	<b>First-year Residency Requirement Policy</b>	<b>Responsible Administrative Unit:</b> Student Life
	<b>Issued: December 2010</b>  <b>Revised:</b>	<b>Policy Contact:</b> Director of Auxiliary Services & Housing <a href="mailto:Rflintof@mines.edu">Rflintof@mines.edu</a>

## 1.0 BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

A large body of research shows that living in a residence hall has a positive influence on the following student outcomes:

- Retention and persistence toward graduation;
- Perception of the campus social climate;
- Participation in extra-curricular activities;
- Development of interpersonal relationships;
- Greater faculty interactions; and
- Personal growth and development.

Each of these outcomes positively influences students' overall educational experiences, and supports their total success and growth as college students.

Research at the Colorado School of Mines ("Mines" or "the school") supports this larger body of findings. Students who live on campus for their first year at Mines are retained into their second year at a significantly higher rate than students who commute to campus during their first year. In order to further bolster the positive outcomes associated with living on campus, Mines has established a strategic goal to become a more residential campus through programmatic efforts, policies, and facilities improvements. In support of that goal, the following policy was developed to require first-year students to live in the campus residence halls. This policy is in effect for new students entering Mines in the Fall of 2011.

## 2.0 DEFINITIONS


**2.1 First-year students:** All first-time undergraduate students at Mines.

**2.2 Full-time status:** For the purpose of this requirement and the residence hall contract, full-time status is 12 or more credit hours per semester.

## 3.0 POLICY

Subject to the availability of space, all full-time, first-year, degree-seeking students at Mines are required to live in the residence halls for the entire academic year (fall and spring semesters). Limited exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis, according to a waiver process that will be fairly and consistently enforced. Additionally, all students who live in the residence halls are also *required to carry a [residential meal plan](#)*.

Nothing in this policy shall supersede the conditions of an existing fully executed residence hall contract, including all conditions for terminating the contract.

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## 4.0 IMPLEMENTATION

This policy will go into effect beginning with the new students who enter Mines in the fall of 2011. Incoming students will be notified of this policy through the admissions process, brochures, website, and admissions visit programs.

### 4.1 Possible Criteria for Exceptions:

Students who meet one or more of the following criteria, evaluated on a case-by-case basis, may be granted an exception to the first-year residency requirement, as follows:

- Married or have a registered domestic partnership;
- The parent or legal guardian of a child(ren) that resides with him or her;
- 21 years of age or older prior to the first day of classes for the fall semester;
- Transferring from another post-secondary institution where he or she lived on-campus for at least two semesters;
- Living at home with their parent/guardian(s) at their parent/guardians' permanent residence within 20 miles from campus and commuting to campus daily;
- Approved to live in a fraternity or sorority house for the spring semester, if the Greek organization has met specific standards identified through the ALPHA program;
- A member of the United States military who has served for a year or more.

A student who first enrolls at Mines for the spring semester may be required to live in the residence halls for the spring semester only.

### 4.2 Exception Requests:

To request an exception to the first-year residency requirement, please contact the Associate Director of Housing ([bwaller@mines.edu](mailto:bwaller@mines.edu)).