SUMMARY:

Coastal Carolina University is committed to providing its students with a comprehensive educational experience that includes a residential component. Therefore, all degree-seeking, full-time, first- and second-year students who graduated from high school within two calendar years prior to enrolling in Coastal Carolina University are required to live in residential communities operated by University Housing and to purchase a meal plan. Possible exemptions and the process for requesting exemptions are described in this policy. Being automatically or manually marked as exempt does not prevent a student from choosing to apply for housing and entering into the annual license agreement or from purchasing a meal plan.

POLICY:

I. Housing and Meal Plan Requirement

First- and second-year students are defined as degree-seeking, full-time students who graduated from high school within two calendar years prior to enrolling in Coastal Carolina University. These students are required to live in residential communities operated by University Housing and to purchase a meal plan. First- or second-year status is not an academic qualification and is not governed by attempted, transferred or completed credit hours. A voluntary or involuntary reduction in credits does not release a resident from the financial or other obligations of this policy or the University Housing License Agreement.

II. Automatic Exemptions to the Housing and Meal Plan Requirement

A. The following are exemptions that will be active on a student record without action on the part of the student:
1. Graduation from high school more than two calendar years prior to enrolling in Coastal Carolina University.
2. The student’s permanent address on file with the Office of the Admissions and Merit Awards is within 50 miles of Coastal Carolina University and the student is living with a legal guardian.

III. Other Possible Exemptions to the Housing Requirement by Request

A. The following exemptions may be granted if a student completes and submits an exemption request on or before July 31 (fall semester requests) or on or before November 30 (spring semester request):
   1. Student is married: Must submit a notarized marriage license.
   2. Student has a dependent child or children: Must submit an official copy (not a photocopy) of the original birth certificate listing the student as the parent or a notarized document listing the student as the legal guardian.
   3. Student is a veteran or serves in the active military: Must submit official military orders or discharge papers.
   4. Student has a verifiable and documented extenuating, financial or personal circumstance that precludes the student from living successfully in CCU-operated housing. Such exemptions must be submitted in writing and will be reviewed by the University’s chief housing officer or designee.
   5. Appeals of denied housing exemption and license agreement requests will be reviewed by the License Agreement Appeal Committee (LAAC) if submitted by the student according to the published guidelines available at www.coastal.edu/housing. All decisions of the LAAC will be final.

IV. Other Possible Exemptions to the Meal Plan by Request

A. The following exemptions may be granted if a student completes and submits an exemption request on or before July 31 (fall semester requests) or on or before November 30 (spring semester requests):
   1. Student meets housing exemption requirements above.
   2. Student receives verifiable and documented aid from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or other documented hardship. Such exemptions must be submitted in writing and will be reviewed and approved by the University’s chief housing officer or designee.
   3. Student is a registered International Student.

V. Accommodations of the Meal Plan Requirement by Request
A. Accommodations may be granted if a student completes and submits an accommodation request on or before June 1 (fall semester requests) or on or before December 1 (spring semester requests) if the student has a documented and extenuating medical circumstance that can be verified, and if the request is approved by University Accessibility and Disability Services and/or the Housing and Meal Plan Accommodations Appeals Committee (HMPAAC).

VI. Requesting an Exemption or Accommodation to the Housing and Meal Plan Requirement

A. Students who may qualify for an exemption, other than those listed above as “Automatic Exemptions to the Housing Requirement,” must complete a University Housing Exemption Request and submit it to University Housing on or before July 31 (fall semester requests) or on or before November 30 (spring semester request).

B. Students who may qualify for an accommodation due to a medical circumstance must complete the Housing and Meal Plan Accommodations Student Form and the Housing and Meal Plan Accommodations Treating Professional Form located at www.coastal.edu/disabilityservices, the Accessibility and Disability Services website. The documentation must be provided by the diagnosing or treating physician and submitted to Accessibility and Disability Services on or before June 1 (all semester requests) or on or before December 1 (spring semester requests). Accessibility and Disability Services will determine if the recommended accommodations are reasonable and can be met prior to working with the student to satisfy the accommodation request.

C. Failure to qualify for an automatic exemption, to complete an exemption request, to complete an accommodation request, or to complete the housing application will not absolve a student of the responsibility to comply with this policy.

D. Being automatically or manually marked as exempt does not prevent a student from choosing to apply for housing and entering into the annual license agreement or from purchasing a meal plan.

VII. Accommodation and exemption request approvals are not retroactive and will only apply to the student’s account beginning the day the request is approved.

VIII. Any student who does not meet the automatic exemption criteria or has not been approved by University Housing for a requested exemption will be assigned and billed for a space in University Housing and will be assigned and billed for a meal plan.

IX. Furnishing false information to the University is a violation of the Code of Student Conduct.