



FOR OFFICE USE ONLY Date Rcvd _____

Bldg/Room/Phone _____

FIRST YEAR STUDENT HOUSING CONTRACT

Check all that apply: Freshman Freshman Transfer (former institution _____) International

Contract Term: Fall & Spring '07-'08 (2 semester contract) Spring '08 (single semester contract)

If you have not already sent in your \$300 admissions enrollment deposit, please attach it to this application and send it to the Office of University Admissions.

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle Name _____

Social Security Number _____ Mercer ID Number _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender: Female Male

Home Address _____ City, State _____ Zip _____

(_____) _____ Preferred Phone Number _____ Preferred E-mail Address _____

Dates of Occupancy: Saturday, August 18, 2007, 9:00 a.m. (New Freshmen and Transfer Students Check-in) through Thursday, May 1, 2008, 9:00 a.m. Residence Halls will be closed over the Winter Break, from Sunday, December 16, 2007, 9:00 a.m. through Sunday, January 6, 2008, 9:00 a.m. (Dates and times are subject to change based on the Mercer University calendar.)

Roommate Assignment Preferences: New residents are assigned based on the date of receipt of prepayment. While every reasonable attempt is made to honor roommate preferences and building requests, the university can make no guarantees. Roommate requests depend on room availability, reciprocal requests, and receipt of all applications involved in the request before assignments are made.

Building Preference: Refer to the Mercer housing web site (www.mercer.edu/housing) for a description of housing options (please rank in order 1-4 (females) or 1-2 (males) with 1 being your top choice).
Females: Porter Boone Dowell Roberts
Males: Plunkett Roberts

Roommate Preference: If you know someone who will be starting at Mercer with you, and would like to room with them, please put their full name(s) here:

| Last Name | First Name | Middle Initial | Home Telephone | SSN |
|-----------|------------|----------------|----------------|-----|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Do You Smoke? (Smoking is prohibited inside residence halls): Yes No

Studying Pattern
Do you need complete silence in order to study? Yes No
Do you need background noise in order to study? Yes No

Sleeping Pattern
Are you an early riser? Yes No
Do you stay up past midnight? Yes No

Room Cleanliness
Things may get out of place, but I usually clean once a week. Yes No
Is having your room clean and neat a priority? Yes No

Music Preference Check Yes to all that apply
Do you listen to...
Gospel/Contemporary Christian Yes No
Rock Yes No
Country Yes No
R&B Yes No
Rap Yes No

Extra-Curricular Activities/Interests
Do you read for leisure? Yes No
Do you enjoy sports? Yes No
Were you active in a Civic organization? Yes No
Were you active in a Faith-based organization? Yes No
Were you active in High School Clubs/Activities? Yes No
Do you spend more than 10 hours per week on the internet or video games? Yes No

In consideration for the right to occupy an assigned bed space within the Mercer University Housing system, I hereby agree to make payments to the University in accordance with the published rates. By signing below, I agree to adhere to the terms and conditions set forth in this contract. I also agree to abide by the housing policies outlined in The Lair, the Housing Handbook, and the University Bulletin, as well as any other authorized format or publication. I fully understand that this contract is effective from the University's acceptance of it until the end of the spring semester of the academic year. The contract, unless specified otherwise herein, cannot be terminated without the express written consent of the Office of Housing and Residence Life, and then only after conditions have been met for release as stated in the "Terms and Conditions" on the reverse of this form. I fully understand that I am obligated by the terms of this contract, to make full payment of applicable room charges for the term indicated on this form, even if I decide not to occupy my assigned bed space.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please make a copy of both sides of this contract for your records. For more information, go to www.mercer.edu/housing

