

SHARED INTEREST LIVING COMMUNITIES
Guidelines and Application Procedures for 2012-13

Shared Interest Living Communities provide an opportunity for groups of students to live together for the purpose of exploring a common interest. The group defines goals and objectives, and members of the group agree to work toward achieving the stated goals. In order to qualify as a Shared Interest Living Community, the group must demonstrate how, through living together, the goals of the group will be enhanced. In other words, why will the group be more successful if they live together than if they don't? The Housing Selection Advisory Committee works with the Office of Residential Life to interview all groups submitting an application and recommends which groups should be awarded housing for the next academic year.

So what is a group? A group can be any size, single sex or coed and can be formed for any purpose that is consistent with the goals of a liberal arts education at Carleton. Examples of groups that have flourished in the past include: Science Fiction, Culinary, Community Service, Christian Interest, Sign Language, Farm and Greenhouse, only to mention a few. Groups can request housing within a traditional residence hall or one of the small College houses. Groups are never awarded College apartments such as those located in the village apartments.

In order to make decisions regarding which groups will be awarded Shared Interest Living Community status for the 2012-13 academic year the following criteria will be used to evaluate each application:

1. The group must provide clearly stated learning goals and objectives consistent with the purpose of a liberal arts education.
2. The group must provide a rationale explaining why living together is necessary for the group to achieve the stated goals and objectives.
3. The group must provide a concrete plan for achieving the learning goals and objectives as stated.
4. The group must indicate the method of self-evaluation to be used by the group to measure their progress towards achieving the stated learning goals and objectives.
5. The group must indicate how they will use their living space to provide programs that benefit the College community at large.

IMPORTANT DATES

February 7	Information Session for New Shared Interest Living Applicants, Noon, Sayles Hill Lounge
February 9	Information Session for Groups Reapplying, Noon, Sayles Hill 253
March 29	Shared Interest Living Community applications due at noon
April 4, 5, 6	Shared Interest Living Community interviews
April (TBD)	Shared Interest Living Community and Institutional House Assignments due by 4 p.m.

6. The group must provide the name of an advisor from the ranks of the faculty or administrative staff. The group must also provide a clearly defined expectation and relationship statement regarding the interactive roles and responsibilities of the advisor and the group.
7. Size of the group is not a determining factor so long as there are sufficient members to achieve the stated goals and objectives. Each group is responsible for maintaining one hundred percent occupancy within the space awarded to them. During the academic year, groups are expected to fill any vacancy that occurs prior to the start of each term or forfeit the space they have been awarded. Care should be taken to include a gender and class balance (if appropriate) in your house roster.
8. The group must indicate how the participants of the interest community will be selected, how individual participation will be evaluated, and how the group will resolve individual participation issues raised through the evaluation process, including a provision for removing a non-contributing member from the group.
9. The group must indicate what kind of space is needed for its program to be successful. This should include the number of bed spaces, as well as such items as study/lounge/social space, kitchen facilities and proximity to other campus facilities to be used by the group. Space will be allocated on the basis of how well an area meets the stated learning goals and objectives of the group.
10. The group must select a house manager. The house manager will serve as the contact person for the group throughout the application process. The house manager will also live in the house the following year and serve as the liaison between the house and Residential Life for the academic year. See the attached house manager job description for further details on this position.

Groups who are reapplying for Shared Interest Living Community status must include how well the group has successfully met the goals and objectives stated for the 2012-13 academic year in addition to those items listed above.

The Office of Residential Life considers all the criteria contained herein to be of equal importance.

How To Apply

The best way to start is to review the above criteria with members of your group. Begin formulating your responses to the criteria. Advertise your group through the NNB or other creative means of advertising. Organize a meeting to find others with similar interests. Identify a faculty or staff person who is willing to work with your group.

Once you have gotten this far it is time to complete the application and submit the completed application to the Office of Residential Life in Sevy 10. The applications are due no later than noon on Thursday, March 29. Interviews will be conducted with each applying group on either April 4, 5, and 6. Please sign up for your interview when you submit the application. Groups will be notified of their status for next year on April 13, and final housing rosters for the fall term will be due by 4 p.m. on April 20, 2012 (tentative).

Questions

Feel free to contact the staff in the Office of Residential Life or call extension 5465.

