

**IDENTITY BASED
MODS
&
INTENTIONAL
HOUSING
COMMUNITIES

SPRING 2016**

Questions? Contact the HOO

413.559.5453

housing@hampshire.edu

Hampshire College Residence Life and Housing on Facebook
or stop by the office (M-F, 8:30-4:30)

IDENTITY BASED MODS

Residence Life and Housing facilitates the continuation of many identity-based housing communities started by students. These residential spaces give support to members of our community with social identities that have been historically marginalized in this country, and strive to counter systemic oppression. This arises from our commitment to fostering diverse, socially just, and inclusive communities.

We recognize that our society--through its laws, institutional structures, and customs--has privileged some social groups while systematically disadvantaging and disenfranchising others. Even as we struggle to end these practices, we recognize that day-to-day life for members of these disadvantaged groups can be hurtful and exhausting.

Identity-based housing is an institutional structure designed to assist members of historically oppressed groups in supporting each other. It helps to create an added level of psychological comfort and safety for those who choose to live in those spaces, often providing the foundation for those students to be able to engage fully in the greater community.

Creating these safe spaces, in collaboration with centers on campus, will benefit the entire community. We must have the full engagement of all our community members, especially those whose experiences, ideas, and perspectives are different from those of the College's mainstream population. It is through these means that we, as a full community, are most likely to challenge assumptions, craft new solutions to problems, and perform to our highest ability.

Residents of identity-based spaces are expected to attend the identity-based housing orientation in September. Additionally, residents should plan to attend approximately one program per month during the academic year.

FILLING EXISTING IDENTITY BASED MODS

The priority deadline to apply to live in an existing identity based mod is **Friday, April 1 at 4pm**. Applications received after this time will be reviewed on a rolling basis if space permits. All identity based mods share an online application, which can be found at www.hampshire.edu/housing/identity-based-housing. Students may apply for as many identity-based mods as they like in the same application. Current residents of identity-based mods who wish to live in the same mod next year will need to declare their intention in an email to housing@hampshire.edu by **Monday, April 4 at 4pm**.

All applications will be reviewed by the Identity-Based Housing Guidance Committee. The committee is comprised of residence life student staff, residence life professional staff, community advocacy staff, current residents of identity-based mods, and other invested community members.

Invitations to chosen applicants will be sent via Hampshire email between **Friday, April 8 and Wednesday, April 13**. Accepted applicants will have 48 hours to respond and confirm their placement or will forfeit their offer.

Non-permanent mods that do not fill by April 14 may choose to reapply as a new mod by April 15, or go on hiatus for the following year. A mod on hiatus may “reclaim” the mod they previously occupied during the next Housing Lottery, provided they have enough students to completely fill the mod. Interested parties should contact the Asst. Director of Residence Life, Amy Parker at aparker@hampshire.edu.

EXISTING IDENTITY BASED MODS

Permanent

LGBTQQIAAP, Greenwich 32 (formerly 25)

Students of Color, Enfield 52

Queer, Enfield 54

Women of Color, Enfield 60

Not-Yet-Permanent

Asian Heritage, Greenwich 26 (eligible for permanent status Fall 2017)

INTENTIONAL HOUSING COMMUNITIES

Residence Life and Housing is committed to supporting and complementing the academic program. Our goal is to create a holistic environment that encourages collaboration, connections, learning, and personal growth. It is with this goal in mind that Intentional Housing Communities were established.

Intentional Housing Communities are living spaces where the residents have chosen to come together around a particular area of interest that will contribute to and cultivate the campus' culture of learning. They work together with a faculty or staff advisor to educate themselves and the larger community about their area of interest. Students who elect to reside in these spaces can expect to gain meaningful relationships with one another, lasting connections with staff and faculty, access to greater campus resources, and sense of pride in their community.

FILLING EXISTING

INTENTIONAL HOUSING COMMUNITIES

The deadline to apply to live in an existing intentional housing community is **Friday, April 1, at 4pm**. Each mod has their own online application, which can be found at www.hampshire.edu/housing/housing-communities-applications. Students may apply to multiple intentional housing communities, but may only accept an invitation to one (and must relinquish the opportunity to participate in any other housing options).

All applications will be reviewed by a committee comprised of current residents and the group's advisor. Once the mod has reviewed applications, they will submit a Roster Form to the HOO, listing current residents who have committed to staying in the mod next year, and ranking all applicants in order of preference to be invited to live in the mod. The HOO will send invitations to chosen applicants' Hampshire email account between April 8 and April 13. **Upon receiving an invitation email, applicants will have 48 hours to respond confirming their placement or will forfeit the offer.**

If a mod does not have a full roster by April 15 the group will lose IHC status and the mod will be available in the campus-wide housing lottery.

