage you to have coverage before you begin your residency. Parents may want to check their home owner’s policy for specific coverage details pertaining to college students.

Safety
At Mount Mercy, your safety is very important to us! Therefore, in addition to a Resident Assistant (RA) who lives on your floor, each night there are RAs on-call in each living area to assist you. Residence Hall floors or buildings are locked to non-residents at all times. Student ID’s or issued proximity ID cards allow them access.

The campus Public Safety Office is located on the first floor of the University Center and is staffed 24/7. A Safety Assistant (SA) is typically just a knock or telephone call away (319-363-1323 ext. 1234)! Safety Assistants provide a campus escort to interested students, and assist with parking and other safety concerns. There are easily identifiable blue lights on yellow poles with telephones in each parking area which may be used to contact the SA directly for assistance.

Opening Day...
You will receive a mailing with your move-in time prior to Opening Day. The residence halls open on Saturday, August 22nd. When you reach the campus, you will be directed to where you will be met by members of the Orientation staff. These volunteers will help you unload and get your belongings into the building. You will need to report to an assigned check-in area to complete the check in procedure. This check-in area will be indicated in future mailings. As soon as your car is unpacked, you will be asked to move it to “the pit”. Apartment residents should also arrive at the check in area, although you will not want to unload your belongings until you are checked in.
The check-in procedure is handled by the Residence Life Staff. They will verify your room assignment, ask that you complete an emergency contact card, get your signature on a key envelope, assign your mailbox and issue your keys. Traffic can be fairly heavy, but the system works smoothly most of the time....with your help!

Upon your arrival, you will be asked to review the Room Condition and Inventory Report Form that has been filled out by an RA. You should review this form carefully before signing it and turning it into your RA. This is the basis for any future assessment of damages in your room. When you move out of your assigned room, an inspection will be conducted to compare current and original inventory, as well as the condition of the room and furnishings with the condition recorded on your arrival. This form will need to be turned in within 24 hours of check in.

The RAs and Orientation Leaders will be your best resources for information and direction as you begin to settle in. The Orientation schedule of activities will be a valuable reference regarding events such as your first floor/apartment meeting, advisement, and other orientation programs. Your first few days might be a bit confusing, so don’t hesitate to ask for assistance.
What is an RA?

An RA (Resident Assistant) is a student, just like yourself, employed as a member of the residence life staff who will live in your residence hall to promote and maintain a positive living environment conducive to academic achievement, personal growth, and respect for the rights of all residents. Your RA will help you meet other students, learn about resources on and off campus, explain policies and procedures, and assist you with any questions or concerns you may have.

Our Resident Assistants are trained in a variety of skills and will be someone who can help make the transition to Mount Mercy University a little easier!

Connecting With Your Roommate

When you move to college and move in with a roommate, connecting is probably one of the first things on your mind. From developing a healthy, respectful relationship to tackling the tough times, your roommate connections are a year-round pursuit! Some common fictions about roommate connections include:

FICTION: “My roommate and I need to have a lot in common.”

FACT: Two different people can live together and learn from one another’s experiences – as long as both people stay open to it! After all, politician Al Gore and actor Tommy Lee Jones roomed together, as did actors Robin Williams and Christopher Reeve!

FICTION: “As long as they keep their hands off my stuff, we’ll be fine.”

FACT: Living successfully with someone else is about more than just stuff. Respect, tact, communication, flexibility, care and an open mind will increase your chances of developing a solid roommate relationship.
FICTION: “Of course my roommate will be my best friend!”

FACT: Many students anticipate that their roommate will become their best friend. Often, students imagine doing everything with their roommate, talking late into the night, sharing meals, and warding off loneliness. The reality is that roommates don’t always end up as best pals. Friendship isn’t the main factor in developing an excellent roommate relationship. Respect is important, and communication is a key factor in a successful roommate experience!

Room Transfers

Learning to live with a roommate is an important part of your education as a residential student at Mount Mercy. Therefore, students may not change rooms without the approval of their hall director. Students who experience difficulties in establishing successful roommate relationships, or wish to transfer rooms for other reasons, will be asked to follow these steps:

1. Tell your RA about the issue (s) you and your roommate are having as early as possible. You may be able to find a resolution without the inconvenience of moving.
2. Talk out any roommate issues, with both your RA and your roommate!
3. If you continue to have concerns, you may talk with your hall director who will identify other ways to resolve the conflict which may include a room re-assignment.

Connecting With Your Community

Community living can be a highlight of your college career. As an independent yet interdependent way of life, it helps to prepare you for being active in your community after graduation. Luckily, most community situations tend to be positive – conversations, hanging out, playing games, watching movies. Sometimes, community living can be controversial as you work to resolve the conflicts that inevitably arise when diverse people live together and learn from one another.
To really benefit from community living, you need to get involved. The following are some “rules” for community engagement:

**Respect Others**
Respect their space, their dreams, their opinions and their lives.

**Show Interest**
Give everyone a chance – you may end up being surprised by someone!

**Cooperate and Compromise**
You can’t always get what you want…and that’s usually a good thing.

**Take Initiative**
Introduce yourself, ask friendly questions, and initiate conversation whenever you can.

**Take Responsibility**
Admit mistakes, make amends, and take responsibility for your surroundings and your behavior.

**Be Inclusive**
Let your language and actions serve to include rather than exclude.

**Be a Team Player**
Think of the common good and how your actions impact the community as a whole.

**Give Yourself!**
The community is better because you are here!

**Recycling**
Mount Mercy University has recycling initiatives that work to reduce our “Carbon Footprint.”
Each room is provided with a recycling bin. Pick-up times will occur each week. These times will be posted on your floor. To dispose of recyclables outside of the pick-up times, you can drop off your items outside of the recycling room in the bottom floor of McAuley. **Recycling bins are to be used for recyclables only (cans, bottles, plastic, newspapers, office paper, cardboard).** Students are expected to take out their own non-recyclable trash and dispose of it in the dumpsters outside of McAuley. Students are reported for putting non-recyclable trash in the recycling bin.
Avoid Stress at Break....

Plan NOW for your transportation to and from Mount Mercy for the major breaks in the academic calendar during which the residence halls are closed. **Students living in Regina and McAuley are expected to leave by the closing time listed, and will not be able to return until the opening time listed.** At Christmas and the end of the year, students are asked to leave within 24 hours of their last final, with the closing time listed as the **last** available time to check out. The closing and opening dates and times for these breaks are:

**Fall Break:**
Halls remain open

**Thanksgiving:**
Halls close on Tuesday, November 24, 2015 at 9:00 p.m.
Halls open on Sunday, November 29 at noon

**Christmas:**
Halls close on Thursday December 17, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.
Halls open on Sunday January 3, 2015 at noon

**Spring Break:**
Halls close on Friday, March 18, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.
Halls open on Sunday, March 27, 2015 at noon

**Easter:**
Easter this year is included in spring break.

**End of the Year:**
Halls close on Thursday, May 19, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.
Have a Question?

If you have any questions that are not answered in this booklet, please feel free to call the Dean of Students & Director of Residence Life, (319) 368-6469.

**Academic Year Hours**
Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Summer Hours:**
Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.