

REALTALK COLLEGE – A GUIDE TO PREPARING FOR COLLEGE

By the Freshman, For the Freshman

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Everything You REALLY Need For College

*Disclaimer- Less really IS more when it comes to a 5'x10' room. You don't know EXACTLY what your room will look like until you show up, and it's much easier to pick something up after moving in than sending it home to your parents. Plus, it saves you money! Remember to bring your own clothes and toiletries, as this is just a list of the bare necessities.

NEED (AKA YOU WILL DIE WITHOUT THIS)

- Fan
 - Most college dorms ONLY have heating components, meaning that the only way to cool off your room is to open your windows and just hope for the best in terms of lowering the temperature. Plus, a desktop fan helps circulate the air to eliminate that stuffy college dorm room feel and smell.
- Fridge (bring an extension cord for this)
- GOOD headphones
 - Earbuds are great for a quick study session at the library, but when you want to use something for an extended amount of time, even something as cheap as a \$30 pair of padded headphones will really pay off. Bluetooth capable headphones are only all the better, as you don't have to worry about pesky wires taking up precious desk space.
- HANGERS!
 - Let's be honest, you need to hang a lot. With the loss of any wardrobe that you had at home, places for folded clothes suddenly become a lot smaller, and don't forget to account for the additional clothes that you will accumulate over the school year!
- Mattress Pad
 - If you're splurging on something, SPLURGE ON BEDDING. Think about how important sleep is in such a stressful schedule you NEED to be comfortable.
- Comfortable chair
 - This, along with your bedding, is the best splurge opportunity available. You spend almost a ridiculous amount of time studying at your desk, and almost universally, college provided desk chairs are uncomfortable. Investing in a comfortable one, let alone one that rolls, is one of the best things you can funnel your money into. Your local IKEA can even sell several good ones for less than \$2 or \$3. **Be aware, you cannot remove the provided desk chair from your room. So rather, consider bringing cushions or padding of some sort.**
- ALL THE UTENSILS, the ones from UW are compostable and break when you look at them
- Command Hooks
 - Seriously, these things are probably the most valuable thing you can stock your dorm room with. They can be used for anything from a towel hanger, to a key rack, to holding wet jackets, purses, jewelry, bags, etc. They're reusable too, so there won't be that annoying little graveyard of used adhesives that you would get with tacky or towel racks that you'll never use again. Plus, in a college dorm, vertical space is probably the most

valuable, untapped resource available. Anything not on the floor or jammed into your closet is wonderful.

- COLLAPSIBLE laundry bag
 - So many kids bring these thick chunky baskets and never have any place to put them. Maximize what little space you have, people!
- Shower Shoes (North Campus)
- Room scent
 - ie, wall plug in, Febreze, infuser, even a CAR freshener. Trust us, the scent of 'Dorm Chic' wears out its welcome pretty fast.
- Laundry Detergent
- Clothes
 - Try to only bring one season, plus maybe one or two items for if there's a sudden change of weather. **YOU NEED A RAINCOAT IN ALL SEASONS**
- Comfortable set of sheets
- Good Comforter/Duvet
- Toiletries & Bath Towel
- Power Strips/Extension Cords
 - Bring AT LEAST one of each.
- Good Laptop
 - Seriously, splurge on this. Get a new one for college, it's so worth it, and easily the item you use the absolute most, be it for homework, essays, entertainment, etc.

HEAVILY RECOMMENDED

This isn't a life-or-death sort of purchase, but they're REALLY nice to have around.

- Lightweight Single Desk Light (This is a must in North campus, there is super bad lighting)
- Shower Caddy
- A Good Microwave
 - Yes in West Campus there's a microwave on most floors, but it's so inconvenient to walk across the floor to heat your hot pocket. Treat yo' self and indulge in being lazy by getting yourself a 700-Watt or less microwave.
- Dorm personalization
 - ie posters, pictures, stickers, wall decals, etc. It's not fun looking at those strangely off white walls and their years of dents and visible use without something covering them...
- Wall adhesive that WON'T destroy your item when you remove it from the wall.
 - We've found that Scotch Tape works relatively well, and GOOD tacky, but make sure to do a few test runs so as not to ruin your photos and posters when you try to take it down.
- Full length mirror

- Get one that's like \$5-\$10
- Sponge/Dish Soap
- Printer
 - It's incredibly nice to be able to print your paper from your room the morning before it's due instead of having to rush to the library and hope you have enough money in your printing account.
- Dorm Shoes
 - A pair of flip flops to walk around in to avoid your dirty floor works just fine.
- Water Purifier
 - Dorm tap water is nasty, and buying your own water is pricey and inconvenient.
- GOOD Water Bottle
 - Take it to class, keep it in the dorm, whatever you'd like. Having a nice one that you wash every few days is much better than trying to reuse Arrowheads.
- Portable External Battery
 - Whether it be a long school day, or hanging out with your friends after class, or a day trip, it's easy to run your phone out of battery before the end of the day. Keep your phone active with a relatively cheap and affordable external battery that you can charge overnight.
- Pepper Spray
 - Campus after dark can not only be scary, but dangerous. Ideally, you should try to walk with a group or a friend to avoid really needing this, but it definitely doesn't hurt to have. A small keychain sized version is the most convenient to take with you everywhere.
- A Rug
 - If you have tile flooring, a rug breaks up the room and provides a reprieve from cold tiles on bare feet in the morning. (West Campus dorms are carpeted but not the bathrooms so get a bathroom rug)