Due to the unique nature of the Kosher Mod, and its importance to the community, it is exempt from this policy and may leave spaces empty to be filled by the HOO. Additionally, residents of the Kosher Mod must reapply each year to ensure we are meeting the needs of the community.

REQUIREMENTS FOR MAINTAINING AN INTENTIONAL HOUSING COMMUNITY

Each IHC must select a contact person who will act as a facilitator and liaison with the HOO throughout the summer and academic year. This person will be responsible for communicating with the HOO and ensuring the IHC is completing all requirements. Their attendance at an informational meeting each semester is mandatory.

IHCs are required to implement two educational initiatives each semester. During the spring semester, at least one must take place before March 1 in order for the IHC to be eligible to accept new applications for the following year. An educational initiative can be anything that increases knowledge about the intentional housing community's area of interest and furthers the mission of the community. Past initiatives have included discussions, film screenings, art shows, open houses, and community meals. The audience can be as large as the Five College community or as small as the group.

Residents must submit a brief evaluation form within one week of the event (a link to the evaluation form will be provided by the HOO via Hampshire email to all members of intentional housing communities). Evaluations will describe the type of event, how it was promoted, how it furthered the mission of the housing community, and how successful it was.

If spaces become available over the summer, the HOO - in coordination with the contact person - will attempt to fill them with alternates. If no alternates were listed, or those listed no longer wish to live in the IHC, the HOO will attempt to fill spaces through an application process in coordination with the contact person. However, the HOO reserves the right to place interested students in vacancies if deemed administratively necessary.

IHCs should work actively with the HOO to recruit new members whenever vacancies arise during the year. In order to continue as an IHC, groups will need to participate in the spring room choosing process, as described in "Filling Existing Intentional Housing Communities" on the previous page.

Failure to meet any of these requirements will result in loss of the space at the end of the academic year. IHCs which do not complete any educational initiatives during the fall semester may lose their status at the end of that semester.

EXISTING INTENTIONAL HOUSING COMMUNITIES

Greenhouse Mod, Enfield 46: A place for growing plants and food, learning about environmental sustainability, and for events that bring the Hampshire community together.

Kosher Mod, Prescott 82: A Kosher living space. All students welcome to apply, regardless of religious affiliation.

Middle Eastern Immersion Mod, Greenwich 9: A safe space for students to learn from each other, where students who study the Middle East can learn from Middle Eastern students and vice versa. All aspects of Middle Eastern culture is incorporated into mod life, such as language, food, holidays, and discussion of current issues.

Mindfulness Mod, Greenwich 21: A space where students support one another to be mindful and cultivate moment-by-moment, non-judgmental, focused attention and awareness.

Movement Mod, Greenwich 19: A safe and accessible space to encourage each other and the broader community to remain active and present in our bodies through movement. All members will bring traditional and non-traditional dance into their everyday life while deeply exploring how we can know and communicate with our own and others' bodies.

Musician's Mod (The Sound Co-op), Greenwich 35: A group of students who intend to create an inclusive, respectful, and encouraging environment for music lovers, creators, and listeners of all shapes and sizes. Students share ideas, research, and original acoustic music, and explore songwriting tactics.

Spiritual Womyn's Mod, Greenwich 36: A place for self-identified Womyn that promotes and heightens spirituality. A collective space to support and guide spiritual paths and encourage the mindful growth of the Hampshire community. Female and/or female self-identified continuing students welcome to apply.

STEM Mod, Greenwich 36: A space where students can share knowledge and discuss ideas related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). They focus on developing a community committed to the advancement and appreciation of STEM in everyday lives.

Upcycling Mod, Greenwich 20: A mod that will work to integrate art and sustainability in the Hampshire community, by educating students on the importance of reusing and repurposing, and organizing a series of sustainable art projects and events.

Women's Empowerment Mod, Enfield 66: A safe and supportive space to actively engage with and challenge the normative expectations placed on women. Female and/or female self-identified continuing students welcome to apply.

NOT SEEING WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?

**WONDERING HOW TO CREATE A NEW
IDENTITY BASED MOD OR
INTENTIONAL HOUSING COMMUNITY?**

READ ON FOR DETAILS!

CREATING A NEW IDENTITY BASED MOD

A group of five or six students who wish to create an identity-based mod that does not currently exist at Hampshire must submit a written proposal to the HOO before **4pm on Friday, April 8**. The proposal should include a statement addressing the guidelines listed below, as well as a list of the students who are committed to living in this space noting who will live in the double. The proposal will be reviewed by the Identity Based Housing Guidance Committee, and approved or denied by Friday, April 15. The group will be notified via Hampshire email addresses.

Once approved, the group will be expected to participate in the mod lottery for the size mod equal to the number of students committed to living in the space (limited to 5 or 6 students). If a mod is not won with points, the last available mod of that size will be granted to the group. Groups must indicate which students have agreed to live together in a double when submitting the names of the students in their group.

