



LIVE ON FAMILY NEWS

For the families of students living on campus at Michigan State University



Photo courtesy of Communications and Brand Strategy

WELCOME FROM RESIDENCE EDUCATION AND HOUSING SERVICES

WELCOME TO MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY!

Congratulations on your student's decision to join or return to the Michigan State University community. No matter the distance between your home and campus, you will continue to play an important role in your student's growth and development through your continued support and advice.

The Department of Residence Education and Housing Services is here to help facilitate your student's journey by building a community that values the following: student learning, engagement and development through our Neighborhood Model; intercultural learning and inclusion; safety and security of residents, staff and guests; sustainable practices.

Our staff in the Department of Residence Education and Housing Services is here to help your student along their journey, whatever that may be. We are here to help them be academically successful, explore new ideas, experiences and opportunities, nurture their passions, create new traditions, embrace their independence, persist toward graduation and, ultimately, have an outstanding Spartan experience.

Inside this issue of Live On Family News you will find important information that will help you prepare for your student's arrival to campus in the fall and their upcoming year as a Spartan.

If you are a new Spartan family, you will receive a wealth of information about your student's transition to MSU during your visit to campus this summer for the Parent Orientation Program. In the meantime, whether you are a new or returning Spartan family, we encourage you to explore www.liveon.msu.edu to learn as much as you can about on-campus living at MSU. We invite you to pay specific attention to www.liveon.msu.edu/neighborhoods to learn about the resources available in the MSU Neighborhoods such as tutors, academic advisors, health practitioners and other professionals who support your student's success.

If you have specific questions not addressed inside or on www.liveon.msu.edu, please contact the Housing Assignments Office at **877-9LIVEON (954-8366)** or liveon@msu.edu.

We look forward to seeing you soon. Until then, Go Green!

Sincerely,

Kathy Collins, Ph.D.
Director of Residence Education and Housing Services



KEEPING MSU SAFE (SAFETY AND SECURITY)

Michigan State University takes the safety and security of our residents seriously, providing a variety of safety measures including:

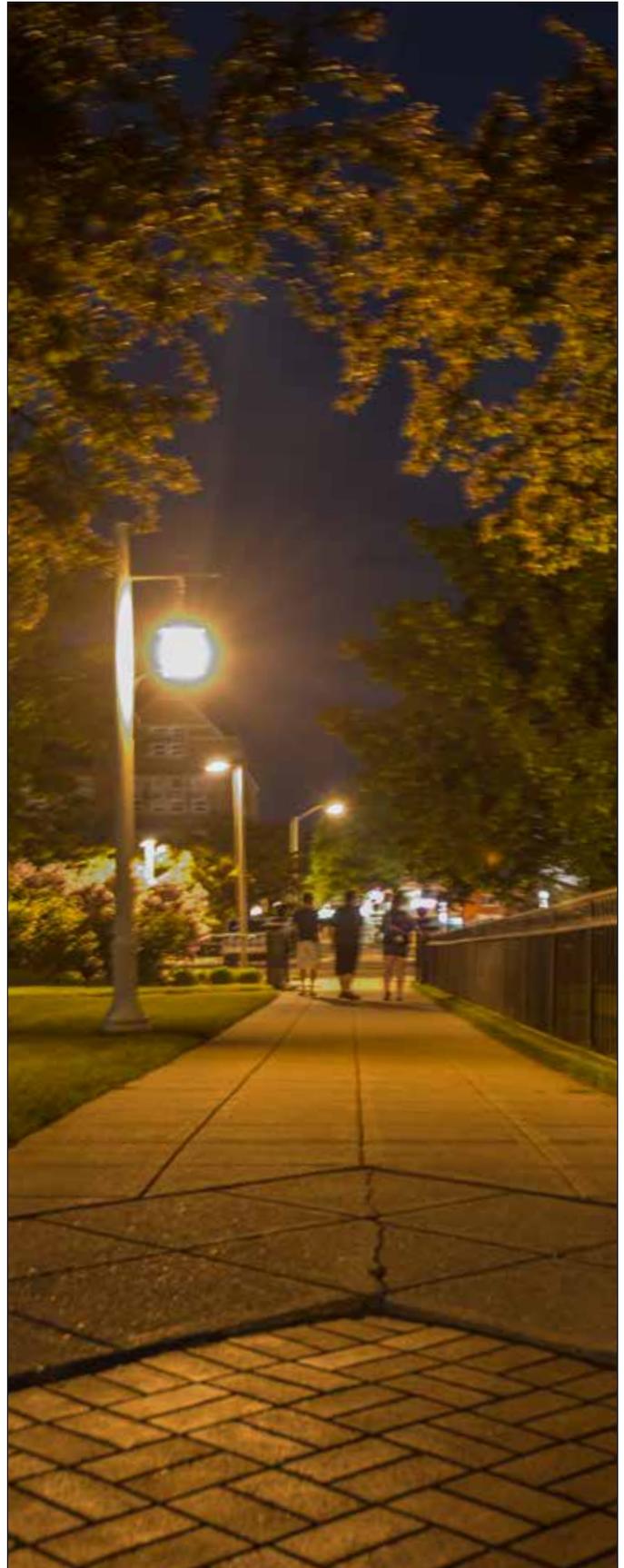
- Residence hall buildings are equipped with electronic access technology, restricting access to exterior doors, living wings and elevators.
- Living wings in residence halls are locked 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Residence halls are equipped with fire-alarm systems, fire-rated doors, hard-wired smoked detectors and sprinkler suppression systems.
- MSU Police and East Lansing Fire Department stations are located on campus, just minutes from the residence halls.
- All student rooms are equipped with peepholes, and emergency phones are installed in the living wings within the sightline of every student room door.
- Outside, green light emergency phones are installed throughout campus to connect directly to the MSU Police.
- A reverse-911 system allows MSU to quickly deliver important information to students.