IT'D BE NICE

Everything else that was **ACTUALLY** helpful/not a waste of space

- Close up mirror
- Speaker System
- Can/Bottle Opener
- Chip Clips
- Two different sizes of GOOD tupperware. Don't get a ton, you really won't use it that often.
- Set of one bowl, one plate, and two mugs/cups.
 - NOTE: We recommend glass if you only have one set, as it is microwave safe.)
- An umbrella.
- Second monitor/small TV
- Frisbee

- So that you can be like everyone else and play frisbee in the Quad when it's nice out
- Towel Rack/Over the Door hanger
 - Good for towels, wet jackets, umbrellas- basically anything you want to confine to the front door space.
- Visible Flip Calendar
 - Being able to see the month as a whole is incredibly useful. Planners only offer a week's worth of planning visible at once, and it's nice to be able to glance at a calendar on the way out of the room to be able to mentally organize your month. From recording midterms to finals to events, it's a nice thing to have.
- Shoe Rack
 - If you have the space, that is.
- Bath Robe
 - It's nice not to have to get dressed in the bathroom after a shower, or to have to walk down the hall back to your room in just a towel. (Applicable to North Campus)
- Water Boiler
 - Good for hot drinks, ramen, and oatmeal. Saves you time, but most dorms should have a provided microwave somewhere so it's not totally necessary.
- Lint Roller
- Playing Cards
 - For any situation in which you need to pass a little time not on your iPhone.
- Basic Universal Pan
 - This is good for making pasta and a variety of other things should you want to cook something yourself, while minimizing space taken up by kitchenware. Plus, making your own food is cheaper than buying it!

UNNECESSARY

- Extra Office Supplies
 - The absolute easiest thing to buy on a college campus is office supplies. Bring what's needed to start with, and nothing more. They take up unnecessary space.
- Sugary Snacks for Studying
 - It's hard enough to be healthy on campus, what with few dining options other than straight salad or greasy pizza and little in-between, but adding candy bars and chips on top of it only makes it worse. Limiting yourself to fresh fruit and water as your snacks is the easiest way to stay healthy without having to put in tons of effort. That's what you should have a fridge for.

THE SHOWDOWN

****We personally recommend living on campus in any dorm for at least one year, as it is such a period to grow as an individual and the valuable skills of learning to live with other people who you aren't related to is seriously imperative. It may not seem like some life changing skill that you will need forever, but trust us when we say that we've become much better and more understanding) people from having to deal with others in such close proximity. It is a good experience that we recommend everyone having at least once.****

North Campus

Haggett Hall || Hansee Hall || McMahon Hall || 2104 House

'The Typical College Dorm Experience'

If you choose North Campus Housing, you can expect a much cheaper cost of living. Sure, the dorms may be a little run-down and apocalyptic, but I mean they're livable. We get less funding for activities than West Campus, but our dorms are much closer to general undergraduate classes than West Campus. U-Village is quite literally at our back door, as well as the IMA (the fancy gym). Depending on your dorm, you can see glimpses of the prettiest, oldest campus buildings, and the general location of our dorms is much more in tune with the forested campus that UW is so known for. If you're looking for the 'classic college experience' for your first year, consider choosing North Campus over West Campus. North Campus focuses less on making dorms comfortable so much as making them livable, so we lack the fancy West Campus cushions and carpeting, but if you can live in North Campus for a year, everything else will be so much better from here on out. You can only go up from here. Plus, it's a nice way to save a LOT of money. It is completely possible to make your dorm comfortable, it just takes a little elbow grease.

Haggett Hall

‘Because Square Rooms are Too Mainstream’

The Stats ~818 residents spread over 8 floors and a north and south tower.

Room Types – Doubles, Singles, Three-Person Suites

Amenities – Lounge has a grand piano, game equipment (like foosball), and a fireplace. Main floor provides large outdoor patio access. Darkroom facilities also provided.

Wifi – None. You must bring your own router, or plug into the Ethernet with a cable you bring from home.

Learning Communities – Global Experience (North 8th Floor)

Rick’s Café – A small ice cream parlor open to campus on the main floor provides for a nice nighttime snack. Cash only, \$1 ‘single scoop’ gets you a typical double for other establishments.

‘The Party Dorm’ – Because every two floors share one lounge, it’s easy to socialize and hang out with others here. This makes it relatively loud during the day.

Strict Quiet Hours – This ensures that, despite the daytime rowdiness, sleeping is uninterrupted.

Hexagonal Rooms – The unusual room shape takes some getting used to, but these are the most open spaces of all of the North Campus dorms, and they provide the most floor space.

Walk-in Closets – A lot of dorms claim to have ‘walk-in closets’ that are basically just wardrobes that can fit a person inside of them, but the Haggett closets are actual ROOMS attached to the main space with their own doors.