I. Financial Obligations

- A. Upon acceptance of this contract by the Office of Housing and Residence Life (here, acceptance is defined as the actual assignment of a space), the student applicant becomes financially liable for housing rental fees for all semesters covered in this contract unless released in accordance with the terms below. **Payment is due on the date University fees are due. The Office of Housing and Residence Life does not send out bills or invoices for rental fees.** They are sent by Mercer One. A late fee will be assessed after 5 days for overdue accounts.
- B. All fees, charges or fines related to on-campus occupancy are charged to the individual student's University account. All financial liabilities are then considered due to Mercer University. It is the responsibility of the student to provide verification of Financial Aid if it will be used to cover Housing fees.
- C. Upon a *decision not to attend Mercer University*, applicants for Fall semester must cancel this contract in writing prior to May 1st of this contract year to receive a full refund of their prepayment. Applicants for the Spring semester must cancel this contract in writing prior to November 11th to receive a full refund of their prepayment. After these dates, the applicant is bound to the contract if he/she is enrolled in classes at Mercer University. Applicants who decide not to attend the University and do not cancel in writing prior to the above deadlines will forfeit their entire prepayment.
- D. If the resident defaults in the payment of rent or other Housing charges, the Office of Housing and Residence Life shall terminate this contract and retake possession of the premises. Residents shall remain liable for the contracted charges and all costs incurred in collections.
- E. If you live in a residence hall, you will be required to have a meal plan. Please contact the Auxiliary Services Office or visit their web site: <http://www.mercer.edu/auxiliary/> for further information on your meal plan options.

II. Terms of Occupancy

- A. This contract guarantees a space (not a particular room or building) in an on-campus facility upon acceptance of the contract by the Office of Housing and Residence Life (as in Section IA, acceptance is defined as the actual assignment of a space).
- B. Fees paid in accordance with this contract apply to housing occupancy within the published housing opening and closing dates for all semesters named herein. Unless otherwise established and published by the Office of Housing and Residence Life, the residential facilities on campus are open only between the first published date of check-in and the last official day of final examinations **each semester**. Beyond these dates, students are responsible for securing alternate housing. Fees paid in accordance with this contract do not apply to occupancy beyond closing dates.
- C. In accordance with this contract, residents are entitled to all services provided as stated in Housing publications. Students assigned to University Housing are entitled to occupy their assigned room until such time as he/she is no longer enrolled in classes or removal or relocation is deemed necessary by the Office of Housing and Residence Life. The Office of Housing and Residence Life reserves the right to change or cancel a student's room assignment in the interest of order, health, non-payment, discipline, maximum utilization of residence space or disaster after reasonable notice to the student. A resident alone in a double/triple occupancy room may be required to consolidate (move to another room) with another resident. Any expenses associated with relocation or cancellation will be the responsibility of the student.
- D. Mercer University is an equal opportunity institution. Room assignments are made without regard to race, creed, color, or national origin. Room or roommate requests based solely on race, creed, color or national origin will not be honored.
- E. The Office of Housing and Residence Life reserves the right to reassign any space not occupied by 10:00 a.m. on the first day of classes unless the student has submitted a written request to the office for late arrival.
- F. Rooms may be occupied **ONLY** by students to whom they are assigned. A student may not transfer, sublet, loan or assign the room to another person under any circumstances. Room changes and building transfers may be made only after receipt of written approval by the Office of Housing and Residence Life.
- G. Belongings left in the room after the official closing date will be considered discarded property and will be disposed of accordingly. In the event that the Office of Housing and Residence Life terminates the contract and the resident does not vacate the premises, the locks will be changed and the individual's belongings will be removed.
- H. The Director of Housing and Residence Life (or his/her designee) reserves the right to deny university housing in the event of felony conviction by civil authorities.
- I. In the event accommodations assigned to the student are destroyed or otherwise made unavailable and the university does not furnish other

accommodations, the contract shall terminate; all rights and liabilities of the parties hereto shall cease; and rental payments previously made shall be refunded on a prorated basis as of the date accommodations become unavailable.

- J. The Director of Housing and Residence Life (or his/her designee) retains the right to immediately evict from housing any student who engages in any behavior considered to pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the university community. Evictions can take place prior to the adjudication of university conduct charges. There will be no refund in cases of contract termination due to judicial action. However, students cleared of all conduct and/or criminal violations can request to be reinstated in housing and/or compensated for early termination.