When Spartans live on campus, they also play a large role in keeping our community safe by adhering to the guidelines below:

- All residence hall guests must be escorted by a resident for the duration of their stay.
- Students are encouraged to keep their doors locked at all times and to make use of the peepholes on each residence hall room's door.
- Doors should not be propped open at building entrances, and students should not hold the doors open.
- Students should secure valuable belongings in their residence hall room, in a safe and hidden place.

MSU ALERT

All members of the MSU Community are encouraged to sign up for the MSU Alert System to receive quick and convenient notifications in the event of an emergency. Visit www.alert.msu.edu to sign up for the notifications.



TIPS ON ADJUSTING TO CAMPUS LIVING

Welcome to MSU! We are happy to have your family as part of the Spartan family. While living on campus, your student can still gain a lot from the positive influence of their family. Keep an eye out for opportunities to help guide them through their experience by doing the following:

Encourage them to get involved on campus.

You could join some clubs that interest you and meet tons of new people!

You should attend floor meetings and events in your hall to meet your neighbors and see what's happening.

Have you thought about attending a hall government or caucus meeting so your voice will be heard?

Support them in achieving academic success.

Forming a study group with students that live nearby is a great way to stay on track.

What are you learning about in your classes right now?

Did you know that there are tutors, academic advisors and other resources right in your neighborhood engagement center?

Foster an interest in learning about themselves and others.

Have you met any interesting people in your hall or program?

We hope you take the opportunity at college to meet people outside your circle of friends, who come from different backgrounds or have different interests.

What's your plan for working through any roommate issues that might come up?

WELCOME TO THE MSU NEIGHBORHOODS

College is a time for your student to grow and discover the world around them, but it can also be a little overwhelming. With MSU Neighborhoods, your student has an opportunity to realize their full potential through a wide range of programs, activities and support services.

At MSU, we strive to provide the best possible living arrangements with easy access to everything the university has to offer. Your student can manage their housing preferences by logging in to **iLiveOn** at www.liveon.msu.edu. Each of the five neighborhoods listed below is comprised of several residence halls, newly renovated dining halls, Sparty's convenience options and an engagement center full of academic and health resources.

- Brody
- East
- North
- River Trail
- South

ENGAGEMENT CENTERS: CONVENIENT & CLOSE

The engagement centers are unique spaces located in each neighborhood and serve as the main access point to important resources such as tutors, academic advisors, health practitioners and other consultants that can help your student navigate their college career.

Each week, engagement centers host individual and group tutoring for many first and second year courses, social and cultural activities, as well as fitness classes for Yoga, Cardio Kick Boxing and Zumba through the Live On and Be Fit program. Additionally, there are workshops on practical topics such as using the library, sharpening study skills, searching for internships, managing personal finances and more.

WHERE TO FIND THE ADDRESS FOR CAMPUS BUILDINGS

Once your student has received their hall and room assignment this summer, you can locate the new campus address by visiting www.campusaddresses.msu.edu.