Furniture is Bolted Down – Desks, beds, closets, bookshelves are all locked into place and you cannot move them.

Awful Lighting – Haggett easily has the worst lighting of any dorm on campus. The one light provided for the whole room does not reach every corner. If you want to see at all after the sun goes down, bring string lights to light up the room, or lamps.

Bathrooms – Every floor has one male and one female bathroom of three stalls and three showers, along with six sinks each. You may have to walk to the other end of your floor to use your respective gender. Both bathrooms are locked, so make sure you bring your key when duty calls.

Windows – Two small windows per room that opens.

Kitchens – Sink and microwave per floor (called a “kitchenette”). Functional stove and oven only on 5th floors of both towers. The dorm also has one set of kitchens below the main floor.

Study Rooms – Four per floor, each rather spacious though with no windows.

Laundry – Each tower has a laundry room of about eight-ish washers and dryers.

Mail – Mail comes directly to the front desk, letting Haggett residents pick up at the Haggett Desk.

Hanseer Hall

'The Silent Orphanage'

The Stats ~332 residents spread over 4 floors.

Room Types – Singles, Triples, Quadruples

Amenities – Lounge has a grand piano, fireplace, and large-screen TV

'The Silent Orphanage' – Hansee has earned this title due to the fact that the dorm is a 24-Hour Quiet Hall mostly used by Graduate Students and overflow rushees that did not get into the Greek System.

Wifi – None. You must bring your own router, or plug into the Ethernet with a cable you bring from home.

Learning Communities – None.

Strict Quiet Hours – The dorm is a 24-Hour Quiet Hall. There is no such thing as non-quiet hours there.

Normal Rooms – We don't know too much about the specifics of a Hansee room, but they're pretty standard in terms of shape and size.

Furniture is Bolted Down – Desks, beds, closets, bookshelves are all locked into place and you cannot move them.

Bathrooms – No one cares.

Windows – No one wants to live here anyway.

Kitchens – If you get this dorm, just leave.

Study Rooms – I really don't know.

Laundry - Everyone is too sad living there to do laundry anyway.

Mail – Actually no idea where the mail goes. Probably comes straight to Hansee?

McMahon Hall

'The Ideal (Though Antisocial) Zombie Apocalypse Hideout'

The Stats ~1048 residents spread over 11 floors.

Room Types – Doubles, Singles, Four-Person Suites

Amenities – Lounge has a music practice room with a piano, a fitness room, access to underground basketball courts, a large-screen TV, 'The Glass Room' AKA a room separated from the lounge by glass for studying), pool tables, and some lovely aquariums filled with the most apathetic fish known to mankind. Darkroom also provided.

The 8 – The hub of North Campus dining, The 8 is a collection of restaurants at which the whole of North Campus comes to have dinner and any other meals they wish to eat there).

Includes:

Pagliacci Pizza (***)– The most average pizza imaginable. One slice is approximately enough to sustain you for three hours, but two slices makes you too full to function for about

one. They also offer pesto pasta with or without chicken along with Caesar salads. Calzones made to order.

Broiler Zone (***) – Burgers, Fries, Tots, Chicken Strips, Fish Strips.

Abundo L Daily specials.

Wild Greens (****) – Salad Bar, Sandwich Bar, Soup Bar.

Joe Haus (***) - Basically a Starbucks with their own pastries. ALSO YOU CAN BUY WAFFLE MIX TO MAKE AT THE WAFFLE MAKERS TWO FEET AWAY AND THEY'RE AWESOME.

Pasta Bar (**) – Pasta specials or make your own pasta.

The Nook (***)** – The best midnight snack run location EVER. A small convenience store providing cold medicine, toothpaste, general toiletries, yogurt, snacks, juice, soda, candy, chips, granola, pasta, midnight meals, ice cream, etc.

'The Ideal (Though Antisocial) Zombie Apocalypse Hideout' – It is so named due to the massive amount of food available and the fact that you can stay inside of the dorm for days on end without leaving. I mean, classes are an exception, but still. The unique 'cluster layout' leaves the only real socialization to be among your seven cluster-mates, which, if they aren't social, can be really isolating.

Clusters – Webster's defines a cluster as okay no, this isn't a best man's speech, enough of that. McMahon is broken into two towers, North and South, of 11 floors each. In each respective tower's floor, there are about six clusters of seven to ten (though most typically have eight – four sets of doubles) people. Every cluster shares a bathroom and a common space that leads out to a balcony. Because each cluster has their own lounge, there is therefore no lounge provided for the whole floor.

Wifi – None. You must bring your own router, or plug into the Ethernet with a cable you bring from home.

Learning Communities – Business (North 2nd & 3rd Floors)

Loose Quiet Hours – Quiet Hours are not strictly enforced, as there are at least two layers of wood between you and the hallway at most times in your cluster. Because of this, it's pretty hard for sound to carry into the hallway, so you definitely have to be shouting for an RA to hear you from the hallway. Don't be too loud though, as sound carrying around the inside of the cluster is a different story. Depending on who your cluster-mates are, this might or might not be an issue.

