

College of the Atlantic



Student Life Information & FAQs

In this packet you will find general information pertaining to Student Life at COA. Required forms are on your applicant portal.



On your applicant portal you will find the following forms which are due by May 1:

Housing Application
Residential Student Contract

Meal Plan & Food Preference Form*
Emergency Contact/Responsibility Form*
Student Support Form*

***These forms are required from all students. Transfer students living off campus are not required to fill out the Housing Application and Residential Student Contract. All forms can be found in your applicant portal.**

Residential Life Information

Students must submit all appropriate forms by May 1. If you are submitting a *Housing Application* you must also submit a non-refundable \$100 housing application fee and Residential Student Contract.

Housing Application, Residential Student Contract, & \$100 Application Fee (Due May 1).

Housing Applications at COA serve as a way for the college to form our housing communities. The application is for the student to explain their living habits and request their preferred residence. Being as honest as possible on the housing application is important as we use this information to make roommate assignments. While we try to accommodate a student's preferences for residence, we cannot guarantee a student will receive their first choice. Students needing a single room should petition by including a separate statement on the housing application that justifies the need to have a single room.

Residential Student Contract (Due May 1)

Students should read the Residential Student Contract before signing, as it outlines several important policies related to housing. First-year students are required to live on campus for the year (except in situations where extremely compelling circumstances exist) and should expect to have a roommate. By signing this contract you are agreeing to live on-campus for the full academic year.

Meal & Food Preference Form (Required for all students, due May 1).

All first-year students are required to live on campus and to be on the full meal plan. The full meal plan offers three meals a day, Monday through Friday. On weekends, students are expected to cook for themselves. Our dining services staff works hard to prepare nutritious and flavorful meals that are appealing to the diverse tastes and needs of our community. To help them meet your expectations, we ask you to fill out the Meal Plan & Food Preference Form, so we know how many omnivores, vegetarians, and vegans we have. Food intolerances and allergens are expected to be disclosed on the Meal Plan & Food Preference Form. Transfer students living on campus are also required to be on the full meal plan; transfer students living off campus must select one of the four meal options.

Student Support Form (Required for all students, due May 1)

The Student Support form is designed to gather information that will help us work with you to identify factors that might affect you in your transition to College of the Atlantic. We want to support you in crafting a plan for your success.

Emergency Contact/Responsibility Form (Required for all students, due May 1).

Students should complete all sections and list two contacts that can be reached in case of emergency.

Residential Life at College of the Atlantic

At COA we value relationships—the relationships between individuals and groups as well as between human beings and their environment. We have designed our residences so most houses have fewer than 10 residents and our largest residence (of 30 people) have adequate common spaces for students to gather. We believe a smaller house size encourages residents to know each other, to care for each other, and to hold each other accountable—the key elements to our residential philosophy.

Most residences have a combination of new and returning students. Students come from many countries, from private schools, public schools and home-schools. We encourage this richness because we believe sharing experiences among housemates is a crucial part of the learning experience. Students often remark on the importance of friendships developed through late night discussions in the kitchens or while sitting on porches looking at the ocean. To help ensure residents function at their best, Resident Advisors (RAs) are assigned to each house. RAs help residents plan house activities like game nights, informal discussions, dance parties, etc. With small housing groups, it is hard to get lost in the crowd. Living together in an intimate setting with people from various backgrounds means when conflict arises it is hard to ignore it. We encourage residents to be honest about their needs and to listen openly to one another. When this becomes challenging RAs are present to help mediate conflicts and resolve house issues.

COA students are expected to take a great deal of responsibility for their experiences here; while this is most often recognized in our self-designed curriculum, it is also important in our residences. Students are responsible for cooking for themselves on weekends, although most houses cook community dinners together on Sundays. Students are also expected to clean the common areas of the house weekly. We work to create an environment based on respect for one another and for the resources entrusted to us. We expect students to develop an awareness of the consequences their decisions have, not only for themselves, but also for those around them. We prefer not to create a long list of rules about what you can't do; rather we develop a common understanding of what's needed to create a living environment that fosters learning. We have high expectations for ourselves and for each other. This is an advanced community and it is not an easy task. It takes the effort and commitment of each resident working together to make it happen.

Residential Life Information

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Housing Options

The information below is provided to help you as you determine your housing preferences. Given the small size of our houses, the social dynamics of each house change considerably from year to year.

Historically, campus housing has been divided into two categories: substance-free housing and non-substance-free housing. Each year we determine which residences will be designated substance-free based on student demand. We try to ensure any student wishing to live in substance free housing can do so.

Peach House

Peach is a small and cozy house with eight residents. It has a spacious kitchen with excellent storage. It boasts a storied history as the birthplace of COA; the first college employees worked here for a year before another building was made ready. Peach residents use laundry facility in Kathryn W. Davis Village.