**SHARED INTEREST LIVING COMMUNITY
APPLICATION FOR 2012-13**

Please complete the following questions on this form:

Name of the Group: _____

Who is your proposed House Manager: _____

Number of resident group members for next year: _____

Please attach a tentative list of the names of individuals who have indicated an interest in living in the house if one is awarded. Please note that if your group is awarded space it must submit a final roster with all spaces filled by April 20, 2012 (tentative). Care should be taken to include a gender and class balance (if appropriate) in your house roster.

Please answer the following questions on separate paper and attach the responses to this application. Please type.

1. State your group's goals and objectives for the next academic year. (For example: A proposed "Music House" might have as one of its goals: *Professional Enhancement: Opportunities to Participate in Planned Performances*)
2. Describe the steps you will take to implement the above-stated goals. (Example, based upon the above example goal: *Each member will present one half-hour public recital per year as a solo performer and one half-hour public recital per year as part of an ensemble.*)
3. Why is a residential component necessary to achieve your group's purpose?
4. How will you evaluate your success in achieving these goals?
5. How will the campus/community-at-large benefit from your residential experience?
6. Who will be your group's advisor? Please explain the role of your advisor. How will the advisor interact with your group?
7. How will the members of your community be selected and by whom?
8. How will a group member's participation in your community be evaluated?
9. Describe the process your group will use to resolve issues around equal participation in the house. This process should include a provision for the removal of a non-contributing member.
10. Describe your group's minimum space requirements. Why is this space needed to achieve your goals? Please explain. Consider such factors as: number of bed spaces needed, size and type of social/lounge/study space needed, kitchen, and/or proximity to other campus facilities. Do you prefer a separate facility or can you share with others? Give some examples of campus housing appropriate for your community. (Examples are for illustration purposes only. No guarantee of specific housing is implied nor should be inferred.)
11. Describe funding your group might require and your plans for securing that funding.

INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS

New applicants: noon until 1 p.m. on Tuesday, February 7, in Sayles-Hill Lounge.

Re-applicants: noon until 1 p.m. on Thursday, February 9, in Sayles-Hill 253.

If your group has lived together this past year, please complete the following section with reference to last year's application for group housing. Please review last year's application carefully before you respond to these questions. (If your group has not lived together this past year then please sign and date the application below.)

1. How successful has your group been in achieving last year's goals? Please list last year's goals and respond to each one. Did any of your goals change or evolve? If so, please describe.
2. If there were goals that your house did not meet this year, please explain why and how you will make changes for next year.
3. How has your group contributed to the residential life of the College during the past year? Please list specific examples of events or activities that you felt included or impacted the Carleton community.
4. Has your present location met your needs during the past year? Please explain.
5. How has your group responded to individual members who have not met their obligation to the group?
6. How has your group maintained the physical facility you occupied during the past year? Discuss any improvements you have contributed or damage you have caused to the facility.
7. How frequently and in what way did you interact with your advisor?

Please read and sign:

Each member of your group will be expected to sign the agreement stating his/her commitment to engage him/herself actively in working toward fulfilling the group's goals, and his/her willingness to abide by all relevant house rules and College policy.

Signature of House Manager

Signature of Advisor

Date

Date

**Applications are due in the Office of Residential Life by noon on Thursday, March 29, 2012.
Please schedule your interview when you submit this application.**

SHARED INTEREST LIVING COMMUNITY
FACULTY/STAFF ADVISOR SUPPORT STATEMENT

To the Proposed Advisor:

The Housing Selection Advisory Committee believes that faculty/staff sponsorship is a fundamental component of an interest community. The integration of advisors into the students' program can provide expertise and direction to students who, in many instances, are organizing and leading a program for the first time.

These four guidelines offer a general view of the advisor's role:

1. Assist the interest group in defining and implementing its goals.
2. Meet with the group members regularly on an individual and group basis.
3. Serve as a referral and resource for issues related to the theme of the interest community, especially in the case of a community with an academically-based program.
4. Meet with a group representative at least once per term to discuss the group's program accomplishments, issues and concerns.

Statement of Support:

Please submit a letter of support covering the following topics:

1. Who you are and why you have an interest in this community?
2. How you can be of assistance to members of the community?
3. Your plan for being involved with the community.
4. Your statement of support and willingness for involvement in the community for the 2012-13 academic year.

Please submit your letter of support to the Office of Residential Life, Sevy G 10, F-ResLife, by noon on Thursday, March 29. You may also e-mail your statements to ResLife@carleton.edu.