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# On-campus living still worth it

## Residence hall life has more perks than people may think



THOMAS WEYBRECHT | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

East Carolina University students play basketball near the Gateway Residence Hall on College Hill.

**Daniel Roberts**  
TEC STAFF

Students every year not only at East Carolina University, but at other universities across the country deal with the debate of whether living on campus is still worth it after their freshman year.

Living in a dorm and an apartment yields various list of pros and cons, but students staying on campus after freshman year have found more pros than cons which influenced them to sign that housing contract for the next year.

When students live on campus, one of the first things which comes up as a benefit is the convenience of staying in a dorm, whether on West End, central campus or College Hill and how close they

are to their classes. Some students like the idea of being able to get up late and still get to class on time because they're already so close to their classroom buildings.

"Convenience was what made me want to stay on campus again," sophomore Chris Thao said. "There are scenarios where you might wake up after snoozing your alarm, you're running late for class and then you have to rush. When you're on campus, you can still make it to class because it's like a five minute walk to class."

Along with the location of dorms being more convenient to students, they also get to enjoy a

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# Organization on campus

## Neat, clean rooms give students functional living space

**Blessing Aghimien**  
TEC STAFF

Making the anything-but-smooth transition from your own bedroom to a space shared with a best friend, acquaintance or stranger can take weeks of adjusting — especially when it comes to maximizing your limited space into a functional living area.

One of the things you can utilize is your space where you sleep. By investing in bed risers or even by lofting your bed, you can take advantage of underneath space and even revamp said space for a study area, a mini-lounge or a vanity section.

Kelly Masterson, a freshman political science major, said investing in bed lofting was “the most resourceful decision she’s made” since arriving to ECU’s campus earlier this fall.

“I live in a living learning community in Gateway East and one of the hardest adjustments I had to make when coming to college was getting used to the small amount of living space and sharing that small space with someone else,” Masterson said.

Initially reluctant to loft her bed because of the price, Masterson said she ultimately convinced herself to make the loft investment because she decided to do her own research on the pros and cons of lofting by watching YouTube videos and reading college-tailored blog posts.

“It was initially a little intimidating, especially since this was my first time leaving home and I didn’t want to splurge on anything unnecessary,” Masterson said. “But lofting was a good move on my part. The company (College Products) were so helpful and thanks to them, I have really nothing to complain about.”

ECU’s official loft provider, College Products, offers loft kits to students living on campus at the beginning of each academic year. By going to their official website or by completing an emailed PDF form and mailing it to their



COURTESY OF ECU.EDU

**Maggie Baile and Hannah Martin's dormitory room in the Gateway East Residence Hall is organized with their stuff in all the right spots.**

offices, students or parents of students living on-campus can purchase the materials needed to be

For College Products, the cost for renting a loft kit for a full academic year is \$162.50 while the basic rental for a semester is \$128.13, according to their website. College Products also offers move-in day assistance for students at the beginning of each school year for students who want help with the setup of their lofts.

Three-drawer organizers, storage Ottoman seats and drawer carts will be greatly needed when you go on those spontaneous shopping trips with friends

or come across an event when you get more free stuff than your hands can carry. It's guaranteed that you will leave college with more things than you came in with, so having extra space available to place them in won't do any damage.

As a self-proclaimed “shopaholic,” sophomore intended nursing major Naomi Wright said she is used to purchasing clothing and accessories from the Greenville Mall and other surrounding shopping outlets.

Wright added without her drawer organizers she purchased from Amazon, her room would be “consumed with heaping piles of clothing, jewelry and

beauty products.”

“At the end of the year, you’ll always leave your dorm with more than you came in with,” Wright, who lives in College Hill Suites, said. “Looking into getting your own forms of storage wouldn’t be a bad idea.”

In addition to keeping organized, your room should ultimately be a reflection of yourself. Your creativity, your likes, your story. You are the artist, and that small space is your canvas. The question left is, what will you make of your interior masterpiece?

This writer can be contacted at  
news@theeastcarolinian.com.

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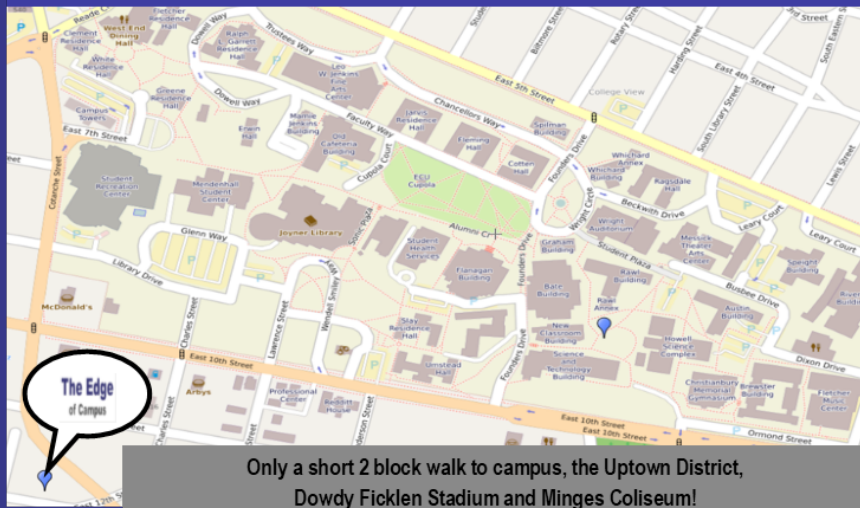


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Three East Carolina University sorority girls walk into the Alpha Xi Delta sorority house. Sorority living can open doors and give students the opportunity to volunteer in their community.

