

# On-campus living provides benefits, activities

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For most undergraduates, one of the most unforgettable components which make the college experience whole, is life in the residence halls.

Without it, four years of college really seem incomplete. The sheer convenience of living on campus is why even the lucky few whose families live close enough for them to commute are encouraged to look into on-campus housing as an option.

For those from areas further away, there's perhaps no easier way of settling into a life away from home than to share the experience with your classmates and colleagues. Halomathons, midnight trips to McDonald's, and synchronized homework procrastination are just some of the appealing side effects of living on campus. And with such an incredibly diverse college community like Illinois Tech's, this invaluable experience is magnified multiple times. You meet people from countries you may not even be able to point out on a globe, with cultures and cuisines vastly different from your own.

These experiences build on your character, and make you grow in ways your parents may never have imagined. In the end, it's when you get that empty-stomach feeling on move out day when you truly look back and realize that every penny you paid for this experience was worth it.

At IIT, living in MSV and SSV are two completely different experiences, each with their own pros and cons. The dorm structure and large common areas of MSV encourages dialogue and conversation between its residents, especially on the individual floors. Host to some of the biggest pianos and one of the largest television screens on campus, the MSV lounge area is famous for hosting ice cream socials and FIFA tournaments, mostly organized by the Resident Advisors.

Close proximity to most academic buildings, the athletics center, and the cafeteria are major pluses. Resident's mailboxes are also in MSV, making getting mail convenient. The only sore points of MSV are the lack of

an elevator (which is a great way to beat that Freshman 15 weight gain!), smaller rooms, shared laundry rooms (Sunday nights are the worst times to do laundry. Keep that in mind and you will be fine!), and shared bathrooms (Which if you don't try to shower ten minutes before the 8:35 AM class like the rest of the world, you will be fine.). If you're looking for an open, welcoming, friendly, and richly diverse dorm experience, MSV is highly recommended. Suggestions? Pack light and get/rent a microwave.

If comfort is your number one priority, look no further than SSV. With a kitchen and laundry room on each floor, elevators, bigger rooms, a rooftop terrace to die for, a convenient location next to Crown Hall, and a bathroom in each suite that is shared with fewer people, SSV has a reputation for being the fancy dorms on campus.

The SSV Resident Advisors have traditionally organized fantastic programs for their residents, which helps improve an environment which can be somewhat anti-social and much quieter than the hustle of MSV's floor lounges and common areas. If you live in SSV, though, don't let the "distance" from the athletics center be a deterrent to stop exercising in the cold winter months! SSV is close to the Green Line, so use that as an excuse to explore the city of Chicago. Also try to engage more with your floormates in the common kitchen areas, comfortable lounges, and by participating in the programs which the RAs organize.

Gunsaulus Hall may also be an option for some of the eligible upperclassmen at the university. Gunsaulus has many apartments which allow students to step up from dorm life while still experiencing the convenience of living on campus and having access to the services that Residence and Greek Life provides.

Combine that with the option of not having to purchase a meal plan, and it becomes clear why this hall is in high demand and fills up quickly. The views of Lake Michigan from the upper floors are worth waking up to every morning, and the combined package of independence with on-campus convenience makes Gunsaulus Hall an option definitely worth considering if one is eligible.