Rooms – Two different types of rooms are available for doubles in McMahon, which are the most common rooms here, and it's hard to tell which layout you get until you show up. Firstly, the most rare room, coming in at only ~1% of the rooms have BUNK BEDS. BEWARE! The authors of this survival guide live in this type of room, and you only ever have about an arm span of space around you at one time. Smaller than any other kind of room, we get the biggest windows, but... the room is undeniably sad. Our first words upon entering were something along the lines of, "...This didn't look like the picture..." This is what spawned the inspiration for this guide, as we were so uninformed for what was to come.

The second type of room, measuring in at about 99% of the rooms, doesn't have bunk beds, and is close to the preview shown in all of the pretty pictures. Their room leaves enough space to breathe, and has much more floor space. They have two small windows.

Furniture is Bolted Down – Desks, beds, closets, bookshelves are all locked into place and you cannot move them.

North Campus Residential Life Office – Their headquarters are located in McMahon, meaning you can rent out board games to play with here.

Bathrooms – Shared among the cluster, they each have one shower, and MOST have just one bathroom stall and a urinal, regardless of the gender of the cluster. Soap is not provided, so bring your own, and neither are paper towels, so bring your own hand towel. Two sinks per every bathroom, and a row of 1 cubbies can hold your shower supplies or bathroom supplies as you would like.

Windows – Differ as listed above.

Kitchens – Absolutely no kitchens, but there are two microwaves per each tower.

Study Rooms – ABSOLUTELY TERRIFYING. People have gotten locked in the 4'x4' rooms for hours without anyone noticing, and they have no windows. Use at own risk.

Laundry – One room per each tower of about eight washers and eight dryers.

Mail – Mail comes directly to the front desk, letting McMahon residents pick up at the McMahon Desk.

2104 House

‘We Think It’s For Upperclassmen?’

The Stats ~31 residents spread over 4 floors.

Room Types – Doubles, Singles

Amenities – Large fully-equipped kitchen, living room with fireplace, Cable TV

Wifi – Only in common areas. Rooms have no access to wifi, so you must bring your own router, or plug into the Ethernet with a cable you bring from home.

Learning Communities – None

Quiet Hours – We’re assuming they’re strict since this is for grad students...?

Furniture is bolted down – Closets, bookshelves, etc are all locked into place and you cannot move them. we assume)

Bathrooms – We have zero idea what the bathroom situation is there because there’s a scarce chance you’ll live there.

Windows – ??? I think they’re small???

Kitchens – Supposedly there’s one that fully equipped.

Study Rooms – Existence is questionable.

Laundry – The website vaguely mentions there being some sort of facility in existence.

Mail – ???

West Campus

Alder Hall || Elm Hall || Lander Hall || Maple Hall || Terry Hall
 Poplar Hall || Mercer Court || Stevens Court

'Urban Hotels'

Quite literally, West Campus is like a hotel. En-Suite bathrooms are provided, BUT there are inspections quarterly that you must pass. (So basically, you have to clean your own bathroom, but it's not that bad, like really come-on).

North Campus students get their bathrooms cleaned for them, but have to deal with campus 2-ply toilet paper. Seriously, the stuff is like tissue paper.

IT'S SO WRONG.

But we digress.

West Campus is really nice to live in, no debating that, but it's social in different ways. Activities are much more plentiful because of the increased campus funding. West Campus is more uptight than North Campus, where a general, 'meh' attitude seems to prevail. Plus, to get to campus from West Campus dorms, you have to cross a series of traffic lights and crosswalks and general waiting around to be able to cross a street (or you know, you can jaywalk... everyone does it), so you have to build additional time in to get to classes on time. Much closer to 'The Ave', providing off-campus dining and general non-campus-associated establishments.

Everything in West Campus is in generally good condition.

ALSO FUN FACT THEIR CHAIRS ROLL AND THEY'RE ACTUALLY SOMEWHAT ACCEPTABLE IN TERMS OF COMFORT. (The North Campus ones are absolutely horrific.)

Alder Hall

‘Literally All of West Campus is Exactly the Same So Coming Up With Names Is Really Hard (AKA Home to the DM)’

The Stats ~589 residents spread over “6” floors. This is a little weird though, because floor 1 is Alder Commons (Hall Health, an auditorium, meeting/study rooms), and no one lives there, so the main entrance is on floor 2, and residents live on floors 2-7. This is pretty much the same for most of the West Campus dorms.

Room Types – Doubles, Triples, Studios

Amenities – TV Lounge, Alder Commons, Hall Health Center West, Music Practice Rooms
District Market AKA ‘The DM’ (***)** – The West Campus grocery hub, beware that this place is reaaaaaally pricey, but can house all of your cereal, cookingware, medicine, dairy, and general supermarket needs. It also has a coffee place inside called ‘The Husky Grind’ with pastries.

Wifi – Wifi is provided for the Chosen Ones who are wealthy enough to live on West Campus. Log-In is your UW NetID.

Learning Communities – Arts (Floor 5)

Average Quiet Hours – Quiet Hours are not too strictly enforced, but this depends entirely on your RA.

