

Columbia College Welcome Home Sponsorship FAQ

A Columbia College Foundation, Student Services and California Student Housing Collaboration

Purpose + Offer: The purpose of the Columbia College Welcome Home Sponsorship is to assist current and prospective Columbia College students who are supporting themselves and struggling to secure stable housing. This limited sponsorship assistance provides payment of rent for a shared room for the semester, which includes utilities, basic furnishings, and 24-hour access to housing staff. (Estimated value: \$2,435 per semester).

The units are operated by a third party, California Student Housing, and include furnished, shared 2-person bedrooms in a 4-person unit, that include a shared bathroom and small kitchen.

(<https://californiastudenthousing.net/>). Students may not upgrade their rooms to single-room status.

Students need to complete an online application for the program. Applications will be reviewed by the committee and housing offers will go out to a limited number of students based on need and space availability. Students new to the program will be invited to participate in an interview with the selection committee. Students who are invited to join the program will be required to sign a program expectations contract and a rental license agreement with California Student Housing.

Students will be expected to consider the Welcome Home program requirements carefully before committing to the Welcome Home program.

Who qualifies for this offer?

Current Columbia College students who are struggling to find secure, stable housing for the incoming semester. Priority will go to students who are supporting themselves and receive no parental support.

Students **MUST** have the following items completed to qualify for the program:

- Be registered as a current Columbia College student
- Be enrolled in at least 9 semester units (waitlisted classes do not count) for the academic semester student is applying for. Priority may be given to students who have primarily in-person classes
- Have an updated educational plan completed with an academic counselor
- Have a FAFSA/CADAA application completed
- Be in good standing with California Student Housing
- Be able to pay a \$300 security deposit upon moving in

Would I be responsible for any other costs? A security deposit? Application fee? Food? Parking?

The student will be responsible for a partially refundable security deposit of \$300 (\$250 refundable pending condition of room at time of move-out).

Additionally:

- California Student Housing will waive its \$50 application fee for Welcome Home students.
- Food is not included in the rent, but Columbia College does offer a student food bank for free food items and has a student café at the Manzanita building. The college Basic Needs Coordinator is available to provide CalFresh application assistance. A food closet for former and current foster youth is available in the academic counseling center.
- Students are responsible for any campus parking fees.
- Public bus service to and from Columbia College is free with a student identification card.

What does the rental license agreement cover?

Students must sign a license agreement (lease), which covers terms of student housing, rules and regulations, and student code of conduct. Housing residents must be in good standing at the college and with California Student Housing to continue residing at the facilities. (Good Academic Standing is GPA of 2.0 or higher.)

What is the move-in date?

Move-in date is typically the Friday before classes start for the semester. The property manager for California Student Housing will communicate all necessary steps for moving into California Student Housing.

Can a lease agreement be extended after the sponsorship expires if I want to stay?

Yes, lease agreements can be extended if students make payment arrangements individually with California Student Housing after the sponsorship expires.

How many semesters can I stay in the Welcome Home program?

The Welcome Home Sponsorship program offers spots on a semesterly basis. Students who are successful in meeting ALL program requirements are eligible to apply to renew their sponsorship at the end of the semester. Students who exceed four semesters (excluding summers) total in the program will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis for continued eligibility.

If I drop out of some classes or fail a class, will it affect my housing situation for the rest of the semester?

Students will be expected to make every effort to meet and maintain the program unit requirement. Waitlisted classes do not count in the unit requirement. Students should utilize all college resources and support before dropping classes (including academic counselors, tutors, professor office hours, etc.).

Students are expected to meet the unit requirement for the entirety of the semester.

Students are expected to meet the unit requirement for the entirety of the semester. If a student drops below the unit requirement before the semester census date, the student will be dropped from the program and California Student Housing will be notified that the student will not be sponsored for the current semester.

If a student drops below the unit requirement after the census date, then the student will not be dropped from the current semester but will be ineligible to renew their sponsorship.

If I don't complete my courses or have poor grades, will I have to pay back my housing costs?

Welcome Home students are expected to make their best effort in courses. The housing award will not be subject to repayment; however, a student who drops out completely or who stops attending or participating in classes will need to move out of housing to open the space for a current student in need. Circumstances will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Students who finish the semester with below a 2.0 GPA will not be eligible to renew their sponsorship for the following semester.

How will students be selected?

The selection committee will review and score applications, considering financial need, living situations and other factors. An application and an interview will be required.

The requirements state specific meetings I will need to complete. What if I am unable to attend the meeting on the date that was selected?

Communication is critical in this program. You are required to let Welcome Home staff know as soon as possible if you are unable to attend a mandatory meeting or event. If you cannot make the mandatory meeting, you will be required to attend an alternative meeting. Failure to tell staff of your absence can result in removal from the program. Students are expected to meet each category explained in the expectations contract to remain in good standing with the Welcome Home program.

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