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WKU will be meeting its next generation of Resident Assistants in a few weeks. The main interview process, called “Super Saturday,” will take place on March 22, and later the candidates will find out whether they can join the ranks of about 120 RAs on-campus.

RAs live on each residence hall floor to help residents with anything from academics to social lives. Their job begins during MASTER Plan and does not end until all halls are empty after move-out day at the end of the year.

“I became an RA because I couldn’t afford housing and it was an opportunity where I could still live on campus,” Alyse Young, a junior from Seattle, said. “I really liked the idea where you worked with students, like a mentor.”

RAs are responsible for getting to know their residents and being aware of their standings academically and socially. They plan programs for their floors and are required to fill a quota of programs each quarter.

Their job also extends to decorating the residence halls with door name-tags and information boards, and they have to work the desk in the hall lobbies checking residents’ IDs and checking guests in and out.

Each RA also has to have an individual job, like taking care of the mail. As a photojournalism major, Young will be taking pictures around the hall and putting them online for the residents and staff.

“It’s really time-consuming, so that’s the hard part,” Young said. “It’s difficult to balance academics and a social life with the job.”

In order to become an RA, Housing & Residence Life recommends beginning by talking with someone currently in the position to find out the pros and cons.

“In our position, you’re a student first, so we look for people who know academics are important and are able to be role models of that for their residents,” HRL Coordinator Minnette Huck said.

HRL looks for potential RAs in people with leadership qualities and those who can relate to others. It is important that they desire to learn new things and be a part of a team, and they have to be in good academic standing as a sophomore with at least a 2.0 GPA.

The application can be found online with essay questions and choice of an interview time, which will take the applicant to Super Saturday. During the Super Saturday program, the candidates will be grouped together to complete activities.

“It creates a group dynamic of people who are interviewing together,” Huck said. “We’ve had past RAs say it’s a great time to get to know people, and you know those in the fall who got the position.”

Individual interviews will take place with the professional staff, and the contenders will then have to answer a case study, presenting their solution to a problem before current RAs. The process allows them to meet almost everyone in the HRL department.

“It helps them see who we are and what it’s going to be like as an RA and who you’ll be working with,” Huck said.

As RAs, students will get $1,000 off housing per semester and will be paid for 15 hours of work per week. They will gain leadership skills, professional development and experience with conflict resolution skills.

“It’s stuff everyone is going to need for future positions and jobs, so it really helps hone those skills,” Huck said.
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No two dorms are the same. Use this guide to find out which one is the most convenient for your lifestyle. Here are several dorms located in different parts of campus.

**Pearce Ford Tower**

All female residence hall, open to freshmen and upperclassmen.

Highlights: Next to the Tower Food Court, which houses Popeye’s, the Pit Stop, Burger Studio and Juiceblendz.

**Minton Hall**

Co-ed residence hall open to first year Honors College students and upperclassmen.

Highlights: Across from Downing Student Union, the P.O.D Market and Subway.

**Rodes-Harlin Hall**

All female residence hall, open to freshmen and upperclassmen.

Highlights: Close to the top of the Hill, near Cherry Hall, Helm Library and Van Meter. Located in “the Valley” with a spacious grassy area perfect for doing homework in the spring time.

**Southwest/Northeast Halls**

Co-ed “suite style” upperclassmen residence halls.

Highlights: Located in the middle of campus with a short walk to DSU. Private bathroom.

---

**Students save by living at home**

BY WHITNEY ALLEN
LIFE@WKUHERALD.COM

For many students, coming to college means leaving home and moving into the residence halls. While dorm life seems to be one of the staples of the college experience, students who commute fill their college experience in different ways.

Alvaton junior Hannah Harlan makes the 35-minute commute to WKU each day for classes. While Harlan says she isn’t extremely involved on campus, she enjoys the time she gets to spend at home with her family. Plus, the money she saves from commuting helps her save to make car payments.

One of the undeniable perks to living at home is saving money. A semester in the residence halls costs around $2,000.