Davis Carriage House

Davis Carriage has a rustic, cabin-like feel, with abundant wood paneling and a large common room with a kitchen. Five students will call Davis Carriage house home.

Seafox

Seafox is a charming old home full of quirky nooks with a fantastic seaside porch. Our largest single residence, it houses 30 residents including several RAs. The size of the house and the central common spaces offer great opportunities for an engaged community in a homey atmosphere. This house has laundry facilities in-house.

Blair/Tyson

Consisting of five 8-10 resident sections and one 16-20 resident section, Blair/Tyson is a series of connected townhouses. Each section has a kitchen/common room and exists as a smaller unit within the larger Blair/Tyson community. Blair/Tyson has a lovely courtyard and is a hub of activity, close to the dining hall, classes, the library, and a bike storage shed. With vibrant color schemes and comfy common room furniture, Blair/Tyson is our liveliest residential setting.

Cottage House

Cottage is an old gatehouse we have converted to student housing for seven residents. It has a cozy living room and the small size gives housemates good opportunities to build deep relationships with one another. Located close to the main entrance of campus and a Night Bus stop, it's adjacent to a big field ideal for stargazing. Cottage residents do laundry in Blair/Tyson.

Kathryn W. Davis Residence Village

The Kathryn W. Davis Village is the college's "greenest" housing complex. The houses in the village are heated by our biomass pellet boiler system and are incredibly energy efficient. While individual houses have their own community, residents of the village have the advantage of being part of the larger communities of Seafox and Deering Common (the campus center). Each of the six houses has a living room, kitchen, and dining area on the ground floor, with vibrant color schemes and comfy furniture. The upper two floors house four residents each and have communal bathrooms boasting composting toilets. Joined houses share an RA and are connected by an additional social space open to the community. Millard House and Dority House are joined by the Cushman Media Center; Eno House and Hamill House by the Eliot (all-night) Study Space; and Milliken House and Shorey House by the Robinson Games Room which has both a pool table and the laundry facilities for the village.

More information and dorm photos can be found on our website:
coa.edu/our-community/residential-life/

Residential Life Information

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What does “Substance-Free Housing” mean?

In addition to having universally smoke-free campus accommodations, COA is committed to offering substance-free housing in particular residences. We also recognize, while the majority of our campus residents are under 21 (and not legally able to consume alcohol), we do at times have residents of age. Students who select substance-free housing are choosing to live a substance-free lifestyle. These students prefer to be in an alcohol-free environment, regardless of age, for various reasons, including personal and religious belief systems, family history, prior experience, or health concerns. They also require a lifestyle free from direct/indirect contact with tobacco. This means all clothing and belongings must be smoke-free. This designation does not refer to fragrances or other chemicals or allergens.

What’s in my room?

All student rooms are equipped with a XL-twin bed, desk, desk chair, and some kind of clothing storage (dresser/chest, underbed drawer unit, closet, or armoire).

What size is my room?

Because campus housing is a combination of re-purposed older homes and new construction, room sizes vary. Double rooms are approximately 150 sq. ft., although this varies from building to building.

When will I know what my room assignment is?

Housing forms are due on May 1. We then take time to read over the information you provide and work to create the best room matches we can. You can expect to find your housing assignment on your student portal in mid-late June.

What if I don’t like my housing assignment or my roommate?

Part of the residential experience at COA is learning to live with a variety of people. We encourage students to take time to get to know each other. As indicated in the Residential Student Contract, we do not make any room changes until after the second full week of classes. We feel it is important for individuals to have time to try to adjust before we make any major changes. However in exceptional circumstances students are able to petition Student Life staff for a change.

How long can I live on campus?

In signing a Residential Student Contract you are making a commitment to live on campus for a year. First-year students are required to live on campus for their first year. Second-year students are strongly encouraged to live on campus. Third- and fourth-year students have the opportunity to live on campus through a lottery system.

Can I bring a pet to COA?

Small pets are at times permitted at COA. Only 1 pet per student. No student should bring a pet with them when they first arrive, as the approval of a pet in a residence requires an agreement of all members of the house or section. This decision can usually be made during orientation at the first house meeting. Any pet must be contained in a cage not exceeding 8 cu. ft. (2ft x 2ft x 2ft). The cage cannot block the entrance/exit to the student’s room. More information is included on the Residential Student Contract.

Can I bring my emotional support animal?

You must petition for an emotional support animal and ESA paperwork must be completed and submitted by May 1 for consideration. We will not approve requests in the middle of term; we only review requests during school breaks based on housing availability. If you have a service animal or would like to petition to have an emotional support animal in on-campus housing, please contact Ingrid Hill, Student Life Operations Manager (ihill@coa.edu or 207-801-5674) to request additional paperwork.