UAB CAMPUS EVENTS

University Activities Board (UAB) hosts more than 300 events annually on campus, most free to MSU students. Visit www.uabevents.com for more information. Many of these events are funded through the Residence Hall Linen and Carpet fundraising programs. Learn more below.

RESIDENCE HALL LINEN PROGRAM

Many students wish to personalize their space beyond the white bed linens and towels that are included with on-campus housing. The Residence Hall Linen Program gives students the option to upgrade to popular colors and patterns, designed especially for college students. Call 800-957-4338 or visit www.rhl.org/mst to place an order. Hurry, before the most popular colors or patterns are sold out!

RESIDENCE HALL CARPET PROGRAM

Your student can enjoy the convenience of on-campus pick up and a special student rate when they pre-orders a carpet through the Residence Hall Carpet Program. Select from brand new, top-quality, plush carpet sized perfectly for a residence hall room and it will be waiting for your student during move-in at one of four locations on campus. Call 800-892-8729 or visit www.rhcarpets.com/mst to place an order.

**FALL UAB SALES ARE GOING
ON AT THE MSU UNION
AUG. 28 THROUGH SEPT. 3**

Don't miss out on plush carpet and poster art for your student's room!

EATING AT STATE

MSU's award-winning Culinary Services team provides residents with dining excellence from 7 a.m. to midnight, seven days a week. With 10 residential dining halls, each neighborhood offers made-to-order, fresh and healthy options. Your student is sure to eat well while living on campus. When you're visiting, grab a meal at one of our locations, including:

- The Gallery at Snyder/Phillips
- Brody Square
- South Pointe at Case
- The Vista at Shaw
- Heritage Commons at Landon
- The Edge at Akers

MSU's flexible dining plans feature Combo-X-Change, allowing students to use their meal options at all 21 Sparty's locations, Union Pizzeria, Union Deli, Serrano's at the MSU Union Food Court, Riverwalk Market at Owen Hall, the Eat at State ON-THE-GO Food Truck, UP Pizzeria at Crossroads Food Court or for takeout from the dining halls.

Student employment opportunities are also available at all of our locations. Culinary Services offers our student team members a flexible work schedule that accommodates classes, activities, training and development opportunities and, most importantly, the convenience of working close to where your student lives and studies! For more information, visit www.eatatstate.com/employment.

SWEET TREATS FROM THE MSU BAKERS

MSU Bakers is our on-campus bakery that provides fresh-baked goods to the campus community. You can send your student delicious wholesome breads and bagels or sweet treats for birthdays, finals, graduation and more throughout the year! For more information and to view specials or place an order, visit www.msubakers.com.

ACCOMMODATING DIETARY RESTRICTIONS

Our professional dining staff is available to assist in finding menu options that fit your student's needs, including vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free offerings. If your student has dietary restrictions due to health concerns, food allergies or religious observances, we encourage them to meet with and develop a relationship with our registered dietitian, executive chefs or dining hall managers to discuss options. Kosher cuisine is available at Wilson Dining Hall and Brody Square; halal foods are featured at Riverwalk Market at Owen Hall and Holmes Dining Hall. All of our residential dining hall menus are marked with food labels for easy identification. To view menus and nutritional information, visit www.eatatstate.com.

HAVE A STUDENT LIVING OFF-CAMPUS?

If you're a veteran Spartan parent and have a junior or senior student living off-campus next year, flexible off-campus dining plans are still available! With our off-campus dining plan, your student can eat at any of our residential dining halls multiple times each week and also use the Combo-X-Change feature wherever it's accepted. Plus, off-campus dining plans don't expire and can be used to bring guests, including parents, to the dining halls. For more information, visit www.eatatstate.com.

MEET OUR REGISTERED DIETITIAN GINA KEILEN



Gina Keilen is a registered dietitian and culinary coordinator for Culinary Services. If your student has food allergies or intolerances or are required to follow a special diet, Gina can provide them with resources and information to help them make safe choices while still having a great dining experience when they Eat at State.

Our Culinary Services team identifies the eight major allergens on our campus menu items: milk, eggs, soy, nuts, tree nuts, fish, shellfish and wheat, as well as dietary restrictions of alcohol, beef and pork. MSU makes every effort to label food allergens in the residential dining halls and retail food venues in addition to vegetarian and vegan items.

Gina can also help your student to eat healthy — our dining halls offer an incredible amount of all-you-care-to-eat options. Since many of our platforms offer made-to-order dining, your student is in control of what they eat and how much, and Gina can help them decide what is right for their lifestyle.

You can visit us online at www.eatatstate.com/nutrition to get the nutrition and allergen information for what's being served in the dining halls.

