College of the Atlantic

Student Life Information & FAQs

In this packet you will find general information about 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 for first-year students and May 15 for transfer students:

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 (May 15 for transfer students). 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 for first-year students, May 15 for transfer students)
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. 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, please contact Ingrid Hill, Student Life Operations Manager, ihill@coa.edu to obtain the single accommodation form that your medical or mental health provider will need to fill out. This form must be submitted by May 1 to be considered for a single .

Residential Student Contract (Due May 1 for first-years, May 15 for transfers)
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 for first-years, May 15 for transfers) 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, and two meals a day on weekends. 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 for first-years, May 15 for transfers)
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 for first-years, May 15 for transfers) 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. Our first-year residences are designed to foster community and connection. Larger housing communities allow students to meet more peers, build supportive relationships, and set themselves up for a successful first year.

Residences have a combination of students, coming from many countries, backgrounds, and experiences. 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. Living together 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. We believe that community is built through sharing a meal. Houses will come together throughout the term to host community meals. This can look like a taco night, a potluck, or a cozy afternoon teaparty. This time provides students with the opportunity to build community with their housemates, learn new culinary skills, and share food that reminds them of home. 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. We recognize it takes the effort and commitment of each resident working together to make it happen.

Residential Life Information
(continued)

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 that 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 for first-year students, May 15 for transfers. 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 early July.

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. Please review the pet policy. 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.

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 first-year students and May 15 for transfers 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.