

ACTION ITEM #1

Revise the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 504-24-030 Undergraduate Housing Requirement for the WSU Pullman campus (Elizabeth S. Chilton/Romando Nash)

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

SUBJECT: Revise Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 504-24-030 Undergraduate Housing Requirement for the WSU Pullman campus

PROPOSED: That the Board of Regents adopts revisions to the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 504-24-030 Undergraduate Housing Requirement for the WSU Pullman campus

SUBMITTED BY: Elizabeth S. Chilton, Provost and Executive Vice President

SUPPORTING INFORMATION: The rule change for WAC 504-24-030 is proposed in order to:

- Update and clarify rules around the First Year Living Requirement
- Update language to be more inclusive

In 2023, the First Year Living Requirement was updated and approved by the Board of Regents to require all first-time, first-year students at WSU Pullman to live in on-campus residence halls. The purpose of the undergraduate housing requirement is to support students who have recently graduated high school in their transition to college.

Over the 2023-2024 academic year, it became evident additional clarification to the policy was needed. The language of “first-year” student is defined by the University as a student who has earned 29 or fewer credits. Recent high school graduates often have significant college credits (Running Start credits for example), which allows them to seek an exemption to the requirement. Therefore, Student Affairs proposes updating the language to ensure that students who have recently graduated from high school live in the residence halls and reduce confusion about the requirement. Research/data has demonstrated that a student who lives on campus during their first year post-high school improves the likelihood that they will have a sense of belonging, have better access to academic and social supports, and persist to completion of their degree.

Additionally, we have removed “mother and/or father” and replaced it with “parent” to remove gendered language from official policies and regulations.

A public hearing for this rule change was held March 13, 2024, at 4:00pm; no public input was received.