Rockfield junior Abby Potter lived at home for the first two-and-a-half years of college.

“Living at home wasn’t necessarily a bad thing,” Potter said. “I was able to save money on rent, have home-cooked meals, a place to de-stress and laundry was free.” Potter added that, although she enjoyed living at home, there are definitely some positives to living closer to campus now. She can stay on campus later, lives closer to her friends and now feels that it will be easier to get involved with the WKU community.

One of the biggest challenges of commuting is parking.

“Be prepared to circle parking lots,” Harlan advised future commuters.

Three Forks junior Zach Watts stays connected to campus through his involvement with the WKU marching band and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. Watts echoed Harlan’s frustrations about commuter parking.

“I like commuting obviously because it’s cheaper,” Watts said. “Sometimes it sucks because it’s not as convenient in terms of hanging out with friends, getting up earlier and access to the facilities on campus.”

College is a different experience for everyone. For some, the experience of going to classes and getting a degree is fulfilling enough.

On the other hand, Potter advised future commuters to get involved and stay on campus as much as possible in order to have a true college experience.

Nevertheless, the promise of home-cooked meals and a bedroom of their own keeps these commuters happy. “I love the way my college experience has gone,” Harlan said. “I wouldn’t have it any other way.”
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How to snag the ‘dream’ residence hall

BY SHELBY ROGERS
NEWS@WKUHERALD.COM

McLean, Southwest, Northeast, Bates-Runner. These dorms are what my parents called “prime real estate” when they moved me into McLean this semester. These larger abodes are typically reserved for upperclassmen who have earned the living spaces through seniority, and (to some degree) attrition with students opting out of on-campus living for “glorious” apartment life.

“You really couldn’t have lucked out any better,” my dad said.

Perfectly positioned on the Hill, a five-minute walk from most major points on campus, McLean offers Honors and Honors-eligible residents spacious living areas and bathrooms that don’t have toilets two inches from the shower.

Moving in felt like upgrading to the Waldorf-Astoria’s palatial suite, sans mini bar.

But, sorry Dad. Landing a room in McLean wasn’t a stroke of luck.

Some dorms on campus require skill and persistence to snag. Sometimes, that skill is being conscious at 5 a.m., as soon as housing information becomes available on TopNet. Coffee, multiple alarms, and a committed roommate helped us snag our Bates-Runner room.

Sometimes it’s knowing exactly who you want to live with and strategically coordinating those arrangements with a prospective roommate.

Here are other important tips to assist with moving onwards and upwards:

1. Know your roommate situation beforehand. By some stroke of dumb luck, I have the best roommate I could’ve wanted. We plan on rooming together until graduation, so keeping each other informed as to room changes is vital. Have your roommate’s WKU ID on a Post-it readily available for housing renewal or any changes the two of you wish to make.

2. If your roommate situation is less-than-desirable (or downright hellish) and you’re looking to make an escape, ask around and see if anyone knows of a room opening up. Roommates wishing to separate after a year together are fairly common, and more often than not, you’ll be able to find someone in a similar situation who knows of a spot opening up in your dream dorm.

3. Talk it over with Housing & Residence Life. Their offices are located directly across from Downing Student Union, right next to Minton Hall, and they’re open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every weekday. Go ask them in person for advice or suggestions. Face-to-face communication typically provides more clarity than talking via email, and they’ll be able to answer anything confusing about the process.

4. Make sure your dream dorm fits your personality. Spend time on the HRL website to decide which hall best fits your needs. Honors kids typically gravitate toward Bates-Runner and McLean Halls. Sorority upperclassmen live in Meredith Hall. Northeast, Southwest, and Zacharias all offer a number of campus communities for students to join.

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Those who want to move off campus in the future may want to give the Kentucky Street apartments a look.

Brian Kuster, director of Housing & Residence Life, said construction began last May and is scheduled to be finished by the end of June. Bad weather caused a construction delay, but Kuster said the apartments will still be ready to open by August.

