

Information for Theme House Advisors and Conveners of Current Theme Houses Regarding Resident Selection

Timeline:

February 16 through March 12 – Time window for houses to select residents

March 12 by 5PM – Final Fall 2010 resident roster and alternates list are due to the Residence Life office.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What procedure should be used for resident selection?

The Office of Residence Life maintains only a few requirements for the process.

1. The process must be open to all current full-time Earlham students who will reside on-campus during the Fall 2010 semester (reasonable accommodation should be made to allow the participation of students currently away on recognized off-campus study programs).
2. Criterion for selection must be directly related to the purpose and mission of the house. For example, it is reasonable for a language immersion house to require prospective residents to demonstrate competency in the specific language; whereas, it is not reasonable to require a prospective resident to have a specific major – that would be contrary to the spirit of the Theme House program.
3. The submitted roster must show occupancy of 100% (please contact us directly if there are questions about house capacity).
4. The process and resulting assignments must be in accordance with Earlham College and Office of Residence Life policy/procedures.

Is a consensus based process required?

This is one of the most common questions we receive from advisors/conveners. While we encourage houses to consider a consensus based process, we also recognize that this is not always reasonably feasible. With approximately 10 percent of our students abroad at any one time, consensus can be especially challenging. Additionally, large group based processes can sometimes leave more shy and less assertive students behind. Many advisors/conveners have told us they find a hybrid process to be helpful.

What happens if we do not finalize our roster by the established deadline?

The timeline was established in recognition of the many processes that occur both simultaneously and sequentially. We structured the process to allow students maximum opportunity to participate. Additionally, this year we significantly extended the amount of time available for selection. While we have never had to (and hope never to), we reserve the right to suspend houses in accordance with policy if the house fails to complete self-selection.

We are having difficulty finalizing our roster, what should we do?

Please contact us directly (several days prior to the deadline). Email reslife@earlham.edu, call, or stop by our offices. We will assess the situation via discussion with the house representative and provide appropriate guidance. It is our policy to not intervene unless it is clear that timely conclusion can not be reached or the process is proving to be inconsistent with the requirements referenced above.

Should we submit two rosters, one for Fall 2010 and one for Spring 2011?

No. The room selection process is only for students who will reside on-campus for the fall 2009 semester. Spring 2010 rosters are to be submitted in November once graduation, study-abroad, and other programs have been finalized. Earlham College and the Office of Residence Life make assignments for the academic year (or portion remaining), not on a semester-by-semester basis. While we understand the good-hearted nature of the intent, the actual outcome tends to be detrimental to students. There are too many factors that can change and students are unfairly punished.

How will a student in an off-campus study program for fall request space for the spring 2011 semester?

If a student is involved in an off-campus study program for the fall 2010 semester, they will have an opportunity to submit a housing preference card prior to the end of the spring 2010 semester (and again mid-way through the fall semester if they have not previously or this information has changed). This information would be provided for spring vacancy consideration (also if the student drops from their anticipated program it will allow them to be considered as an alternate for the house). This is a new process we are introducing this year.

Can we request someone for Fall only and replace them with someone else for Spring even though they are not leaving campus?

Earlham College and the Office of Residence Life make assignments for the academic year (or portion thereof remaining). Spring vacancies are those that result from students studying off-campus, graduating, or those otherwise leaving Earlham College. While the student involved may indicate their agreement, too often we have found that this agreement is the result of peer pressure and coercion. Should we become aware that a house has attempted/made such arrangements the selection process would be considered null and void. Please remember, students who will not be living on-campus in the fall semester are not eligible to participate in selection processes.

Do students have to complete the online application to be considered for residency?

Yes. Part of the theme house policy requires that the Office of Residence Life do regular reviews of the program and each house. Part of this is ensuring that reliable data is kept and maintained regarding not only the activities of the individual houses, but the on-going student interest in these communities.