Spacious Rooms – The rooms are pretty spacious and the floors are carpeted (besides the bathroom). Although the rooms are spacious, if you’re in a triple you will HAVE to loft all of your beds. For those in a double, there’s a lot of open space in the original setup but try moving around the furniture to get rid of the empty space. Get creative! That empty space isn’t doing you anything.

Furniture is Moveable – Desks and beds can be moved and lofted as per the residents’ desires, though closets are locked into place and you cannot move them.

Alder Commons – An auditorium that puts on movie screenings, meeting rooms for group study (but also reserved for actual meetings), couches that look more comfortable than they actually are - open to the public. On the first floor of Alder which can be accessed from the back side. The main entrance to the residential area is on the second floor, and is accessible from the main street with all of the dorms.

Bathrooms – Every room has their own bathroom, but you have to clean it yourself before the quarterly bathroom inspections roll around! One shower, one sink, and one toilet.

Windows – Two skinny windows that open, and one large non-opening window that, depending on your room location, can offer a pretty cool view of Lake Union and sometimes the Space Needle. From some, you can also see Mt. Rainier.

Kitchens – The dorm has a fully-equipped kitchen on the second floor, and two microwaves per floor in the massive and super nice lounges.

Study Rooms – Two large ‘group’ study rooms, which are super nice and have whiteboards, and one ‘individual’ study room which is still spacious and has a whiteboard and a window.

Laundry – There's only one laundry room, but it has a ton of units for washing and drying.

Mail – Mail comes to LANDER FRONT DESK for all of West Campus, letting Alder residents pick up at the Lander Desk, which is also where you need to go for any kind of front-desk needs for all of West Campus. Lockouts, complaints, you name it.

Elm Hall

'See Naming Is Really Hard (AKA Home of the West Campus Gym AKA The One With A Big Elm Tree In Front Of It)'

The Stats ~533 residents spread over 6 floors.

Room Types – Doubles, Triples, Studios

Amenities – 'Energy Efficient' (whatever that means because apparently the other dorms aren't?), Music Practice Rooms, Bike Storage Room, Cultivate, Fitness Center West

Cultivate (**)** – A pricier restaurant that gives a reprieve from regular dorm food. It's a real restaurant in the bottom of Elm Hall, but it still takes HFS Dining Account money. In our opinion, it's preeeeeetty darn good, but some people vehemently hate it for no real reason. The place to take your parents when they visit campus, and you want to show how grown up you are but don't want to actually pay "real" money.

Wifi – Wifi is provided for the Chosen Ones who are wealthy enough to live on West Campus. Log-In is your UW NetID.

Learning Communities – None

Average Quiet Hours – Quiet Hours are not too strictly enforced, but this depends entirely on your RA.

Spacious Rooms – The rooms are pretty spacious and the floors are carpeted (besides the bathroom). Although the rooms are spacious, if you're in a triple you will HAVE to loft all of your beds. For those in a double, there's a lot of open space in the original setup but try moving around the furniture to get rid of the empty space. Get creative! That empty space isn't doing you anything.

Furniture is Moveable – Desks and beds can be moved and lofted as per the residents' desires, though closets are locked into place and you cannot move them.

Fitness Center West – While this is less fancy than the IMA, it's still a pretty good gym facility. Note, however, that despite the relatively good amount of ellipticals and treadmills and weights that they offer, it's still pretty crowded, and plenty of West Campus kids still prefer the IMA.

Bathrooms – Every room has their own bathroom, but you have to clean it yourself before the quarterly bathroom inspections roll around! One shower, one sink, and one toilet.

Windows – Two skinny windows that open, and one large non-opening window.

Kitchens – The dorm has a fully-equipped kitchen on the second floor, and two microwaves per floor in the massive and super nice lounges.

Study Rooms – Two large ‘group’ study rooms, which are super nice and have whiteboards, and one ‘individual’ study room which is still spacious and has a whiteboard and a window.

Laundry – There’s only one laundry room, but it has a ton of units for washing and drying.

Mail – Mail comes to LANDER FRONT DESK for all of West Campus, letting Elm residents pick up at the Lander Desk, which is also where you need to go for any kind of front-desk needs for all of West Campus. Lockouts, complaints, you name it.

Lander Hall

‘This Is the Only One That Looks Even A Little Different From the Other Ones (AKA Home of West Campus Dining)’

The Stats ~650 residents spread over 6 floors.

Room Types – Doubles, Singles, Triples, Shared Singles, Studios

Amenities – Lander Desk, Local Point

Local Point – The hub of West Campus dining, Local Point is a collection of restaurants at which the whole of West Campus (or anyone on campus really) comes to have dinner and any other meals they wish to eat there. It’s basically just like The 8, but it’s... well, better...

Includes:

Pagliacci Pizza (***)– The most average pizza imaginable. One slice is approximately enough to sustain you for three hours, but two slices makes you too full to function for about one. They also offer pesto pasta with or without chicken along with Caesar salads. Calzones made to order.

The Grill (****) – Burgers, Fries (both Curly and Not), Chicken Tenders, etc.

Big Kitchen (***) – Lunch is some type of salad. Dinner changes daily. Pricey for not that big of a portion.