The apartment contains 95 two-bedroom, two-bath units and 32 one-bedroom, one-bathroom units. Each unit will contain a full kitchen, living room, and will be fully furnished including washers and dryers.

Payment can be paid on a monthly or semesterly basis.

The apartments are owned and will be operated by HRL.

Kuster said around 350 people applied to live in the apartments even though the apartment complex only holds 222 bedrooms. Because of this, the rooms were reserved on a first come, first serve basis. Those who applied but weren’t reserved a room are put on a waiting list.

For those living in the apartments, parking will be available on the Adams Street Lot as well behind the apartment complexes themselves.

Because the apartment complexes are off campus, the apartments aren’t available to freshmen and sophomores. Kuster said this limitation will open up more rooms in the residence halls on campus, especially those that are more desirable because of their private bathrooms, such as Northeast and Southwest halls.

“It’s trying to attract students that would be moving off campus anyway,” Kuster said.

The apartments aren’t completely limited to students. A married couple can move in to the apartments provided that one of them is a student, Kuster said. Students with dependent children can apply to live in the apartments as well.

“It’s trying to attract students that would be moving off campus anyway.”
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- Two bed/two bath/per room - $525/month  
- 4 bed/4 bath/per room - $395/month

### Campus Pointe

851 Fields Drive, Bowling Green, KY 42104  
Phone number: 270-746-9519

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**Price:**  
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**Price:**  
- Two bed/two bath/per room - $375-$395/month  
- 4 bed/4 bath/per room - $555-$580/month

### Pointe at Western

720 Patton Way, Bowling Green, KY 42104  
Phone number: 270-781-5600

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**Price:**  
- Two bed/two bath/per room - $450/month  
- 4 bed/4 bath/per room - $299/month

### WKU Apartments

(Kentucky Street) Housing and Residence Life Building, 1906 College Heights Blvd., Bowling Green, KY 42101  
Phone number: 270-745-4359

**Amenities:** 11-month lease with option for 12; apartment rent will be applied to WKU student account. Scholarships and financial aid can be applied to pay rent; cable and internet included; utility allowance is $40/month/person

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- One bedroom/Single occupancy - $515/month  
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### Columns Apartments

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- One bedroom/one bath - $699-$825/month  
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International students share apartment experiences

BY AARON MUDD
NEWS@WKUHERALD.COM

Bowling Green offers WKU’s international students a quiet place to study away from their homes, but only if they have a comfortable place to live.

Not all apartment experiences are the same.

Before she moved into her current apartment, Shrvani Reddy lived in the Hillcrest Apartments.

“It was in the center of the university,” Reddy said. “Everything was so nearby.”

Reddy is a graduate student from southern India studying healthcare administration. She doesn’t own a car, so proximity to campus is important to her.

Phuong Ho, a graduate student from Vietnam pursuing a master’s degree in business administration, feels the same way about the Hillcrest Apartments.

“I really enjoyed living there because it was really close to Grise Hall,” Ho said.

Recently, Reddy had to move to a new apartment after the Hillcrest Apartments were slated for demolition to make room for WKU’s Honors College and International Center. She’s adjusting to the new apartments, and said hers needs a lot of work.

“I don’t like the apartment,” Reddy said. “But it’s pretty cheap.”

The apartments were recently taken over by Chandler’s Property Management, and Reddy said they’re doing a better job of maintaining the property.

Reddy came to WKU last fall after her cousin, a WKU alumnus, told her about it.

“Bowling Green is a small place, and when you don’t want to get distracted much this should be a good place,” she said. “And it has a lot of international students.”

 Taiwanese junior Vincent Liu came to WKU in 2011 for a similar reason. He lived in The Registry for two years before moving into his current house. He told his agent he wanted a place in the countryside where he could focus on his work and wouldn’t be tempted to party so often.

“If I live in a big city there are too many distractions,” Liu said.

Reddy enjoys participating in organizations like the Indian Student Association and the Kentucky Public Health Association.

“Recently, there were a lot of activities from the KPHA like the 10K classic run, food drive,” she said. “I like volunteering for such things.”