III. Responsibilities

- A. Smoking is prohibited inside all university buildings and within fifteen (15) feet of any university building. The non-smoking areas of campus housing include student rooms, lounges, lobbies, stairwells, and other common areas.
- B. Students are to keep rooms clean and orderly at all times. The cleanliness of the residence halls and apartments is the joint responsibility of the resident and the University provided cleaning service. Charges may be assessed to students who fail to adhere to reasonable standards of cleanliness.
- C. Students are responsible for the care and proper use of all furnishings and equipment in campus housing. Students may be charged for damage to, unauthorized use of, or alterations to furnishings or equipment provided in rooms or common areas. Students are jointly responsible for the care and proper use of lounges and other common areas. Vandalism or other improper care of rooms or public areas may result in individual or community charges and/or disciplinary action, including dismissal from housing without refund. In addition, students found responsible for tampering with or altering fire protection devices or systems will be subject to federal and state laws, as well as University policies.
- D. The Office of Housing and Residence Life reserves the right to determine the use of all rooms, lounges, common and public areas in the housing system.
- E. The Office of Housing and Residence Life reserves the right to establish additional rules or policies as necessitated by conditions or issues related to safety, care and cleanliness of facilities, and for the preservation of good order.
- F. Telephone lines provided in each room are the property of Mercer University and may not be altered in any manner. Students may be held responsible for any abuse of equipment, misuse of the telephone, and/or unauthorized phone charges.
- G. The University is not financially liable for personal injury, loss or damage to personal property, or failure of utilities or mechanical equipment. There shall be no allowance to residents and no liability on the part of the Office of Housing and Residence Life by reason of theft, accidents, natural disasters, power surges, or by the making of any repairs, alterations, additions or improvements to the premises or any portion of the building in which the residents are located. **Residents are urged to check with their parents' Homeowners Insurance to see if their belongings are covered or to purchase Renter's Insurance.**
- H. Authorized University personnel, including Residence Life, Custodial, and Maintenance employees may enter student rooms at any time to perform normal duties, make necessary repairs or to inspect rooms for damages or health and safety related issues, and to assure that University policies and regulations are being adhered to.
- I. Students are responsible for knowing and observing all University and Residence Life rules, regulations, policies and procedures as stated in all University and Residence Life publications including, but not limited to, the Housing Handbook, University Bulletin, the Mercer University Code of Conduct, *The Lair*, and this Housing Contract. Students evicted from on-campus housing for disciplinary reasons will forfeit any refund and be charged a cancellation fee.
- J. State and Federal laws, as well as University policy, prohibit the use of illegal drugs and/or possession of drug paraphernalia. Students found responsible for possession or use of any illegal substances in campus housing will be subject to immediate eviction from Mercer University housing without refund.
- K. Firearms, fireworks, explosives, combustible items and/or other weapons (including BB guns, pellet guns, etc.) of any kind are prohibited in on-campus residential facilities. Possession of these items may result in dismissal or suspension from the University or from Housing without refund.
- L. The failure of the Office of Housing and Residence Life to take action against residents for violation of any terms of the housing contract does not prevent a subsequent act of a similar nature from being treated as a violation of the contract.

Conditions for Contract Release

All obligations associated with this contract are binding. Residents shall not be released from this contract due to lack of financial resources, dietary or medical needs, or religious reasons. **Residents are urged to carefully consider their circumstances prior to entering into this contract.**

Release from this contract will be considered **ONLY** under the following conditions: graduation; marriage during the contract term; withdrawal from the University; internship outside the Macon area; study abroad opportunity; or dismissal or suspension from the University. **Students must submit a written petition for any release request. All conditions for release must be documented or acceptable written supporting documentation must be submitted to the Office of Housing and Residence Life.** The submission of a petition for contract release does not guarantee approval of a release. **A cancellation fee may be assessed and charged to the student's account for all contract releases approved (except in the case of a December graduation). Approved refunds are based on a declining percentage schedule governed by the date of approved release. No refunds shall be made after the 10th week of the semester. If a contract release is granted, the student has 48 hours to vacate the premises. The student must follow proper check-out procedures.**

For reasons other than those stated above, a resident may request a Contract Buy-Out for the Spring semester at a rate of 75% of the remaining Contract balance (through the end of the Spring term), a \$100 cancellation fee, and all accrued charges based on the date of official check-out. Please note that this "Buy-Out" option is not available for freshman and sophomore residents.