

CAROLINA NEWS

HOUSING

from page A1

be greater than the rest of the colleges.

At UF, the cheapest room will cost \$722, and the most expensive will be \$2,220. The average rate, however, will be \$1,303, according to Assistant Director of Housing Sharon Blansett. Rates will increase about 7 percent from this year's.

A double or higher occupancy room at UNC will cost \$1,310, the least expensive on campus. A single air-conditioned room in Whitehead Residence Hall will cost \$2,135, the most expensive on campus. Rates will increase about 7 percent from this year's.

UNC's least expensive room will cost \$1,004 next year, and the most expensive will be \$2,000. Rates will increase an average of 4 percent, according to Director of Housing Gene Luna.

Clemson students will pay as low as \$885 and as high as \$1,420 for a room next year. The average cost will be about \$1,110, according to Director of Residential Halls Gary Campbell. Rates will increase 5.8 percent from this year's.

A variety of rooms at UGA will cost \$1,353, the cheapest price for 2000-2001 students. The most expensive room rate will be \$1,663. Rates will increase about 6 percent from this year's.

The cheapest room at UT will cost \$1,000 next year, and the most expensive room will cost \$1,400. The most common price will be \$1,050, according to Associate Director of Housing Tim Johnson. Rates will increase just below 4 percent Johnson said.

BUILDINGS

USC has the most undergraduate residence halls with 31. UNC has 29, Clemson has 28, UGA has 17 and UT has 13. UF has 23 complexes, which can include one or more buildings.

Comparing all universities, no one style of residence halls seems to be the most common, although there are fewer high-rises. Coed halls, however, seem to be more prevalent.

Only Clemson and USC offer air conditioning in all rooms.

There's great variety in the number of computer labs, kitchens and laundry facilities offered for all the universities' residence halls.

At Clemson, there are three high-rises, and Campbell said there's a good balance of traditional halls, suite-style halls and apartments. He also said there's a good mix of single-gender and coed halls on campus. In traditional halls, there's a kitchen on every floor, and in suite-style halls, there's one or two in the building. All but eight

halls have laundry facilities, and next year there will be seven computer labs in residence halls.

At UF, traditional halls are more common, as are coed halls. Halls are coed by floors more so than by wings or rooms. All but three halls have AC. Kitchens are on all floors, and laundry facilities are in all halls. There aren't any computer labs in the residence halls because since June, 1998 all students are required to have access to a computer.

UF also has a unique policy regarding visitation guidelines. Most halls on campus are designated as visitation vote areas. These halls start out with visitation plan A, 11 a.m. to midnight Sunday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Students can choose to change this policy with a two-thirds vote. Most of these halls then become open visitation halls, Blansett said.

At UGA, traditional halls are more common, and all but one have AC. Thirteen halls have no more than four stories, leaving four high-rises. Five halls have computer labs. There are kitchens on about every other floor, and laundry facilities in all halls.

At UNC suite style halls are more common, and there are 25 halls with no more than four floors, leaving four high-rises. The high-rises are the only halls not to have full AC; about 40 percent of the halls have it. The high-rises are also the only halls to have kitchens on every floor; other buildings have only one. Seven halls have computer labs, and 18 have laundry facilities.

Rebecca Casey, assistant director of housing and residential education, said UNC residence halls are moving towards coed. Currently, there are five all male halls, 10 all female halls, 10 coed-by-floor halls and 4 partially coed.

At USC, Luna said there's an even split between traditional halls and suit-styles, and more halls are coed. Eight halls are above seven stories, and seven have computer labs. There's a kitchen on every floor, and all halls have laundry facilities. Luna said USC was unique because of its automated telephone service, Laundrimate, which allows students to call and check on washer and dryer availability. He also said the trial run this year has been a success and the university is looking into installing it in all halls, as well as installing Web cameras in the laundry rooms.

"I think it will be [made available in all halls.] This way, students can save a lot of time. It's a convenience factor for students," Luna said.

At UT, suite styles are more prevalent. Johnson said buildings range from four to 15 floors. Three halls aren't completely air-conditioned, which equals about 488 rooms. Only some halls at UT have computer labs.

ROOMS

All but UGA offer each person an Ethernet connection to the Internet. Clemson is the only school to offer two phone jacks per room because of a party line system.

Other than UNC and UT, cable is included in room rates. At UNC, rates differ per package, and at UT, it costs \$77.50.

The availability of micro-fridges for rooms differs from college to college.

Smoking policies differ among universities, but a majority of them permit smoking in rooms.

At Clemson, students can order micro-fridges from the university, but none are provided in rooms. Campbell said residence halls are subtly changing to smoke-free. Currently, there are five nonsmoking halls.

"We still look at it as a right that people have if they want to do it. We try to give people a choice," he said.

All universities except UF allow students to have only fish as pets. At UF, students can order micro-fridges from an authorized vendor in most halls; some suites come with them. Students can't smoke in rooms because of the Florida Clean Indoor Air Act of 1992 that declared a nonsmoking policy in state-owned buildings.