In last year’s Bowling Green International festival, Reddy volunteered to do Henna, a temporary tattoo and Indian tradition, on attendees.

“It’s made of a leaf. You make a paste of it and you put it on your hand, and after one hour or so you just shred it and a red color tattoo appears,” Reddy said.

However, for Phuong Ho it’s harder to get involved with campus activities because of the distance. She lives in the Crestmoor Park Apartments.

“When I come home after work and school, it’s hard for me to get out to try some activities on campus because of the distance,” Ho said. “It takes me 20 minutes to walk to campus.”

Reddy’s proximity to WKU allows her to be more involved with campus life, especially since she has to rely on shuttle services.

“If you’re living somewhere off-campus far away from the university you wouldn’t be able to attend all these events,” she said.

“You wouldn’t know much what’s going on in the university.”

Establishing common ground with your roommate

BY TREY CRUMBIE
NEWS@WKUHERALD.COM

The Move-In

So it has been a couple of months since you took your final test and went back home for the summer. Now the fall semester is here and you’re ready to begin the whole song and dance again. When you and your roommate move in, it’s best to talk about how you want to arrange the room before you begin hanging things up and plugging stuff in.

Are bunk beds more your style or is keeping the beds separate? Will you combine the desks into one super desk? What about the shelves? It’s not just about combining or keeping furniture separate, it’s also about placement.

Will the beds be confined to the wall? Or maybe placing them near the window is better. Once these little things are taken care of, the two of you can officially begin the move-in.

Living Together

Living with a roommate isn’t just making sure that the room is set up the way you two want it. It’s also about getting used to each other’s behavior.

One of you might be a night person while the other might be an early morning person. One may be an introvert while the other may be an extrovert. One may need the constant company of music while the other needs absolute silence.

These are things that you’ll have to work out with your roommate during the first couple of weeks together.

As long as you keep communication open, the two of you will be able to work out a system so that both of you can live together in relative peace and harmony.

Little Tidbits

In my two-and-a-half years of living with a roommate in a dorm, I’ve learned little things that can ease the pain of not having a private room.

For example, during my freshman year, my friends used a code word for when they wanted the room to themselves when they had company over. Instead of telling the roommate outright to leave, they would say they were going to get pineapples as an excuse to leave the room.

Also, going out with your roommate can go a long way.

Whether it’s heading out to the gym or studying together, spending time together outside of the room can be beneficial. After all, your roommate doesn’t have to be just your roommate. He or she can become your new friend as well.
Knowing your rights while living in a rental house

BY JOANNA WILLIAMS
NEWS@WKUHERALD.COM

It wasn’t my idea to move into a house this year. I was perfectly content with the apartment I had last year on Kentucky Street. It was on the expensive side, but the comfort it provided was more than enough for me to not be frugal.

This year, however, my roommate was enticed by cheap rent and the prospect of being able to finally have her dog live with her, something that hadn’t happened since she was in high school. (If you haven’t learned already, there is really no arguing with a dog lover.)

So we searched and ultimately moved into a house close to campus over on Kenton Street.

Yes, the rent was much cheaper than it would have ever been in an apartment, but that also brought about additional problems.

Problems I could write a book about, but I’m limited to an inch count and, besides, that’s not the point of this column.

What I want whoever is reading this to understand is, don’t let cheap rent and campus proximity confuse your stake in having a house. Many people feel they have to put up with a horrible house or living space because they signed a lease to live there.

Many people feel they have to put up with a horrible house or living space because they signed a lease to live there. The truth is as a renter you have rights, many you may not be aware of. The Kentucky Landlord Tenant Guide was designed to provide information for landlords and tenants. Here are a few interesting tidbits.

Many people feel they have to put up with a horrible house or living space because they signed a lease to live there.

The truth is as a renter you have rights, many you may not be aware of. The Kentucky Landlord Tenant Guide was designed to provide information for landlords and tenants. Here are a few interesting tidbits.