SETTING YOUR STUDENT UP FOR SUCCESS

Summer is right around the corner, and with that comes the task of preparing to send your student off to college in the fall. At MSU, we strive to provide services and information to help your student make a smooth, successful transition. Yet, we understand that your student will face some challenges as they adjust to college life and that you are their most important support system.

To help you, we spoke with our expert Residence Education and Housing Services staff and prepared the suggestions below for you to use in supporting your student during this time of transition.

Heading off to college — either across town, across the country or across the world — with new responsibilities and experiences can be overwhelming. Arm your student with the skills and positive attitude necessary to live and learn successfully on campus!

Adjusting to the Academic Workload



- Encourage your student to meet with faculty in the first three weeks for success all semester!
- Talk about internships and jobs that may give them experience toward their career goals.
- Reinforce their study habits — we recommend three hours of studying for every one hour of class.

Overcoming Homesickness



- Be understanding; this is a time of transition for both you and your student.
- Encourage your student to bring items from home to remind them of family and friends.
- Ask your student if they've talked to their resident assistant (RA) about ways to get involved.

Refining Time Management Skills



- Listen and offer support; they may know how to plan but now they are learning to prioritize.
- Recognize that it may take a period of trial and error before your student forms good habits.
- Be patient and offer guidance.

Living within a Budget



- Encourage your student to consider an on-campus job; they're flexible around classes and exams.
- Talk about the dangers of credit card debt, student loans and how interest rates work.
- Budgeting "fun money" is a good place to start; their dining plan and free activities on campus will be there if they make a mistake.

Owning Decisions and Becoming Independent



- Talk about good vs. bad decisions and give examples.
- Step back and give your student space to make decisions.
- Respect your student's new independence.

Making Friends



- Encourage your student to meet others in their hall and attend events planned by their RA.
- Ask them if they have talked to peers in their classes.
- Remind them to check out a club on campus to meet others who share their interests.

WARNING SIGNS OF HOMESICKNESS/DEPRESSION

It is not unusual for students to have their first encounter with depression or anxiety during this time of transition and life changes. It may help your student to know that it's normal to experience some temporary depression or anxiety while in college.

Here are some warning signs that may indicate your student is struggling:

- Abrupt or radical changes in behavior
- Isolation from others
- Drastic changes in personal appearance or hygiene
- Poor attendance or shift in quality of performance in class
- Low self-esteem, feeling sad or helpless
- Attention or memory difficulties
- Talking about death or having suicidal thoughts
- Chronic fatigue, low energy or falling asleep in class
- Irritability, emotional outbursts or the inability to sit still

We encourage you to call and talk with your student if you think he or she is having a hard time. You are their first line of support, but please know that we are here to help too.

The MSU Counseling Center is committed to providing sensitive, quality services to all students. The services we provide are confidential, and your student should feel confident in asking for assistance when needed. The Counseling Center is staffed by fully licensed psychologists, counselors and social workers. Select doctoral and masters-level interns are also on staff and work under the supervision of licensed senior staff members.

Your student can learn more at www.counseling.msu.edu or by calling **517-355-8270**.

SPARTAN CASH

Spartan Cash is a safe and convenient way for students to use their MSU ID cards to access a wide variety of services and products. (Spartan Cash vendors do not sell alcohol or tobacco products.) You can pre-load Spartan Cash dollars onto your student's MSU ID card for use at more than 100 locations across campus and the local community. Some dining plans come with Spartan Cash automatically. For a complete list of vendors, go to www.spartancash.com.

MSU COMPUTER STORE: HELP AND REPAIR

The MSU Computer Store is on campus to help with technology purchases and repairs. They offer Apple, Dell and Lenovo products as well as software and accessories — all at student discounted prices! All repairs are completed on campus by experienced computer repair technicians. Look for the latest Student Resource Guide in the mail. You may request additional copies by calling 517-432-0700. For more information or to shop online, visit www.cstore.msu.edu.

WHAT TO EXPECT THE FIRST YEAR

NEIGHBORHOOD AND ROOM ASSIGNMENTS

In early June, your student will receive an email that will provide instructions on how to view their campus neighborhood and room assignment.

Roommate information will be available later in the summer as additional assignments are finalized.

We encourage your student to check their iLiveOn account at www.liveon.msu.edu in late July and connect with their roommate(s) before moving to campus.

