

Policy Name: Freshman Dining Program		
Effective Date: August, 2006	Revision Date: August 27, 2015	Department/Area/Division: Enterprise Operations
Department/ Area Policy #:	Departmental Contact: Kristina Hopton-Jones	

Purpose:

The University of Alabama is committed to providing its students with a comprehensive educational experience. The University has determined that for most first-year students, on-campus dining has numerous educational, social, and dietary benefits. In recognition of the value of the living-learning experience associated with on-campus living and dining, effective the 2006 Fall Semester, the University of Alabama requires first-year students to participate in the Freshman Year Experience, including the Freshman Dining Program.

Policy Statement:

The policy applies to all incoming freshman students who live in on-campus housing.

Policy:

First-year undergraduate students enrolled as full-time students, as defined in the University of Alabama [Undergraduate Catalog](#), will be required to participate in the Freshman Dining Program (All Access Meal Plan), unless exempt from that requirement. Students first enrolling at the University for the Fall Semester are required to participate in the Freshman Dining Program for both the Fall and Spring Semesters. Students first enrolling at the University for the Spring Semester are required to participate in the Freshman Dining Program during the Spring Semester.

Freshmen who are a part of some group or activity that requires or provides another meal program will be able to reduce their meal contract to fewer than five (5) meals per week and enroll in an alternate meal plan.

Exemption from the Freshman Dining Program

Students who will live in the primary residence of their parent or legal guardian may be excluded from the Freshman Dining Program. If you are exempt from the Housing portion of the Freshman Year Experience, you are also exempt from the Dining portion. In addition, students who possess extraordinary dietary needs (students with allergies should see the Food Allergy Policy) that can be defined by a licensed medical physician may also be exempt from the Freshman Dining Program. Students requesting an exemption from the first-year on-campus dining requirement must submit a written request for exemption prior to the following dates for the student’s intended first term of enrollment at the University:

- Fall Semester first enrollment – July 15

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- Spring Semester first enrollment – December 1

Additional information regarding requests for exemption and an exemption request form is available at bamadining.ua.edu or from the Bama Dining Office located in Lakeside Dining.

Students who fail or refuse to comply with the Freshman Dining Program and/or who furnish or submit false information to a University official or office in connection with a request for exemption are subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and to sanctions which could include imposition of a fine and suspension from the University of Alabama.

Procedures for Reviewing Requests for Exemption from the Freshman Dining Program

I. Requests for exemption from the Freshman Dining Program must be addressed to: The University of Alabama Dining Services, Freshman Dining Program, Box 870390, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487 Fax: (205) 348-0671, Phone: (205) 348-6816. The basis for the exemption, which must be in effect prior to the student's first day of classes of the student's first term of enrollment at The University of Alabama, are (i) the student currently resides in and during the first-year of enrollment will continue residing full-time in the principal residence which is occupied by the student's parent(s) or legal guardian or (ii) that the student has compelling dietary restrictions.

II. A written request for exemption must be submitted on a [Freshman Dining Program Exemption Request Form](#) and **received** in The University of Alabama Dining Services office on or before the following dates based upon the student's intended first term of enrollment at the University:

- Fall Semester first enrollment – July 15
- Spring Semester first enrollment – December 1

Requests for exemptions that are received by The University of Alabama Dining Service office after the applicable submission deadline date will not be considered.

III. The Director of The University of Alabama Dining Services or her/his designee will review written requests for exemption which are received by the applicable deadline and will notify the student of the decision on the exemption request. The reviewing official may ask the student to furnish additional information. Failure by the student to furnish additional requested information by the stated deadline may result in a denial of the student's request for exemption. The reviewing official also may consult with other units of the University, including, but not limited to, the Student Health Center, Office of Disability Services, and the Office of Student Financial Aid. The reviewing official will send a written decision on the exemption request to the student's address listed on the exemption request form. It is the student's responsibility to notify The University of Alabama Dining Service of any change of address that occurs after the submission of the request for exemption.

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IV. Students may appeal denials of requests for exemption to an appeals committee consisting of (a) one member of the faculty who is appointed by the Associate Vice President of Enterprise Operations, (b) one Financial Affairs Division professional staff member who is appointed by the Associate Vice President of Enterprise Operations, who will serve as chairperson of the appeals committee, and (c) one University of Alabama Dining Service professional staff member who is appointed by the Director of Dining Services. The appeals process is as follows:

1. A student's appeal must be in writing and must be received by The University of Alabama Dining Service office not later than ten working days after the date of the notice denying the student's request for exemption. A "working day" is defined as Monday through Friday and does not include Saturday or Sunday nor any official holiday on which The University of Alabama is closed. Appeals which are received by The University of Alabama Dining Service after the submission deadline will not be considered by the appeals committee.
2. The appeal must state concisely the reasons the denial of the exemption request should be reversed and should include any new evidence which the student contends supports the appeal.
3. When considering a student's appeal, the appeals committee may consult with other units of the University, including, but not limited to, the Student Health Center, Office of Disability Services, and the Office of Student Financial Aid.
4. The appeals committee will communicate its decision in writing to the student.
5. The decisions of the appeals committee are final decisions of the University.

Exemption from the Freshman Dining Program- Greek Affiliation

The reduced meal plan option is for students who are required, as part of membership in a bona fide student organization, to have a meal plan with 10 or more meals per week, within the student organization. Students requesting an exemption from the Freshman Dining Program must be included on the official list of new pledges submitted by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life.

- Fall Semester organization enrollment – September 1 (Sorority) October 1 (Fraternity)
- Spring Semester organization enrollment – Last business day in January (Sorority & Fraternity)

Office of the Vice President of Financial Affairs:

Approved by: Duna Skeith

Date: August 27, 2015