Michael: Hello again, and thank you all for joining us for the on-campus housing assignments and move-in tips presentation. This is one of the fall 2019 pre-arrival webinars series offered by the university of Iowa International Student and Scholar Services, and so, let us begin.

Michael: So, the pre arrival webinar series is an optional webinar series giving information to new incoming international students about what life is going to be like here in Iowa City and preparing for your program here at the university of Iowa. So we're giving you information about how you can arrange your plans to travel and live in Iowa City, information about the orientation that you will undergo once you come here, and some expectations and responsibilities that will be on you, as a student, and also information about how you're going to transition to your student life here at the University of Iowa. All of our webinars are recorded and posted on line at international.uiowa.edu/prearrival-webinar. And so if you've missed any other webinars or if you miss some in the future that you're interested in seeing, you can go to that website. It's usually about a week or two after the webinar, and you'll be able to listen to the webinar as many times as you like with subtitles on.

Michael: So during our webinar here, if you encounter any difficulties at all, please let us know using the chat function. If you have questions related to our topic or questions about something our presenters say, please use the Q and A function to post your questions. This is important because at the end of the presentation, we will be able to answer those questions live as long as we still have time remaining, and typically we do. But any technical difficulties you have, put that in the chat function in I'll be able to help you without interrupting the presentation.

Michael: One last note for me, have you received your I 20 or DS 2019 yet? if you haven't, make sure you go into your pre-arrival checklist in iHawk and complete your E-ship global shipping fee. Once you've done this, we will be able to mail your immigration document to you and you can apply for your visa. It is really important that you get this done early. We want you to get your visa as soon as possible, just in case there are delays at your consulate. It's going to be different everywhere, but we like to get students to apply for these things early. If you have any problems at all with this process, please contact us at ISSS-orientation@uiowa.edu.

Michael: So orientation is coming up, so important date is the May 1 undergraduate acceptance deadline, then your mandatory orientation. I think everyone attending today's should be an undergraduates. That's August 19 to August 23 and the actual fall 2019 semester will start on august 26.

Michael: And so with that I'm going to pass it off to our presenters today and let them introduce themselves.

Virginia: So good afternoon. I'm Virginia Ibrahim-Olin, and I am our assistant director in University housing and dining and I oversee the room assignments and housing contracts process, and my pronouns of reference are she, her, and hers.

Danielle: Hey everyone. My name is Danielle Barefoot. I'm the coordinator for curriculum and assessment for university housing and dining. I also use she/her pronouns.
Kendal: Hi everyone, I'm Kendall Arthur. I use the pronounce he/his. I am one of the hall coordinators on campus, and I am also international like you. I'm originally from the Caribbean Island of St. Lucia.

Michael: I suppose i should have introduced myself the beginning. I'm Michael Bortscheller, I'm the assistant director in ISSS. And I'm just here to make sure the webinar goes smoothly for our presenters, I'll ask some of your questions to them at the end of the presentation.

Virginia: We’ll start today by kind of overviewing our goals. So for this webinar, we’re going to talk to you about an overview of what university housing and dining is. We’re going to talk to you about some of our upcoming housing deadlines and make sure you know what deadlines to prepare for. We’ll talk about what the online room selection process looks like, introduce you to the resources within the residence halls talk about arrival dates and move-in, and then at the end will have some time for life question and answers.

Kendal: OK everyone, welcome again to university housing and dining at the University of Iowa. Here at the University of Iowa, we have quite a bit of facilities and resources and support here for you. But let's just give you a little idea of what you will be getting into a once you arrive here in the fall semester. Alright, so we have about 6,078 students who live on campus, of course, then residence halls, we have about 158 RAs, or resident assistants, as well, there to assist you. We have 14 living learning communities, which are very much of community for areas in which common identities or backgrounds can live together as well as learn together. There are 15 retail dining locations on campus, three marketplaces or cafeterias, if not dining halls, and one food truck, in which options are very much able to be transported from one area to another. So there are many great things and we have here within the housing and dining.

Danielle: So we want to begin today by making sure that you know why you should live on campus. The first is location. You are conveniently located in our residence halls close to classrooms, activities, recreational facilities, and support. You can get anywhere around campus within a 15 minute walk or short bus ride and our residence halls are also located close to downtown Iowa City which has lots of wonderful options for arts and entertainment. Living in the residence halls will give you an opportunity to find your niche on campus. You are a situated with fellow Hawkeyes, some may be international students, some may be domestic students, some folks might be from the Iowa area, but there is a great way for you to connect with community and find a group of people that you can call your own during your time here at the University of Iowa. We offer fantastic support in our residence halls for you one on one and to the larger community, and that support comes in the form of both students staff leadership activities and professional staff that work in our residence halls. In terms of safety, our residence halls are a very safe environment for you to live in. We offer 24 hours security and folks on call in the event of a crisis or a medical emergency. And we have several different layers of what that safety looks like, whether it comes down to individualized door locks and card access into the building, along with our formal partnership with the University Police Department.