This is a good opportunity to discuss plans for room essentials and what time you expect to arrive on move-in day. It is also a good time to discuss expectations for living arrangements. Students will want to make sure that they are on the same page as their roommate(s) when it comes to visitors, cleaning, bed times and other important decisions to ensure a smooth transition and a successful school year.

HOUSING CONTRACT

Every student that lives on campus is responsible for signing a Housing Contract. First-year students who selected their own room online this past April have already completed their Housing Contract. First-year students who are assigned to a room by the Housing Assignments Office may or may not have signed the Housing Contract. Students should log into their iLiveOn account at www.liveon.msu.edu to verify if they have signed the Housing Contract.

The Housing Contract is a legally binding document, so be sure to read it thoroughly. When your student signs the contract, they are agreeing to abide by all the terms of the contract, including the supplemental terms and conditions outlined in the On-Campus Housing Handbook, are available at www.liveon.msu.edu/housinghandbook.

If your student is under the age of 18, their Housing Contract must be co-signed by a parent or legal guardian.

PARENT/ACADEMIC ORIENTATION PROGRAMS

The Parent/Academic Orientation Program (POP/AOP) begins in June. At POP/AOP, you and your student will learn more about what it means to be a Spartan and what to expect during the college journey at MSU. University representatives and current MSU students will be on hand to answer any questions that you may have.

MOVE-IN DAY

Move-in day will be one of the best days of your student's life and, of course, one of the busiest. It is important to be prepared because thousands of other Spartans are also beginning their journeys. Here are the basics of what you need to know:

- **MSU Live On 2015 Guidebook** – The move-in day guide will be available on the Guidebook mobile app before move-in day arrives. Familiarize yourself with the information inside. The app will provide you with details on parking, shuttle services, shopping locations, a move-in checklist, video and social media resources and more. The app is available for download by visiting the App Store (Apple products) or Google Play (Android products) or by visiting www.guidebook.com.

Once the app has been downloaded, search MSU Live On 2015 for access. If you do not have a smartphone, all information contained in the guide will be available on our website, www.liveon.msu.edu.

- **Traffic** – Summer construction projects near campus are scheduled to end before move-in day. However, expect for traffic leading to campus to be heavier than normal. Please plan ahead and give yourself extra time to make up for any possible delays.
- **Dining** – Spartans and their families are invited to the dining halls on their move-in day for a complimentary meal. For more information on hours and locations, visit www.eatatstate.com.



RESIDENCE EDUCATION AND HOUSING SERVICES
LIVE-IN RESIDENCE HALL STAFF

Community Directors

Full-time, live-in staff member who is responsible for overseeing daily operations in a residence hall or apartment community. They create a community that fosters academic excellence and personal growth for residents.

17

Assistant Community Directors

Part-time, graduate level, live-in staff member who is responsible for developing an environment where students can excel academically and personally. They supervise the resident assistant team and advise in-hall student organizations.

45

Resident Assistants

Live-in, student staff member who supports the academic community in the residence hall. They are responsible for developing and executing programming that allows for multicultural learning, character-building, community and personal well-being.

334

Intercultural Aides

Live-in staff member who helps students make successful cultural, social and academic transitions to MSU. As a part of the Office of Cultural and Academic Transitions, they work closely with the resident assistant team to plan engaging activities that bring together students from all different backgrounds.

76

MEET THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANT DIRECTORS OF RESIDENCE EDUCATION

While living on campus at MSU, your student will have day-to-day interactions with resident assistants and possibly assistant community directors and community directors. There's also work behind the scenes to make sure the residence education responsibilities are performed effectively and exceptionally. That behind the scenes work is carried out by the neighborhood assistant directors of Residence Education.

There is an assistant director of Residence Education assigned to each neighborhood on campus: Brody, East, North, River Trail and South. AD's oversee the operations of their community – supervising the team members that engage with students in the residence halls each day. The ADs work closely with a variety of campus partners, including neighborhood engagement center teams, the counseling center and more to create unique and inclusive spaces on campus. All of their work is to ensure that your student has a positive and rewarding Spartan experience while living on campus.