Custom Kitchen (****) - Pasta for lunch. Tends to serve Asian food for dinner, same dish for the whole week, then changes. A big portion for a regular price.

The Place Between Pagliacci’s and The Grill (forgot what it’s called) (***) - Weekly specials.

“World” cuisine? Same menu for lunch and dinner.

Sandwiches (****) – Sandwiches made to order. Also where the soups are located.

Custom Salad Bar (***) – You buy a plastic container and then fill it up with any salad ingredients you want (kinda like buffet style, but it’s not unlimited so don’t try.)

Wifi – Wifi is provided for the Chosen Ones who are wealthy enough to live on West Campus. log-in is your UW NetID.

Learning Communities – Boundless Leadership and Creativity (Floor 4), Food Exploration (Floor 5)

Average Quiet Hours – Quiet Hours are not too strictly enforced, but this depends entirely on your RA.

Spacious Rooms – The rooms are pretty spacious and the floors are carpeted (besides the bathroom). Although the rooms are spacious, if you’re in a triple you will HAVE to loft all of your

beds. For those in a double, there's a lot of open space in the original setup but try moving around the furniture to get rid of the empty space. Get creative! That empty space isn't doing you anything.

Furniture is Moveable – Desks and beds can be moved and lofted as per the residents' desires, though closets are locked into place and you cannot move them.

Bathrooms – Every room has their own bathroom, but you have to clean it yourself before the quarterly bathroom inspections roll around! One shower, one sink, and one toilet.

Windows – Two skinny windows that open, and one large non-opening window that, depending on your room location, can offer a pretty cool view of Lake Union and sometimes the Space Needle. From some, you can also see Mt. Rainier.

Kitchens – Two full kitchens on each floor.

Study Rooms – Two large 'group' study rooms, which are super nice and have whiteboards.

Laundry – There's only one laundry room, but it has a ton of units for washing and drying.

Mail – Mail comes to LANDER FRONT DESK for all of West Campus, letting Lander residents pick up at the Lander Desk, which is also where you need to go for any kind of front-desk needs for all of West Campus. Lockouts, complaints, you name it.

Maple Hall

'Where Prospective Engineering Students' Dreams Die'

The Stats ~734 residents spread over 8 floors.

Room Types – Doubles, Triples, Shared Singles, Singles

Amenities – Music Practice Rooms, Area 01

Area 01 - A creative commons for all students to use, with study rooms, gaming pods, pool and ping pong tables, and the Makerspace (3D Printing, Laser cutting, sewing, etc.). Hella sweet place to chill with friends and the courtyard illuminates with a soft blue light at night.

Maple Great Room - A big room in Area 01 that usually holds events. If you hook your laptop to the system you can watch your favorite TV shows and movies on a giant screen. Also usually you can find people studying here.

Wifi – Wifi is provided for the Chosen Ones who are wealthy enough to live on West Campus. Log-in is your UW NetID.

Learning Communities – Pre-Health (Floors 3-4), Engineering (Floors 5-8). Because of all of the engineering kids in this dorm, the freshman optimism in this dorm is strong in the beginning of the year ("I can get into CS!"). But as the year goes on and people's GPA's tank, the optimism dies away. The rat race for good grades is soul draining and time consuming, like who needs a social life and a healthy state of mind? If you don't mind having those, join the hunger games.

Average Quiet Hours – Quiet Hours are not too strictly enforced, but this depends entirely on your RA.

Spacious Rooms – The rooms are pretty spacious and the floors are carpeted (besides the bathroom). Although the rooms are spacious, if you're in a triple you will HAVE to loft all of your beds. For those in a double, there's a lot of open space in the original setup but try moving around the furniture to get rid of the empty space. Get creative! That empty space isn't doing you anything.

Furniture is Moveable – Desks and beds can be moved and lofted as per the residents' desires, though closets are locked into place and you cannot move them.

Bathrooms – Every room has their own bathroom, but you have to clean it yourself before the quarterly bathroom inspections roll around! One shower, one sink, and one toilet.

Windows – One skinny window that opens, and one large non-opening window that, depending on your room location, can offer a pretty cool view of Lake Union and sometimes the Space Needle. From some, you can also see Mt. Rainier.

Kitchens – Kitchens in the first floor of the dorm that are accessible to everyone who lives there. Two kitchens per floor in each of the lounges.

Study Rooms – Three small study rooms are located on each floor

Laundry – There's only one laundry room, but it has a ton of units for washing and drying.

Mail – Mail comes to LANDER FRONT DESK for all of West Campus,, which is also where you need to go for any kind of front-desk needs for all of West Campus. Lockouts, complaints, you name it.

Terry Hall

‘We Put the Honors Kids in Their Own Smug Corner of Campus’

The Stats ~308 residents spread over 8 floors.

Room Types – Doubles, Triples, Studios

Amenities – Music Practice Rooms

Wifi – Wifi is provided for the Chosen Ones who are wealthy enough to live on West Campus. log-in is your UW NetID.

Learning Communities – Honors (Floor 3-5)

Average Quiet Hours – Quiet Hours are not too strictly enforced, but this depends entirely on your RA.

