INDEPENDENT LIVING
The Residential Philosophy at the University of Hartford

At the University of Hartford, we prepare young people for a productive life as a member of multiple communities. Our academic programs prepare students for successful professional careers and competitive graduate programs. Similarly, our residential program prepares emerging adults for a life of independent living in a community context.

Our staffs in Public Safety, Facilities, and Residential Life view themselves as being in partnership with students to achieve a safe and enjoyable residential experience. Staff provides students with the tools necessary to solve problems and provide many opportunities for students to advocate for themselves.

A good example of this approach to on campus living is the management of bathrooms and lounges in living units. Students in apartment and suite style living units are responsible for the basic upkeep of these units including all cleaning and trash removal. University staff are available to make repairs, replace broken items, and help solve larger challenges.

Most of our first year students live in suites of approximately 18 students, with 8-10 sharing an individual bathroom. Once a week University staff will clean the bathroom and common area in these suites and other University staff are available for repairs as noted above. Students in these suites are expected to talk together, initially with the assistance of a Resident Assistant, about how they will live together in community. This includes items such as whether they want a garbage can in the bathroom and who will be responsible for emptying it on a regular basis, keeping the floor lounge clean, providing hand soap and hand towels in the floor bathrooms, and decorations for common spaces.

At each step of a student’s residential experience, she or he will experience more independence. Our plan is that by the time a student graduates he or she will be prepared for the next step of adulthood – living independently and managing all of the responsibilities that come with that.