

**Coastal Carolina University  
Residence Life Additional Occupancy (Triples) Rooms  
Waccamaw and Santee Hall**

*Frequently Asked Questions*

**1. *How many triples are there?*** Of the more than 1300 beds on main campus, there are about 75 rooms housing three students (“triples”) in Santee and Waccamaw Hall. Most triples are double occupancy rooms that have the capacity to house four students but have been converted for use as triples in order to meet our obligation to house as many new freshman students as possible.

**2. *How long do I have to stay in the triple?*** We cannot give an exact date as to the length of time that one will remain in a triple room. Triple assignments may remain through the fall semester; however, we are hopeful that we will be able to make reassignments more quickly as vacancies will occur throughout the fall semester. In previous years, we were able to dismantle triples by mid-October. Again, the timing of reassignment is dependant on when vacancies occur.

**3. *I’m in a triple room. Will I get the discount?***

**If you are still residing in a triple as of September 15, 2008**, a credit of \$350.00 will be applied to your student account on that day. This does not apply to larger rooms with three occupants that were originally designated for use by three people.

**4. *Who’s assigned to these rooms? Why were these students chosen?*** Mostly freshmen. In Fall 2008, about one in every three or four freshman students will be living in triples. These are the last rooms we assigned, so the freshmen in these rooms are among the last new students confirmed by the University to receive on-campus housing (i.e., housing requested after April). In most rooms, the three roommates do not know one another. In cases where students made mutual roommate requests, Residence Life made every attempt to honor those requests before the third roommate was assigned.

**5. *How were rooms chosen for designation as a triple?*** Most triples were designated as such in Fall 1998 and have been in continuous use since then. More than 75 of the suite style rooms on campus were considered for conversion, after consultation with the University Fire Marshal. Triple rooms are in most but not all traditional residence halls. With some exceptions, bedrooms in suites and apartments were not selected for tripling because the size, shape and the locations of windows, closets, pipes, etc. affected how furnishings could be arranged in the room.

**6. *How is the room furnished? Will I have my own computer line?*** In each triple, we provide a bed, dresser, desk and desk chair for each resident. Each room also has Internet access via two hard-wired data lines and/or wireless connection. Computer labs are also available in Waccamaw, and Santee halls. Each triple room has at least one window with blinds, closet space, smoke alarm and sprinkler. Rooms are carpeted. We will be prepared to remove a desk or dresser if all residents of a triple are in agreement. Students can make these requests after move-in day to the front desk staff in their building.

**7. Will it be crowded in the room with that much furniture?** When considering which rooms should be converted to triples, we reviewed how furnishings would fit in the available space. Here are some creative, yet safe ways of arranging furnishings in order to save space and maximize the amount of open floor space:

- Bring shelving units to stand on the floor or in the upper part of your closet
- Make an 'L' formation with two beds, or dressers or desks
- Use your refrigerator as a nightstand
- Make use of all flat surfaces (tops of desks, dressers, refrigerators, etc.)
- Bring storage drawers or boxes that fit under your bed (10" clearance if not elevated)
- Move dresser into your closet
- Hang a shoe organizer inside your closet
- Bring a small stool to reach the upper levels in your closet

Each student should restrict the items he/she brings to campus, particularly by leaving least essential items (e.g., winter clothing) at home. A practical rule of thumb would be to restrict your possessions to what fits in/on your desk, dresser and one-third of a small closet. Hanging space for clothing will be particularly limited. Families who travel to campus for move-in day should plan to take back home with them unnecessary duplications (e.g., TV, stereo, refrigerator, and curtains) and items such as empty trunks and suitcases.

**8. Are there any restrictions on setting up my triple?** Yes, furniture should remain on the floor. Do not elevate furniture with bricks or blocks as this could affect personal safety and/or damage to personal or University property.

Also for safety reasons, please:

- Do not place beds on tops of dressers, desks, multiple layers of cinder blocks, any slippery surface or any type of structural support not provided by the University
- Do not bring or construct lofts, partitions, or any other structure
- Do not purchase or rent bed lofts
- Do not bring cinder blocks
- Do not use extension cords [instead of extension cords, bring UL/CSA approved power strips equipped with Integrated Circuit Breaker (over-current shut off protector)]
- Do not block windows or heating convectors

**9. I'm concerned about my ability to study and rest in the triple. What can you suggest?**

Roommates in a triple should discuss issues that affect any one student's ability to study in the room or get the proper rest. Issues include: Daily schedules for being in and away from the room; hour to rise and hour to go to bed; frequency and number of visitors; and use of phone, computer, TV, stereo, radio, etc. Your RA is available to prompt discussion of these issues with all residents of the room. The RA also will help resolve any difficulties that may come up during the semester. Also, we encourage students to utilize lounge space and/or the library for study.

Each resident in the room will need to take personal responsibility for helping to make the best of this situation and should be especially courteous, considerate and sensitive to the concerns of others. Specifically, residents should keep their space clean and picked up, talk through problems not letting them go unresolved, be patient and flexible as they negotiate and compromise on sleep/study/social matters, and be careful about undermining relationships by talking about roommates behind their backs or causing dissension among roommates or floor mates.

**10. I'm worried my grades might suffer because I've got these extra roommates. Does that happen to students who live in triples?** Grades do not suffer according to a number of national research studies conducted by Dr. John D. Foubert, professor at the College of William and Mary in his article, "Predictors of Student Satisfaction in University Residence Halls". According to the study, academic performance of students who are tripled up in double rooms does not suffer. Also, grade point averages are likely to be no different for these students than for others in residence halls. Studies also show that being tripled does not affect students' adjustment to college life and that tripled students are as likely as others to participate in student organizations and to report satisfaction with their academic and social experiences.

On the negative side, studies also show that tripled students are less satisfied with their living space, privacy and perceived control over room activity than are students in standard doubles. Tripled students are less satisfied with their roommates and spend less time in their rooms and more time at home than do students in standard doubles. For that reason, we are making every effort to reassign students out of triples as soon as possible.

**11. Was tripling in double rooms the only alternative?** Because CCU values the residential experience as a priority for first year students, we wanted to accommodate as many new students as possible. This year's class of new students is larger than in previous years and to handle this overflow situation, we created "triples". We know that this may cause some anxiety but we ask that you reflect on the following:

- As we receive housing cancellations, we will begin the "de-tripling" process.
- The quality of your housing experience is not related to the number of roommates, but rather to the positive relationships you build with your roommates. Creating these relationships takes work from all involved and many times is rewarded by lasting friendships.
- When a triple room is re-designated as a double room, University policy allows remaining residents may wish to keep the furniture that was originally in their room. In the event that residents wish to have some of the furniture removed from their room, they must complete a *Furniture Removal Request* form, at their residence hall's community office or in the Residence Life Office in Waccamaw Hall. To facilitate the removal of the selected items, residents must ensure that they or their proxy is present in their room at the time scheduled to remove the furniture. Failure to do so will result in a delay in removing the furniture.

*Our goal is to provide safe, living and learning communities for our residents. Please do not hesitate to speak with any Residence Life staff person if you need assistance.*

*Have a wonderful fall semester.*



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