GUIDELINES FOR CREATING NEW IDENTITY-BASED MODS

1. The group must demonstrate a compelling need for a living space which includes:
 - a) showing the need for a mutually supportive living environment
 - b) showing that the creation of the space would benefit the Hampshire community or further the goals of the community in promoting diversity
2. The group must be unified by a social identity (such as race, culture, gender, or sexual orientation).
3. The unifying social identity must currently experience or has historically experienced oppression within or outside the Hampshire community.
4. Upon creation, the group must be able to fill a five- or six-person mod for the upcoming academic year, and demonstrate that the committed students are willing to relinquish all other housing options; the number of students committed determines size of mod (limited to 5 or 6 students). Among these students, two must indicate that they will share a double together, even if the group hopes to win a mod without a double.

CREATING A NEW INTENTIONAL HOUSING COMMUNITY

A group of five or six students who wish to create an intentional housing community that does not currently exist at Hampshire must submit a written proposal to the HOO before **4pm on Friday, April 8**. The proposal should include a mission statement (see guidelines below) as well as a list of the students who are committed to living in this space noting who will live in the double. Proposals will be reviewed by the assistant director of residence life, and approved or denied by **Friday, April 15**. A meeting may be required for approval.

Approved groups will be given three (3) additional Lottery points to add to their total points. They will participate in the mod lottery in the traditional manner. There is no guarantee they will win a mod.

GUIDELINES FOR CREATING A NEW INTENTIONAL HOUSING COMMUNITY

In order to be approved by the assistant director of residence life, a group must present the following items:

1. A mission statement - a short paragraph that will define the community's purpose, goals, and values, as well as how it will contribute to and cultivate the campus' culture of learning. Examples of mission statements can be found in the applications for existing IHCs. Some questions to consider for your mission statement: What do we hope the community can learn by living this way? How could this topic be applied to someone's course of study at Hampshire?

2. A signed Advisor Agreement (found on the final page of this booklet) indicating the continuing support of a faculty or staff member who will act in an advisory role.

3. A proposal, including timelines, for at least two educational initiatives to be carried out in the following semester.

4. A roster of five or six students who are committed to living in the IHC. This must include an indication of two students who have consented to live in a double together.

APPLICATIONS FOR EXISTING ID AND IHC SPACES ARE OPEN NOW!

Find them at:

www.hampshire.edu/housing/housing-communities-applications

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

Tuesday, March 22 - Identity Based Mods and Intentional Housing Communities Q&A will take place at 3:30 p.m. in the Merrill Living Room.

Friday, April 1 - all applications for spaces in existing Intentional Housing Communities must be submitted online before 4pm on April 1. No late applications can be accepted. This is also the “priority deadline” for Identity Based Mods (applications received after the deadline will be reviewed on a rolling basis if space permits).

Friday, April 8 - the Enrollment Notification Deadline. Only students who are fully enrolled for the fall semester can accept invitations to identity based mods or intentional housing communities.

Friday, April 8 - Wednesday, April 13 - invitations to accepted applicants for identity based and intentional housing communities will be sent during this time. **Upon receiving an invitation email, applicants will have 48 hours to respond confirming their placement or will forfeit the offer.** Applicants may only accept an invitation to one mod, and upon accepting the offer will relinquish the opportunity to participate in all other housing options.

Wednesday, April 20 - Friday, May 13 - students who have accepted invitations to live in identity based mods or intentional housing communities should come to the HOO to sign up for individual rooms in each mod during this time. Students who do not sign up for a particular room will be placed into remaining spaces in the mod at the discretion of the HOO.

INTENTIONAL HOUSING COMMUNITY ADVISOR AGREEMENT

Residence Life and Housing is committed to supporting and complementing the academic program with the goal of creating a holistic environment that encourages collaboration, connections, learning, and personal growth. It is with this goal in mind that Intentional Housing Communities were established. Intentional Housing Communities are living spaces where the residents have chosen to come together around a particular area of interest that will contribute to and cultivate the campus' culture of learning.

By signing this document, you are agreeing to act as an advisor to an Intentional Housing Community for the 2016 – 2017 academic year. In that role, you will:

1. Aid in the development and implementation of educational initiatives that will benefit both the IHC and the Hampshire Community at large.

2. Ensure the IHC's activities are in keeping with their mission statement by meeting with the group a minimum of twice each semester.

3. Be a part of the committee that reviews applications and makes decisions about who will fill vacancies in the mod at least once during the year (in April).

Name of Intentional Housing Community: _____

Advisor Information:

Name _____

Email _____

Extension _____

Advisor Signature _____

_____ Date

Return signed form to the HOO with the rest of the application materials

Contact Us!

413.559.5453
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