

OVERVIEW

The Friendship Houses at Earlham College were established to allow students to form a self-selected community based upon the concepts and values of friendship and mutual education. Friendship Houses provide students with the opportunity to establish an environment within the larger Earlham community, based upon shared community and academic interests. Unlike the Theme House communities, Friendship House communities need not be connected with an academic department. Proposals that promote shared responsibility for house activities, a substance-free lifestyle, and academic success are strongly preferred.

Selection Process

Applications for Friendship Houses are reviewed by the Friendship House Selection Committee, which consists of five Earlham College students nominated by the Earlham Student Government. These students must be current students at Earlham College with no intention of living in a Friendship House for the 2016-17 Academic Year. The Friendship House Selection Committee is advised by the Office of Residence Life. After the application period has ended, the committee will meet to review completed applications and approve/deny applications based upon facility availability and application merit. Applications will be separated from the rosters attached to them, to ensure an impartial decision by the Friendship House Selection Committee. Applicants will be notified of their application status no later than March 11, 2016.

Deadline

Applications are due to the Office of Residence Life by Friday, March 4 at 5:00 p.m. Completed community applications, individual statements, and additional statements from proposed conveners should be submitted by email to the Office of Residence Life at reslife@earlham.edu.

Student Eligibility

Students applying to live in a Friendship House must meet the criteria noted below. In the event a Friendship House is approved but fifty-one percent of its roster or more does not meet the below criteria, the Friendship House may be dismissed and replaced with qualifying, alternate Friendship House proposals.

- House members must be currently enrolled students at Earlham College who will be eligible to enroll for the Fall 2016 semester. Transfer students may be considered for placement in a Friendship House; however, students new to post-secondary education may not reside in a college house.
- House members must be in good conduct standing with Earlham College, both academically and socially.

Convener Eligibility

Each Friendship Community is required to have at least one student convener throughout the academic year. Each convener must agree to the following expectations:

- Each student convener must be live in the house for the entire academic year. For example, the conveners cannot be scheduled to participate in an off-campus program for one of the two semesters, or graduate at the end of the fall semester.
- The student convener(s) must convene house community meetings each week.
- The student convener(s) must meet with the Area Director for College Houses every two weeks.
- The student convener(s) must attend a monthly House Convener Council meeting.
- Coordinate closely with the Area Director for College Houses on bi-monthly house walk-throughs, house maintenance issues, and semester rosters.

Friendship Community Application Eligibility

Successful Friendship Communities agree to the following items:

- They will meet once a week in a community meeting to discuss, at a minimum, important matters of the week, important information, and house functions.
- Coordinate two education- or service-based programs for the Earlham College community tied closely with the friendship community's theme and goals each semester.
- They organize their community around educational and community development goals that are beneficial to the students living there, the Earlham College community, and the Richmond community.
- Engage productively and regularly with the Office of Residence Life to maintain the facility and grow the community.
- Serve as an active member in the Earlham College community by attending community events, engaging discussions respectfully, and holding their peers to community standards.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

The following are questions that each community applying for a Friendship House will answer as part of their application:

Community Questions

1. What is the group vision for your community?
2. What are your educational goals for the 2015-16 academic year?
3. What are your community development goals for the 2015-16 academic year?
4. What steps will you take to meet both your educational and community development goals?
5. There are many decisions that a community in shared space must make throughout the academic year: chore allocation, event coordination, roster changes, etc. How will your community make decisions throughout the year?
6. What guidelines or frameworks will you use to resolve conflicts that inevitably arise when persons live together in shared space?

Additional Community Questions for Re-Applying Friendship Houses

7. Each Friendship Community for the 2015-16 academic year was expected to have a regular house meeting to discuss important matters of the week. How often did your community meet throughout the fall? So far this spring? What did you all discuss during your meetings?
8. Each Friendship Community for the 2015-16 academic year was expected to engage productively with the Office of Residence Life to maintain the facility and grow the community. How timely have you provided roster information to Residence Life? How timely have you reported maintenance problems and other facility concerns?
9. Each Friendship Community for the 2015-16 academic year was expected to organize their community around educational and community development goals that benefit their members and the larger community. What were your goals for your community that you listed on your application last year and how have you made progress towards them?
10. Each Friendship Community for the 2015-16 academic year was expected to coordinate at least one education- or service-based program for the Earlham College community tied closely to their theme. What program(s) did you complete this past Fall? How did that go? How many people from the community attended?

Individual Statement Questions

1. Why do you want to live in this community?
2. What do you hope to gain educationally from this community? How will living in this community contribute to your Earlham College education?
3. How will you individually contribute to the community development and educational goals of the house?