Danielle: Talking a little bit about some of our resources; we talked about resident assistants and just explain what that is a little bit more. Resident assistants are a member of each person's hall floor. They are students staff members who have been carefully selected and trained, and their job is to assist their residents, who will be you, in adjusting to the halls in the University of Iowa. They get lots of training across different areas, are very knowledgeable about campus resources, and are really there to get to
know you as an individual student so they can figure out what your needs are and how to connect to the most of local resources. Outside of resident assistants, we also have hall coordinators and assistant hall coordinators. These are professionals that live in the buildings and support student success and engagement. They are there to help with everything from roommate conflicts and different pieces that are going on, to helping connect to the university, understanding what our different policies are. Kendal was one of our lovely hall coordinators, doing a really great job of helping support that student success. We also have support staff. So our house secretary, desk, and custodial, and maintenance staff are all available for questions. They are there to help with anything that kind of comes up and if they don’t know the answer to your question, they can point you to the people who do. And finally we have embedded counselors within our residence halls. These are free confidential resources for all residence hall students to be able to talk with one of our embedded psychologists, talk to a counselor if you were struggling with trust or have questions or concerns or anything is going on, they are great resources and really love working with all of our students.

**Kendal:** OK. And so that being said, if I see that you are interested in working with the university housing and dining, that’s not something that’s necessarily automatic. You need to apply online so that we know that you are interested. Alright. And so on the screen right now we will show you what you need to do so that can happen. Alright head on to our website, the University of Iowa site, on there and make sure that you can secure your browser so that way your information remains secure and safe. Once you apply, you’ll be getting different process to know what you need to do step by step so that you can maneuver correctly alright. And so be sure to double check and explore and personalize the different housing options, so that way you get opportunity that really works for you. Later on, you will get an opportunity to select a room and meal plan from our menu options. Also on there, you have the opportunity to connect with a community online, and that way you can see who is around you, you can see who exactly might be living there in the fall semester and, as soon as you get your confirmation, etc., we will definitely look forward to seeing you move in and check in on campus in the fall semester as part of OnIowa. Alright. That would be an opportunity for you to be centered and also to get more answers and the support one wants to get here. In that way, we are supporting you as you transition yourself into college.

**Virginia:** To overview the online application steps, our housing application opened in October and it will remain open until the end of May. And so what you'll need to do, as Kendal mentioned, is access the application through our website. You can go on through MyUI, and within your admission to profile is where you'll be able to see the housing application. You will verify your personal and community contact emergency contact information. We hope that we never need to use it, but just in case, we ask anyway. You'll agree to the housing contract terms and conditions, and if you're under the age of 18, your parents will need to give permission. You'll have to pay a $75 non refundable application fee with a credit card. And your admissions fee, if that happens to be deferred, you will have your 75 dollar fee deferred to your September UBill. So you wouldn't have to pay immediately. And then lastly the most important thing is you actually need to hit submit in order to reserve your place in line to participate in room selection next summer.

**Danielle:** So exploring and personalizing your experience. So we have a lots of great options for a living at our residence halls. We encourage you to check out our living learning communities, our honors program, and all of our different residence halls. **If you're interested in a living learning community, the**
application is due May 1. So there's a supplemental application for that, that asks you three pretty simple questions, just to look at and see why are interested in the community and what you're hoping to gain from it. Students who are accepted into learning communities will be notified in mid-May. You can also learn about your ADA/medical commendations. ADA stands for Americans Disabilities Act, we’ll talk a little bit more about this in the next slide, but the priority deadline for those requests is May 15. So it's really important that if you have any type of accommodations that you let us know about those by May 15 so we have the ability to best work with you and make sure that you're supported in your residence hall environment. Lastly, you will complete the lifestyle questionnaire and search for a roommate. The lifestyle questionnaire helps you think about things that you want with the residence hall environment, what you want to see your room as you are looking at potential roommates. We can connect you with someone who is compatible with you. All roommate requests, if you meet someone and you know that you want to live with them, all roommate request are due by May 31.

**Kendal:** Alright. So as Danielle said earlier, we are happy to help you and assist you based on your situation. And so right now we're going to talk a little bit about the American disabilities Act and the need for medical accommodation. We are aware that students may need certain accommodation so that you can get the most out of their living experience. And so we definitely work one-on-one with students with documented disabilities and medical accommodation, just to make sure that all the pieces and are pleased as such you can move in easily. Alright, let’s say you have the need for dietary accommodations. That could also be helped to support the specific diet, food allergies, as well as medical conditions. Alright, so that being said, if, let’s see, you need to let us know of your situation, all you need to do is to go back into the portal where you applied, check –

**Virginia:** - yes, I am requesting an accommodation -

**Kendal:** and that way we will definitely send you like the paperwork that is needed of you so that you can let us know what you would like, and as always, you know the priority deadline for fall accommodations is May 15, 2019. Be sure to submit all that you have by that deadline so we can be timely decision about how we can best support you. Alright and just a heads up, if for example, you need an accommodation outside of the residence halls, the University of Iowa definitely can help make that happen. However, if you need accommodation in the classrooms, for example, you will need to contact Student Disability Services so they can assist you. The combination we do in housing is for the residence halls, but Student Disability Services, they do the other pieces outside the residence halls. So make sure you review all of that and book with them if you need that kind of support as well.