For starters, you also have the right to deduct money from your rent if you paid your own money to get something fixed. For example, if your air conditioner unit is broke and you paid to get it fixed you can deduct that money from your rent that month, given you have the receipts of course.

You also have a right to “essential services.” What this means is heat, running water, gas and other things are necessary to a functioning house. If you don’t have these things write a notice to your landlord and they are legally responsible to provide these things to you. They have 14 days to respond. After, you can then take them to court.

Finally, as a renter you have the right to terminate a lease if they fail to comply with the provisions of the lease you signed when you moved in. You have to have adequate reasons and proof but it is within your right to do so.

I could go on, but I feel these are some of the major points and most useful.

Many of these cases are extreme, but they are helpful to know while you navigate the housing rental market. There are slumlords who are eager to take advantage of college students who just need a place to stay during the semester without breaking the bank. And it’s possible to live comfortably and affordably. Just make sure you know your rights.

One student’s account of an alternative living situation

BY JACOB PARKER
NEWS@WKUHERALD.COM

After living in a dorm for the majority of my freshman year, I felt that I’d received more than my fair share of campus living experiences. Music that blared through the walls, repulsive showers that apparently were only cleaned once a week, the restrictions imposed on me, and living in the same small quarters with another human being were all factors that contributed to my quick exit from dorm life.

I found myself a simple trailer fairly close to campus with reasonable rent. Having never lived in a trailer park — but being familiar with small strains of truth that tend to emerge out of stereotypes — I was a little apprehensive.

However, this was to be the place I called home and, despite the needed pressure wash and fix-ups, it looked like the perfect place. I looked forward to having a spot that I could declare exclusively mine, sans the bunk beds, community bathrooms and visitor guidelines of the previous seven months of my life.

I moved in around this time two years ago and knew it was the right decision. Two years later, I’m questioning the credibility of my decision making.

Don’t get me wrong, things were simple enough. Quick patch ups like fixing nail holes in the wall and assassinating spiders seemed to be day-to-day business.

Bigger fixes came along soon enough. What with a vintage trailer from the 1980s and all appliances intact, things eventually have to start to fail. Fail they did.

First it was the air conditioner, then it was the plumbing, then it was the heater, on and on until most recently water continually leaking and ruining the floor in the bathroom.

Due to the issue with my bathroom floor, I’ve spent the past couple of weeks attempting to find a new place to live. Coming back from spring break to find the trailer immediately to the left of my own completely charred from an apparent explosion sealed the deal.

Luckily enough, as of this week I officially have a new and spacious apartment in a house downtown with an amazing friend and roommate.

I walk away from my two years in a trailer with more heartwarming memories than I could ever put a number on and plenty of life lessons when it comes to living situations.

First, do some research on the history of your neighborhood. Figure out if the neighborhood has a history of drugs or violence. If you pick the wrong neighborhood, people WILL knock on your doors asking for drugs that you may not have heard of.

Second, weigh your risks versus your reward. Don’t put your effort into fixing something that’s falling apart regardless. This can be said for both trailers and bad relationships, depending on your situation.

And lastly (which is more of a life lesson I learned rather than a living tip), love where you live even if it sucks. I’ve had plenty of terrible experiences in both dormitory life and trailer park living. On the flip side, I’ve also had times there that wouldn’t have been as amazing or meaningful had they not occurred where they did.”
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1225 College St. Bowling Green, KY 42101
Interior designers help dec out dorms

BY MACKENZIE MATHEWS
NEWS@WKUHERALD.COM

Decorating dorms may seem like an impractical task, but there are several aspects to focus on that can easily help you achieve your dream dorm.

Students are given a particularly small space to work with in terms of decorating a dorm room, so the goal is to make use of every storage opportunity given. After all, students are fitting their lives into at least half of the boxed space.

“We have to creatively use the space,” interior design professor Amy Hersch said. “It’s all about lifting that bed off the floor and using the storage underneath the bed.”

