A. **Purpose**

In an effort to provide opportunities for students to perform better academically, engage in their collegiate experience at the highest level, and persist to a four year graduation date; and in keeping with other practices within the State of Alabama, the University requires all first-time, full-time freshmen to live on campus.

Research shows that students who begin their college career on campus:
- have higher grade point averages
- make a smoother transition from high school to college
- have higher retention and graduation rates
- report greater satisfaction with their college experience
- make better use of the educational and support services provided by their universities

B. **Scope**

The *Freshmen Live-On Requirement* applies to all newly enrolled freshmen taking twelve (12) or more credit hours (full-time enrollment) at The University of Alabama at Birmingham who graduated from high school within the preceding 12 months.

C. **Exceptions**

Newly enrolled students, whose permanent address is within Jefferson or Shelby Counties are exempt from the policy, but may voluntarily choose to live on campus.

Students for whom the policy presents an undue hardship on their personal or family circumstances, whether financially, emotionally, medically, or otherwise, may submit compelling evidence of such circumstances for consideration of an exemption from the policy.

Students requesting an exception should be residing with lineal relatives (parent, grandparent) or legal guardian and commuting from their residence within a reasonable distance of campus.

Students who are married and/or have dependent children in residence.

First-time full-time students who graduated high school more than twelve (12) months before the current academic year.

D. **Policy Statement**

All first-time freshmen who graduated high school the same year as, or the year prior to their first semester at UAB are required to live on campus for the entire academic year. Exception: those who live in one of the following two counties: Jefferson or Shelby. The requirement to live on campus is no longer connected to UAB merit-based scholarships.

E. **Procedure**

- Students will receive a link to the Student Housing website in their UAB Admissions acceptance email to apply for fall housing on campus along with the policy statement.
o Spring applicants will also be required to live on campus provided space is available within the freshmen residence halls
o Each March, May, and July, a review of accepted/enrolled students will be generated compared to first-time, full-time students who have not yet applied for housing on campus. Students who have been accepted or enrolled, but not applied for housing will be emailed a reminder of the policy and a link to apply for housing on campus

Exemptions
  o Reviewed on a case by case basis
  o Are granted in extreme and rare circumstances and only after evidence is provided by the students/parents of a special need that outweighs the distinct benefits of living on campus.
  o Reviewed and routed through a committee of University officials for approval
  o Can be appealed to the Vice President of Student Affairs or his/her designee