Spacious Rooms – The rooms are pretty spacious and the floors are carpeted (besides the bathroom). Although the rooms are spacious, if you're in a triple you will HAVE to loft all of your beds. For those in a double, there's a lot of open space in the original setup but try moving around the furniture to get rid of the empty space. Get creative! That empty space isn't doing you anything.

Furniture is Moveable – Desks and beds can be moved and lofted as per the residents' desires, though closets are locked into place and you cannot move them.

Bathrooms – Every room has their own bathroom, but you have to clean it yourself before the quarterly bathroom inspections roll around! One shower, one sink, and one toilet.

Windows – One skinny window that opens, and one large non-opening window that, depending on your room location, can offer a pretty cool view of Lake Union and sometimes the Space Needle. From some, you can also see Mt. Rainier.

Kitchens – Kitchens in the first floor of the dorm that are accessible to everyone who lives there. One kitchen per floor in each of the lounges.

Study Rooms – One large 'group' study room, which are super nice and have whiteboards.

Laundry – There's only one laundry room, but it has a ton of units for washing and drying.

Mail – Mail comes to LANDER FRONT DESK for all of West Campus, which is also where you need to go for any kind of front-desk needs for all of West Campus. Lockouts, complaints, you name it.

Poplar Hall

'Poplar Dungeons'

The Stats ~271 residents spread over 7 floors.

Room Types – Doubles, Triples, Studios

Amenities – 'Energy Efficient', Thermostat in Each Room, Music Practice Rooms, Learning Resource Center

Wifi – Wifi is provided for the Chosen Ones who are wealthy enough to live on West Campus. log-in is your UW NetID.

Learning Communities – None

Average Quiet Hours – Quiet Hours are not too strictly enforced, but this depends entirely on your RA.

Spacious Rooms – The rooms are pretty spacious and the floors are carpeted (besides the bathroom). Although the rooms are spacious, if you're in a triple you will HAVE to loft all of your beds. For those in a double, there's a lot of open space in the original setup but try moving around the furniture to get rid of the empty space. Get creative! That empty space isn't doing you anything.

Furniture is Moveable – Desks and beds can be moved and lofted as per the residents' desires, though closets are locked into place and you cannot move them.

Bathrooms – Every room has their own bathroom, but you have to clean it yourself before the quarterly bathroom inspections roll around! One shower, one sink, and one toilet.

Windows – Two skinny windows that open, and one large non-opening window.

Kitchens – Kitchens in the first floor of the dorm that are accessible to everyone who lives there.

Study Rooms – Two large ‘group’ study rooms per floor, which are super nice and have whiteboards.

Laundry – There’s only one laundry room, but it has a ton of units for washing and drying.

Mail – Mail comes to LANDER FRONT DESK for all of West Campus, letting Poplar residents pick up at the Lander Desk, which is also where you need to go for any kind of front-desk needs for all of West Campus. Lockouts, complaints, you name it.

Mercer Court

‘Say Goodbye To Your Wallet’

The Stats ~Double spaces in Buildings A & B: 816; Single spaces in buildings A, B & C: 203

Room Types – Buildings A & B: Doubles and Double-occupancy Studios; Building C: Singles and Single-occupancy Studios

Amenities – These are apartment style housing, so you get furnished living rooms, lounges, indoor bike storage, underground garage, music practice rooms.

Wifi – Wifi is provided for the Chosen Ones who are wealthy enough to live on West Campus. log-in is your UW NetID.

Learning Communities – None

Average Quiet Hours – Quiet Hours are not too strictly enforced, but this depends entirely on your RA.

Spacious Rooms – Actually not really. The Mercer rooms are smaller than other West Campus rooms, because your living room is supposed to make up for the space.

Furniture is Moveable – Beds are bunked and cannot be de-bunked. Desks are movable but I’m not sure how much space there is to move them. The closets are literally in the wall (they’re not wardrobes as in the other WC rooms).

‘Say Goodbye to Your Wallet’ – So basically, if you get put into Mercer by HFS, there’s little to no chance that you’ll be getting out. There is hardly anyone who wants to switch INTO Mercer, because IT IS MASSIVELY INSANELY EXPENSIVE!! So often, if you’re put into Mercer, even if you don’t ask for it, there’s no switching out, so it’s sort of like Mercer or nothing in terms of on campus housing. For those people, I really do feel sorry for you. Being forced to pay that much money just to be on campus seriously sucks. Plus, despite having a kitchen in your apartment, you *still* have to pay for a dining account. But at least you get easily the nicest living situation on campus (?)!

Bathrooms – Two bathrooms per apartment of eight people. One shower, one sink, and one toilet in each bathroom. Cleaning Staff comes once a week to clean bathroom and kitchen - this means no quarterly bathroom inspections!

Windows – Two skinny windows that open, and one large non-opening window that, depending on your room location, can offer a pretty cool view of Lake Union and sometimes the Space Needle. From some, you can also see Mt. Rainier.

Kitchens – Fully equipped kitchens in each apartment with a sink, stove, oven, microwave, dishwasher, fridge/freezer, counter space/island counter, and cabinets. Cleaning Staff comes once a week to clean bathroom and kitchen.