UF's pet policy is unique because it allows students to bring a variety of pets, including guinea pigs, dwarf rabbits, turtles, lizards and salamanders, chinchillas and non predatory birds. Residents can't have more than two birds, mammals or reptiles and must follow other regulations on sizes and cages.

"It's probably one of the most liberal pet policies in the U.S. It's another example of where we let students make as many decisions as possible. Another example of doing what students want," Blansett said.

At UGA, each student can connect to the Internet, although the means to do so differs from building to building. One new building uses an Ethernet connection, four use cable modems and the rest use phone lines to connect. Students must order their own micro-fridges or bring their own mini-fridges. Students can't smoke in rooms because the Residence Hall Association approved a ban on smoking in residence halls.

"I would assume it was because of health factors. It seems to be embraced by a majority of students," said Scott Anderson, manager of contracts, assignments and summer conference services.

At UNC, students can rent micro-fridges, but none are provided. Students may smoke in rooms with their roommate's approval. The university, however, asks students not to smoke on balconies.

At USC next year, Luna said there will be an upgrade to a switched 100 Internet connection for

quicker access.

"We'll have one of the fastest connections in the country," he said.

About 1500 rooms come equipped with micro-fridges, and students can also rent or purchase their own micro-fridges. Rooms are designated as nonsmoking, but students can smoke with the approval of their roommates.

At UT, starting in the fall, all rooms will come with micro-fridges. For about nine years, Housing has been working on this plan.

"We've been doing a lease program in the past and equipping some residence halls along the way with micro-fridges. The money we got from the leases this year will finish out all the residence halls," Johnson said.

Smoking at UT depends on the room. Smokers are matched with other smokers to make things easier Johnson said.

SECURITY

Each university handles residence hall entrance access in a variety of ways, although card access seems to be more common.

At Clemson, students enter all halls, not apartments, at night by swiping their ID cards. During the day, however, the buildings housing fraternities and one hall housing about 800 men do not activate the system. Security officers man desks from midnight until 7:30 a.m., and students are desk assistants at other times.

At UF, about half require card access to buildings, although Blansett said there are ongoing renovations to equip the rest with it. There are also locked entrances to all floors. A security staff mans a hall desk from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

At UGA, students swipe their ID cards and then place their hand in a hand reader to gain entrance to the hall. This is installed at all but one residence hall, which Anderson said is run like a hotel.

"We wanted to be the best in the Southeast Conference. We wanted the top-rate system. This is the best you can get," Anderson said.

At UNC, all exterior entrances are locked, and the Marlock system is used. Students insert a flat, square key into a slot to open the doors, which will set off an alarm if open for more than four seconds.

At USC, students either swipe their ID cards or show their key to have access to their rooms. Next fall, nine halls will have card access. There's always someone at the hall desk, according to Luna.

At UT, all halls have card access on exterior doors. There are cameras at all main entrances, which Johnson said desk attendants monitor 24 hours a day.

SPECIAL HOUSING

At Clemson, special housing includes first-year

programs in two residence halls, learning communities for freshman business and engineering majors and a wellness program called Tiger Fitness, which occupies four floors in one residence hall. Sororities have floors in three residence halls, and fraternities have sides of buildings in five residence halls. There are 100 apartments available for family and graduate housing.

At UF, three facilities are set aside for honors housing. There are also wellness floors, community service floors, quiet floors and freshman experience floors. Sixteen of 22 sororities have on-campus houses, and 19 of 26 fraternities have on-campus housing.

At UGA, there are recommended halls for honor students, but nothing exclusive. There is also a transfer-student hall and foreign-language communities for French- and Spanish-speaking students. Fraternities and sororities have off-campus housing. There are 579 apartments for graduate and family housing.

At UNC, there is no special housing for honor students. There are, however, nine special housing areas. They are: Academic Enhancement, First Year Initiative, Health Sciences, French Language House, Spanish Language House, German Language House, Substance Free, Women's Perspective and UNITAS, where students are paired because of their differences.

At USC, freshman honor students reside in Maxcy College and an area in Capstone. Sophomores live in Capstone areas as well, and juniors and seniors have about 220 rooms on the historic Horseshoe. Fraternities and sororities have their own residence halls on campus. There are two residence halls for graduate and family housing. Special housing includes the global community NADA, wellness floors, engineering, premed and teaching-fellows communities and Preston residential college. USC is the only university of the six to have a residential college.

"We were looking at ways to enhance students' living experiences. One way to do this was to have faculty and students interact. This is a classic way," Luna said.

At UT, honor students can register for housing before other students can. UT has only three learning communities for freshmen. It is, however, third or fourth in the nation in the number of rooms available for graduate and family housing, according to Johnson. It has 1,690 apartments for single graduate students, married students and non-traditional undergraduates, who are 21 years or older.

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71%

MOST USC STUDENTS HAVE

0 TO 4

DRINKS WHEN THEY PARTY

(1 drink = the alcohol content of 12 ozs. beer OR 4 ozs. wine OR 1 oz. distilled spirits)

OFFICE OF ALCOHOL & DRUG PROGRAMS

Based on survey data collected by the USC Office of Alcohol & Drug Programs from a random sample of USC students in November, 1998.

Funding by SC DAODAS Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Project.