Student Life: Frequently Asked Questions

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Honors RAPs

How do I find a roommate in my Honors RAP?
You may meet someone who is in your Honors RAP in a variety of ways. When a student has signed up on the RAP sign up page (after being accepted and confirming their acceptance), then they may look at the list of students in their RAP who have decided to share their contact information. Some students choose to participate in the on-line roommate matching process that is offered by the Office of Residential Student Services. If you are in an Honors RAP, you will only be matched with others in your Honors RAP. If you don’t indicate you want a particular roommate, then you will be randomly assigned one.

How does an Honors RAP work with my major?
If you are in one of the Honors RAPs associated with a College or a major (i.e. BioTAP, Isenberg Honors RAPs, Engineering Honors RAP, or Nursing Honors RAP), the classes that are a part of the Honors RAP will help you satisfy your major and/or honors requirements.

The remaining Honors RAPs are meant for students with any major. They typically satisfy honors requirements and/or university requirements.

You will sign up for your courses when you attend New Student Orientation. You will first meet with an academic advisor in your college or major. Please let that person know that you are in an Honors RAP. Your advisor may recommend dropping the Honors RAP if the courses conflict with classes that are in your major.

Where are the Honors RAPs located?

Honors RAPs are located in the two first-year buildings designated for Commonwealth Honors College students: Oak and Sycamore Hall, both located in the Honors Residential Community.

What is the difference between an Honors RAP and Honors Housing?

Honors RAPs are course-related programs located within first-year honors buildings. All students are eligible for honors housing, even if they are not in an Honors RAP. There will be a very limited number of non RAP spaces in honors first-year buildings.

What if I want a roommate who is not interested in an Honors RAP?

Students must live with a roommate who is in their Honors RAP. There are a designated number of rooms on the Honors RAP floors for the exact number of students in the Honors RAP.

What is an Honors RAP?

Honors Residential Academic Programs (RAP) are intentionally designed programs for honors students who want to live together and take honors courses together. A few Honors RAPs require a declared major (Isenberg School of Management, College of Engineering, and the School of Nursing) and others are multidisciplinary, allowing any student interested in exploring the topic a bit more to join.

What are the benefits of joining an Honors RAPs?

Students who join Honors RAPs can more easily work on projects and study with their classmates since they live nearby. Students in Honors RAPs also tend to have more lively discussions in their courses since they know their classmates so well. You will be
living with others who have similar interests. The Residence hall staff (RAs and Peer Mentors) hold programs that connect students in the Honors RAP with their faculty and with the topics of their Honors RAPs. Research has shown that students in Honors RAPs often have a better academic GPA after their first semester, demonstrating the academic support that comes as a result of being a part of one of these programs.

**Once I'm in an Honors RAP, how do I sign up for courses?**

You will sign up for your Honors RAP courses when you attend your New Student Orientation in June or July. If you can’t attend a New Student Orientation session, an honors advisor will work closely with an advisor in your major to enroll you in your Honors RAP courses.

**Once I'm in an Honors RAP, do I need to sign up for housing?**

Yes, you must complete your Housing Preference application and confirm that you want to join the Honors RAP that is indicated. If you sign up for an Honors RAP after completing the Housing Preference Application, you will need to reconfirm your enrollment in the Honors RAP.

**If I don't get into an Honors RAP, can I still get into Honors housing?**

Although many spaces in first-year Honors buildings (Oak, and Sycamore) are designated as Honors RAP spaces, the remaining spaces will be available for students who are not in Honors RAPs. Students will enter their housing preferences into the Housing preferences application form on SPIRE before or during Summer New Student Orientation. Students will be placed according to their randomly assigned priority selection number.

**Do I have to take the honors course(s) affiliated with the Honors RAP?**

Yes, you are required to enroll in the main honors course (and seminar if it is a component of your RAP) that is a part of your Honors RAP. If you have AP credits for the course that is a part of your Honors RAP, you should talk with your advisor when you are here for New Student Orientation. If there are course conflicts with an aspect of the Honors RAPs, we can sometimes make accommodations, but on a case-by-case basis during New Student Orientation. Since the courses are an integral part of the Honors RAP, if you don’t sign up for the courses in your Honors RAP, you will likely be dropped from your Honors RAP.

**Housing and Social Activities**

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will be a very limited number of non RAP spaces in honors first-year buildings.

Are Honors RAP communities located on quiet floors?

Although you will be living with other honors students, these floors are not designated
as quiet floors. Students across campus are expected to be quiet between 11pm-7am.

Are there any places on campus to practice my musical
instrument?

If there are no programs happening, students are welcome to use the CHC Events Hall
piano for practice. There are also rooms in the Fine Arts Center (FAC). Look for sign-up
sheets at the FAC to reserve a room.

Are there other places on campus, besides the library, that I can
access computers?

There are many locations on campus that provide quick computer access:

- You can use OIT computer kiosks placed around campus: multiple labs in the
  library, laptops that you can sign out, Bartlett Hall, Lederle Graduate Research
  Tower, Fine Arts Center, Thompson Hall, Goodell Bldg, and Whitmore
  Administration Building.
- The Learning Commons in the library has a lot more space than it seems. If you go
  either left or right and go all the way down, you will see more computers that are
  available.
- Specific floors in the library have computer labs. Look on the index in the
  elevators to see which floors have labs.

Can I be in a Honors RAP and live in a different building on
campus?

The Honors RAPs are designated to a particular building, so you must live in the
building in which the program is designated.

Can I join a non-Honors RAP?
Yes, honors students can join non-Honors RAPs offered by the university, they are located outside of the buildings designated for honors students. Some are restricted by major or college.

**If I don't get into an Honors RAP, can I still get into Honors housing?**

Although many spaces in first-year Honors buildings (Oak, and Sycamore) are designated as Honors RAP spaces, the remaining spaces will be available for students who are not in Honors RAPs. Students will enter their housing preferences into the Housing preferences application form on SPIRE before or during Summer New Student Orientation. Students will be placed according to their randomly assigned priority selection number.

**Do I have to pay to ride the bus?**

Buses on campus are free, provided you have your UMass ID card; the fee is already worked into your bursar's bill, so use the bus! You can find the UMass Transit schedule and times online at: [http://www.umass.edu/transit](http://www.umass.edu/transit).

**How can I find out about housing options off-campus?**

See [Commuter Services and Housing Resource Center](http://www.umass.edu/services/commuter).