Raising the beds will provide many new options for storage and use. Though it is prohibited to raise the beds over 36 inches according to the “Hilltops Residence Hall Handbook,” students can make multiple uses out of the space that provides.

Bunking the beds perpendicularly, so only half of the bottom bed is under the top, will make the room seem larger and give a lot more living space. If arranged properly, a futon could fit, giving an apartment feel to the dorm.

“People don’t always see the potential they have to maximize the space, and you have to think differently because you can’t spread things out,” Hersch said.

It is important to think of multiple uses for items in your room, like putting the bookcase on the desk and making that a TV stand. Everything can have another function: take advantage of that.

When arranging a room, it may be useful to add in elements of feng shui, the Chinese art of harmonizing people to their environment. There are several ways to put the practice to use in a dorm.

Keep your bed away from the door to give a sense of privacy and never face a mirror toward it. Try to symmetrically lay out the room, putting two nightstands on either side of a bed, for example.

To contrast the sharp edges of the room — corners of dressers, beds and walls — buy a circular rug. After arranging comes decorating, and it’s of utmost priority to decorate to personal preference.

“When I think of decoration for dorms, I think basic functional stuff, like fancy lightings, furniture and frames — pictures, paintings, posters. I think they bring out the most in a room,” sophomore interior design major, Alina Sajan, Dubai, said.

Focusing on colors is always important because they create the mood of the room. Black and white is a strong grouping, especially when accenting a particular color, or simply combine white with bright colors, which is easy in white-walled rooms.

Too much white, however, may clash with the fluorescent ceiling lights, giving off a “sterile” look, so table or floor lamps that use incandescent bulbs are good additions. The warm, yellow light will make the room more comfortable. Christmas lights are also great decorations using calm lighting.

“Dorm rooms lack architecture and detail, so add some of your own by framing your favorite prints,” interior design professor Sheila Flener said. “Shop sites like ‘Etsy’ for fun, motivational prints or create a DIY piece.”

A popular and easy way to add design to cinderblock walls is wall decals. They are easy to apply and remove, so no residue is left on the walls after moving out.

The number one rule of decorating is to surround yourself with things you like and colors that make you feel good. It is the place you go after long, rough days, so it should be calming and cheerful.

International students find adjustments living in dorms

BY JACKSON FRENCH
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The transition to dorm life is sometimes difficult for freshmen unaccustomed to living away from home, but the experience can be very different for international students who live thousands of miles from home.

For them, on-campus housing offers an entirely different set of benefits and challenges.

Sumra Kanwal, a graduate student from Pakistan living in Bemis Lawrence Hall, has found WKU’s dorms to be a welcoming environment.

“My floor our girls are nice,” she said. “They do talk to me and I talk to them so they’re all friendly.”

She said living in the dorms has added to her workload.

“I have to cook my food, I have to do my laundry, I have to clean my room — I have to do everything,” she said.

Kanwal said her sisters, who live in Maryland, have kept her from getting too homesick, and she added that they called almost every day last semester.

For her, difficulties stem mainly from problems with public transportation.

“Transport is so bad here,” she said, adding that rickshaws and taxis are commonplace in her hometown of Karachi. “There are no public transports so it is so hard to move from one place to another place.”

She said she has applied to be an RA next year but plans to move to the Registry if she doesn’t get the position.

Kanwal said the main benefit of living off campus will be having her own bathroom, but living on campus has benefits as well.

She said living in dorms has allowed her the chance to interact with other international students through whom she has learned about other cultures and improved her English skills.

Alina Zahra Sajan, a sophomore from Dubai who also lives in Bemis Lawrence, said she has no interest in living off campus.

She was living in the dorms appeals to her because it makes it easier for her to stay connected with others.

“On campus, there are people everywhere and if you live off campus it’s more quiet...I have less contact with people and that’s bad because I’m not from here so I wouldn’t get around as much or know much if I lived off campus.”

Sajan had a few complaints about the dorms, commenting that the rooms were too small and “the bathrooms are just nasty.”

She also said she disliked being unable to have candles in the rooms.