# Sorority life opens new doors

**Zoë Lukas**  
TEC STAFF

Being a fraternity brother or sorority sister while in college can bring up new opportunities and situations during one's time at a university.

One topic of conversation which is associated to Greek Life, specifically sororities, is the living situations and the option of choosing to live in a sorority house with other sisters or finding another means of living.

Cassie Guthrie, junior communication major, said she is a member of the Epsilon Sigma Alpha Omega Pi (ESA) chapter, a philanthropy based sorority on campus, located at East Carolina University.

Guthrie said ESA sisters donate everything they raise from fundraisers and events such as bakes sales, percentage nights and 5K's to their philanthropy, St. Jude Children Hospital. She said because everything the sisters raise goes to help support the kids at St. Jude, their sorority

does not own a house or have a set location for sisters to live at.

"All the donations, we don't take anything for ourselves, it goes directly to St. Jude," Guthrie said. "We do Relay For Life, Sam's 5k (which is in honor of a sister who passed away from cancer), we do volunteer opportunities like bowling with special needs, bingo with retirement homes and Ronald McDonald."

According to Guthrie, there are pros and cons to not having a sorority house. She said living in a house would offer the sorority sisters more chances of getting to know each other, but besides the social aspect, the sorority house adds an extra expense and potential drama to each individual sister and the organization as a whole.

ESA sister Madison Hawley, sophomore intended speech and hearing major, and ESA sister Georgia Picariello, intended public health major, said they agree with Guthrie on the pros and cons of sorority

houses. In addition, they said more pros of not owning a house would not only include the increase in fees, but the maintenance and strict guidelines as well.

Alpha Gamma Delta sister, Lauren Holloway, senior elementary education major, said she has been a sorority sister for about two years. Holloway said even for panhellenic sororities, having a house gives perks such as always having a friend to do something with, being located close to campus, offering more bonding opportunities as well as developing and learning good organizational skills.

"The sorority house serves as the sisters' home away from home," Holloway said. "A lot of memories are made and goals are accomplished within a sorority houses walls."

Holloway said the only con she could think of would be having to become better at time management, since it is easy to become sidetracked while living and being surrounded by fellow sisters and friends.

According to Holloway, having and living in a sorority house only adds to the overall experience of being involved with a sorority.

Though the ESA service sorority sisters said not having a house did not make them feel robbed of any activities, excitement, or memories which come with being an established sorority. The ESA sisters said the housing situation did not have an effect on which sorority they decided to rush.

Guthrie said she chose to specifically rush a service sorority so she could continue to give back to the community as she used to while she was in high school. She said her decision for choosing a sorority did not depend on whether the organization owned a house or not, but instead how and how often they reached out to the community and her relationship with the existing sisters.

This writer can be contacted at  
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## CAMPUS

continued from B4

meal plan that includes unlimited meal swipes to the dining halls, and a certain amount of Pirates bucks and meals, depending on which plan students choose to have for the upcoming year. Being on campus, students have also found they benefit on the social side as well because so many students are staying close together.

“There’s a nice social aspect with being on campus,” junior Joshua Johnson said. “You see pretty much everybody on campus. You get to see a lot more people than you would if you were off campus. Everyone is technically right next to you whether it’s your neighbor or whether it’s someone across the hall. Being on campus is definitely beneficial socially.”

When it comes to being close to the different classroom buildings, being able to eat as much as food as one prefers and being close to people all around appears to give one a positive experience that may have them choose to stay on campus

“**Being on campus is definitely beneficial socially.**”

*-Joshua Johnson*

all four years. For senior Franklin Butler that has been the case.

“I love staying on campus because everything is so convenient,” Butler said. “If I need food the dining hall is a two minute walk from my dorm. If I need to print off something last minute the NSO is there. Lastly, there’s just more things to do on campus and people are always out and I enjoy seeing that.”

Even though being in a dorm yields more pros, one of the biggest cons some have found to complain about more than others is the fact that it costs more to stay in a dorm on campus, the benefits that come as a result of living on campus are hard to beat, especially at ECU.

This writer can be contacted at [news@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:news@theeastcarolinian.com).

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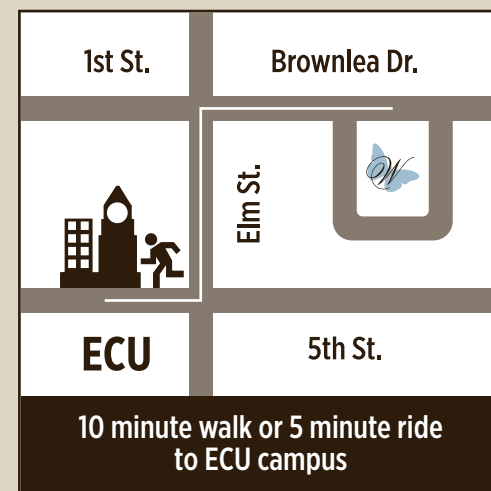
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