Study Rooms – Two large ‘group’ study rooms per floor, which are super nice and have whiteboards.

Laundry – There’s only one laundry room in Mercer Building A, but it has a ton of units for washing and drying.

Mail – Mail comes to LANDER FRONT DESK, letting Mercer residents pick up at the Lander, which is also where you need to go for any kind of front-desk needs for all of Mercer Court. Lockouts, complaints, you name it.

Stevens Court

‘Winning the Lottery is More Likely than Living Here as Freshman’

The Stats ~300 occupants spread over 3-4 floors.

Room Types – Singles in Shared Apartments

Amenities – These are apartment style housing, so you get 24 hour lounge space, music practice rooms, fully equipped kitchens with both a microwave and a dishwasher, fitness facilities, vacuum and recreational equipment rental services, optional parking

Wifi – We have no idea. No freshman lives here.

Learning Communities – None

Average Quiet Hours – Does Stevens Court even have RAs to enforce this??

Spacious Rooms – No idea

Furniture is Moveable – Who knows.

Bathrooms – Every apartment presumably has their own bathroom?

Windows - Hopefully

Kitchens – They’re apartments, so probably are included in space?

Study Rooms – ???

Laundry – Somewhere

Mail – IDK MAN

Which Dorm is Right For YOU?

North Campus

North Campus is much recommended by the authors of this guide for first year college goers, as it teaches you to cohabitate with others the most effectively.. If these are the most important things about living on campus to you, North Campus is the best fit.

Now North Campus isn't as flashy as West Campus, doesn't have private bathrooms, and may feel like you're living in an post-apocalyptic world, but that doesn't mean it's not bad. It has much more of a traditional college dorm experience than West Campus which is like living in a hotel. West Campus provides a much more comfortable situation, which really doesn't provide you with as many chances to learn the valuable life skills you need to know in regards to living with people you aren't related to. Also North Campus has a more nature/forest feel to it than the busy city grid life of West Campus with buses and sirens heard usually at night. So if you value having the traditional dorm experience without the rush of the city life, North Campus is the best fit.

Haggett Hall – If you value having a social college experience above all else, this is the dorm for you, as it is the most social dorm setup.

Hanse Hall – If you value having no social college experience above all else, this is the dorm for you, because Hansee is a sad little place to live.

McMahon Hall – If you value having a convenient college experience above all else, this is the dorm for you, as it provides the most convenient North Campus bathroom situation, it allows you to know your neighbors the best, and allows constant access to Dining and Convenience Markets, along with the North Campus activities center.

2104 House – Who even knows.

West Campus

West Campus is recommended if you REALLY need to have a comfortable first year, and don't care so much about picking up the important skills of living with new people. There are plenty of activities that still happen on West Campus, and there's no denying that it's nice to have your own bathroom. Like we said, we personally don't find the difference between West and North Campus to be worth the price difference, but if that price difference isn't an issue for you, or if you value having a comfortable living situation more than you do anything else, it really is the perfect place for you.

Alder Hall – If you value having a snack-filled college experience above all else, this is the West Campus dorm for you, as it is the most convenient dorm setup what with the District Market just downstairs. But know that literally every dorm has access to it, and they're all just a

crosswalk or two apart, so really don't get too upset if you don't get the West Campus dorm of your choice.

Elm Hall – If you value having a fit college experience above all else, this is the West Campus dorm for you, as it is the dorm setup with the West Campus fitness center downstairs. But know that literally every dorm has access to it, and they're all just a crosswalk or two apart, so really don't get too upset if you don't get the West Campus dorm of your choice.

Lander Hall – If you value having a convenient college experience above all else, this is the West Campus dorm for you, as it is the dorm setup with the West Campus dining hub just downstairs, along with the front desk that receives all West Campus mail just downstairs, instead of having to walk a few dorms over in the rain just to get a letter from your Mom. But know that literally every dorm has access to it, and they're all just a crosswalk or two apart, so really don't get too upset if you don't get the West Campus dorm of your choice.

Maple Hall - If you value having a cool place to play games and make stuff, this is the West Campus dorm for you. Though you do have to be a pre-health/pre-engineering/engineering major (or with a roommate who is one of those things) to get in since it's all LLC. You'll also see your peers around you slowly go crazy over time as everyone tries to get good grades to get into their major. But hey, at least you can relieve that stress by playing some games downstairs.

Poplar Hall – Nothing is really special about Poplar, sorry folks. It's okay though, since they're all just a crosswalk or two apart, so really don't get too upset if you don't get the West Campus dorm of your choice.

Terry Hall - If you value being smug about how you're an honors kid and sport honors stuff all the time (the authors totally aren't salty about not getting into honors) then Terry is the best fit for you.

Mercer Court – If you value having a richhhhhhhh \$\$\$\$\$ college experience above all else, this is the West Campus dorm for you, as it is the most expensive, so everything is all fancy and super nice. It's its own little community too, so that's nice.

Stevens Court – Who knows. Freshman rarely ever get it.

Thanks for sticking with us for 20 whole pages freshbros...

Byeee