Pictured left to right: Kyle Carter – Brody Neighborhood, Antonio Pee – East Neighborhood, Charlie Thompson-Orsua – North Neighborhood, Joshua Gillespie II – South Neighborhood, Eduardo Olivo – River Trail Neighborhood

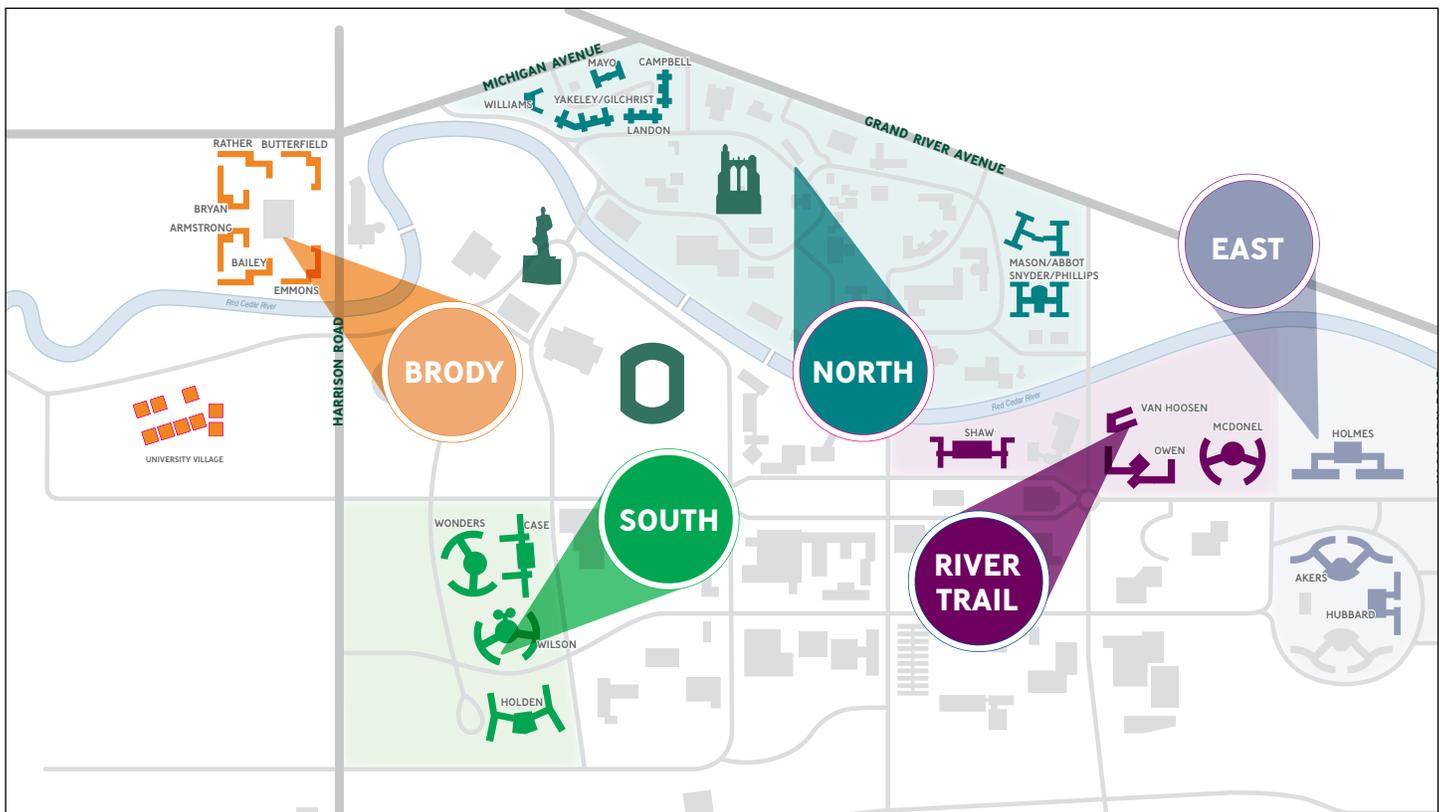
IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Housing Assignments Office
877-954-8366
liveon@msu.edu
www.liveon.msu.edu

Culinary Services
517-884-0660
info@eatatstate.com
www.eatatstate.com

Follow **@MSULiveOn** and **@EatAtState** on social media for news, events, and all things housing and dining at MSU.

MSU NEIGHBORHOODS



Housing Assignments Office
Wilson Hall
219 Wilson Rd. Rm C101
East Lansing, MI 48825-1208

Residence Education and Housing Services is part of the
Division of Residential and Hospitality Services at Michigan State University.

Live On Family News is a quarterly newsletter published throughout the academic year to
keep Spartan families connected to what is happening in Residence Education and
Housing Services at MSU. You can read past issues at www.liveon.msu.edu.

VISIT US ONLINE: WWW.LIVEON.MSU.EDU



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MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Residence Education
and Housing Services
Residential and Hospitality Services

Equal Opportunity Housing