Sajan said she still enjoys living in the dorms mainly because it puts her in closer proximity to more people.

“I’m hardly even in my room anyway,” she said. “I’m always out so I’m just there for showering and sleepy-time.”

She said homesickness hasn’t been an issue for her.

“I’m not really family oriented so I don’t really miss my family as much, but I kind of miss everything else about home like the food and people and the lifestyle,” she said.

As a resident assistant, Pakistani grad student Ayaah Ahmed Sadal’s dorm life experience has been a little different.

Sadal has experience living off campus and said he prefers to live in the residence halls.

“She said she has applied to be an RA next year but plans to move to the Registry if she doesn’t get the position.

As an RA, Sadal has never had a roommate in the dorms and said he likes living by himself.

“I don’t like sharing my personal private things which is my room itself,” he said. “I’m a kind of a person who respects others’ privacy and I want others to respect my privacy.”

For Sadal, the main challenge of living so far from home is being separated from his family.

“I’m a very family-oriented person so I’ve been living over here for the last two years over here away from family, which makes me sad sometimes,” he said.

Sadal said he wishes to stay in Southwest and resume his duties as an RA next year.
Freshmen adapt to campus life by living in residence halls

Chloe Lawson left right after church on the morning of move-in day and headed to WKU with her parents and her boyfriend. Upon arrival, she went through the process of figuring out where her room was, signing in and getting a Minton sticker for her ID. She took her mini refrigerator on the elevator, but everything else up the stairs to her room on the fourth floor.

Tears were shed by all parties when the time came for the 18-year-old Russell Springs freshman to part ways with her parents and boyfriend.

"My parents were hugging me and saying, 'We're right here if you need us.' We can come back and get you any time,'” Lawson said. “They drove away, and I was just left standing there so I thought, 'Guess I'll go back to my room now.'"

Lawson’s roommate was a sophomore and wasn’t participating in MASTER Plan, so she had not arrived yet.

Lawson was excited for the activities of MASTER Plan, and her dad told her to leave her door open to help with the adjustment process.

"I had it open all week, and all sorts of people stopped by and said, 'Hi,'” Lawson said.

Landon Case, a 19-year-old Owensboro freshman, said move-in day was pretty hectic, but that’s what he expected.

"I did end up meeting new people, and it was a great feeling to finally be on my own,” Arend said.

Not wanting to stay at home and commute, Lawson said she chose to live in a residence hall for her freshman year.

"Dorms are convenient and make it a lot easier to get to class,” Lawson said.

Josh Arend, a 19-year-old Owensboro freshman, said move-in day was pretty stressful, but after she found all her classes, it all felt natural, Lawson said. "I got into my routine, and I was good to go.”

Lawson said she applied really late for housing.

"I didn’t know about my roommate until a couple weeks before move-in, so I was stressing,” Lawson said. "I was afraid I’d end up with someone who liked to party. I don’t like to party. I like to go to bed early.”

Lawson’s roommate was the one who ended up calling her.

“She was super sweet and told me all about her major,” Lawson said.

"She moved in and we just connected. We’ve roomed together all year, and she’s going to an apartment next year. I’m sad about that, but I’ve decided to get a random roommate again next year since it worked out really well the first time.”

Having had such a good time at MASTER Plan, Lawson said she was not ready to go home, but she still ended up doing so that weekend before classes got underway.

"I go home every weekend, so I don’t really have a problem with homesickness,” Lawson said. “Cell phones and social media help me stay connected with everyone.”

Lawson said one of the highlights of living in Minton Hall is being right in the middle of campus.

"I can walk to all my classes and any of the restaurants on campus,” Lawson said. “I also got to meet so many people in the halls. All the girls on my floor are so sweet, and we all got to hang out during MASTER Plan.”

To Lawson, living in a residence hall is a good choice.

"If you commute, you don’t have the same opportunities to meet as many people,” Lawson said. “You eat here and sleep here, so you’re going to meet so many people that you wouldn’t have met before.”
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