## What to bring to campus housing

<b>Clothing:</b> Bathrobe Comfortable shoes Dress shoes Gloves Hat Light jacket Pajamas / long underwear Pants / jeans Running or athletic shoes Shirts Shorts Socks Swimsuit Underwear Winter Coat	Detergent Fabric softener / dryer sheets Laundry bag or basket Sewing kit <b>Recreation:</b> Bicycle & lock Bicycle helmet Books Your music collection Playing cards, and other games Music player <b>Decoration:</b> Posters White-board Dry erase markers Removable adhesive strips (Command, 3m, etc.) Electronics & School Supplies: Alarm clock Batteries	Telephone TV DVD Player Scientific calculator Floor Lamp (these are not provided in SSV, GU or Carman Hall) Desk lamp Camera Hair dryer Computer or laptop Printer (and paper) Specialized software Surge Protector Thumb drive/USB Wireless card Coaxial Cable Small fan (Fowler, GU, Carman are not air conditioned) Iron (lounge use only) <b>Personal Care:</b> Can opener	Mugs and cups Napkins or paper towels Cups & plates Plastic utensils Snack foods Water bottle Personal toiletries Bath towel Sandals & shower shoes First aid kit Prescription medication Shower caddy (not provided in showers) <b>Miscellaneous:</b> Book ends Long distance phone card Umbrella Plunger (for use in suites and apartments) School supplies
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## What NOT to bring to campus housing

<b>These items are NOT allowed in McCormick Student Village, State Street Village, Gunsaulus Hall and Carman Hall:</b> Alcohol (if you are under 21) Appliances with an exposed heating element Candles & incense Drum sets Hot plates	Illegal drugs Banned substances Microwaves (permitted in GU, SSV, CA apartments) Music Amplifiers Pets (except fish in a tank less than 5 gallons) Refrigerators over 3.0 cubic feet or 4.0 cubic feet if energy star rated Multiple refrigerators in a room or	apartment Rice cookers (SSV apartments are equipped with microwaves; residents of Carman and Gunsaulus are permitted to bring microwaves) Space heaters Toaster or toaster ovens (permitted in GU, SSV, CA apartments) Waterbeds	Weapons Hookahs Explosives Fire Propellants Extension cords & outlet splitters  <i>Please know that all campus housing is smoke-free. Smoking is prohibited in all campus housing. Alcohol (if you're under 21)</i>
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Courtesy of IIT Residence & Greek Life (iit.edu/housing)

# OCL presents Freshman 15 program, student organization fair changes

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They say that there will be one point in time in your life when you will remember whom you stayed up with to study for THAT Organic Chemistry exam rather than how much you scored on it.

To avoid the Monday to Friday routine of classroom rigor and to enhance the IIT social experience, the Office of Campus Life plays a pivotal role in creating a collaborative campus community via facilitation of programming events and mentoring student organizations.

Their unique first year experience program is about to add a very special component starting fall 2012: the Freshman

15 program. Aimed at increasing social participation among incoming students in the definitive must-do activities at IIT, the program will collaborate actively with student organizations, departments, offices, and even specialized target audiences like international students to help freshman make the most of their first year.

The Office of Campus Life will release a list of fifteen carefully chosen activities in both the fall and spring semesters to help freshman navigate their way through the bombardment of Facebook invites and e-mail blasts from mailing lists.

This defining list of social, sporting, service, and academic events is what makes IIT a truly unique institution, in such that

these special activities are easily accessible by everyone. When choosing from student submitted nominations, the Office of Campus Life put special emphasis on feedback provided by current students who have participated in these activities before, and on other factors such as success rate, student participation, and cost, which meant that events like UB-sponsored skydiving couldn't make the cut, even though a \$90 skydiving deal is almost unbeatable anywhere in the country.

If the chance to create an incredibly rare memory extravaganza wasn't enough, OCL has created an added incentive for people to attend these events: students who participate in any ten of the fifteen events get entered in a raffle for a special prize, which is yet to be announced.

Besides this, another exciting announcement is the scheduling of the first ever Student Organization Festival, replacing the traditional Student Org Fair, to be held during Welcome Week for the first time. Aimed at incoming and transfer students, but open to all, it has been scheduled for the morning of Friday, August 17th.

Union Board is scheduled to bring in a band for the festival, and student organizations are each getting a table to hand out giveaways, talk about their organizations in an effort to solicit interest in joining their e-mail lists, and announce their first meetings.

Currently registered student organizations have until the 10th of August to register their spots at this unique event.

Photos courtesy of Office of Campus Life (from fall 2011)

