

MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY POLICY					
Policy #:	03-0030				
Name of Policy:	First-Year Freshman Housing Requirement				
Date of Last Revision:	February 2026	Initial Date of Approval:	01.26.26	Initial Effective Date:	07.01.26
Policy Owner	Residence Life				
Policy/Chapter Sections					
Date of Next Review:	January 2029				

1.0 PURPOSE

Missouri Southern State University requires all first-year freshman students enrolled in 8 or more credit hours to reside in on-campus housing for their first academic year (or first two semesters). This requirement is designed to support student success, engagement, and access to campus resources.

2.0 SCOPE

A first-year freshman is defined as a student who has not previously completed any college credit hours following high school graduation.

3.0 POLICY

Exemption Criteria

Students may request an exemption to the first-year freshman housing requirement only if they meet one or more of the following conditions:

- The student is 21 years of age or older by the first day of classes.
- The student is married.
- The student has a dependent child.
- The student is an active member of the military.
- The student resides with a parent or legal guardian whose permanent residence is within a 60-mile radius of the Missouri Southern State University campus.

Required Exemption Request

All students who believe they qualify for an exemption must submit a First-Year Freshman Housing Exemption Request along with any required documentation. Exemptions must be reviewed and approved by the Office of Residence Life prior to the start of the semester.

Non-Compliance and Associated Fees

1. Failure to Submit an Exemption Request
 - a. Students who do not submit the required housing exemption request will be assessed a \$1,200 housing fine.
2. Exemption Request Denied
 - a. Students who submit an exemption request and are denied and do not move into campus housing will also be assessed a \$1,200 housing fine.
3. Denial Followed by Contract Breach

- a. Students who submit an exemption request, are denied, move on campus, and then breach their housing contract during their first semester will be charged:
 - i. The standard buyout fee of \$1,200, and
 - ii. The full cost of housing and meals for the entire fall and spring semesters.
- b. Students in this category are not eligible to appeal the buyout charge.

4.0 HISTORY

This policy may be revised, edited, changed or removed at any time with or without notice to applicable individuals.

5.0 RELATED DOCUMENTS

[Dashboard - eRezLife](#)