**Virginia:** So after you have submitted all of your documentation and give us your preferences in the month of May, in the month of June is when online room selection will take place. Your room selection date and time will be based on the order your housing application was received and if you are a student that chose to join the living learning community, you will only pick a room in that particular living learning community. And that way it ensures that you are able to live on that floor and take the course in common associated with that particular living learning community. We receive a number of questions about how to participate as an honor student and all honors students will automatically be eligible to select a room in Daum Hall, as space allows. It’s important to be aware of this because there are many more honors students that are coming on campus than can live in Daum Hall. And so we have honor
students that live in every single one of our 10 residence halls. They are still fully engaged with the honors program. They’re able to achieve very high academically and have a great experience on campus. So if you are participating in the honors program, you may have the option to pick a room in Daum Hall. It will really depend on the students who applied for housing before you and if they if there is space in Daum when it is your turn took to request a room.

Danielle: So room rates for the 2019-20 school years of are available online, not quite been finalized yet. But these are projected to raise the next year. As you can see we have a variety of different from styles and different rooms based on where people are living. You can look at all of those, and these will be finalized and put online on our website for you to look at.

Kendal: Alright. And so on the previous slide you probably saw something called Hawkeye dollars and so we thought would explain to you exactly that means. What it means is that as part of your meal plan, $100 per semester is added to your university ID card, so think of it like virtual cash. Alright, and so that being said, with that virtual cash, you can go do a lot of different things with it on campus. So, for example, you can use it to swipe your laundry, you can use it to get an item out of the vending machines, or even on campus there are a few convenience stores, and so you can use it as well over there to get the different snacks or whatever you need.

Virginia: After you have selected your room, you will receive information about renters insurance and picking your meal plan and renters insurance is an option for you to have protection for your belongings. The University covers our building and it covers all of our furniture, but if there was an incident in the residence halls where there may have been a fire or a small flood, some unforeseen events that damaged your belongings, renters insurance can be helpful in replacing your belongings for you. And so we will provide you information about a company called GradGuard. You can choose to acquire renters insurance through GradGard. It’s about $110 for the full year. Or you can choose to use another company. We are OK with whoever you want to use for renters insurance, we just want you to make sure that you were informed that if there was an emergency and your things were damaged, that the university would not pay for replacing your computer or your clothing. You also will select a meal plan and we have three different options for our meal plans. They are the Gold, the Black, and the Hawkeye. If you live in a residence hall room, you will likely select the gold or the black, but if you happen to have a room that also has a kitchen involved, and so that would be at Mayflower or in just a handful of apartments that are in Hillcrest, you would be eligible for the Hawkeye plan. And each meal plan comes with marketplace meals, some flex meals, and then guest meals. and a flex meal is interesting because it can be used at either a marketplace or a retail dining location. We will teach you how to use your meal plan once you arrive on campus. You will also have the option to change your meal plan in the future if your meal plan doesn’t quite work with your schedule.

Danielle: Dining accommodations. We mentioned earlier that if you have any food allergies or dietary restrictions, we work to support those. So we have a lot of very talented chefs who will work with students individually to figure out what they most need, so that you can eat in our dining halls. There’s individual meal preparation available to limit cross contamination. We also have a registered dietitian named Laura who works for all of the students can do individual appointments and review dietary forms and documentation. She’s awesome, just a great resource if you're ever interested and wanting to talk
to someone about changing your diet or wanting to eat differently. She works with those as well in consultations with students with those as well.

**Kendal:** Alright. So right now, after looking at information you've just gotten, you're ready to move in, you maybe wondering what do you do. All right. And so please remember that international students can move in as early as Saturday, August 17th. That is because you need to get there well before classes start for your mandatory international orientation. Please remember that early arrival charges would be at the rate of $35 a day, or $105 in total. Alright. So, just another heads up for you, the standard move-in dates and times aside are really based on the room and building. And so take a look at the dates in front of you. Tuesday August 20th, Wednesday August 21st, and Thursday August 22nd, OnIowa will then proceed, and that is a very interesting opportunity for you to make friends, connect with other students around you, discover Hawkeye tradition as well as commit to the Iowa challenge, and it is always a very good way to get it started at Iowa, so I would definitely encourage you to sign up for that.

**Virginia:** As you're preparing for your August arrival in time for that August 19 orientation, your packing list can include a number of things. We want to make sure that you know that all of your rooms are furnished. They have an extra long twin bed, they come with a dresser, a desk, a chair, a mirror, some window coverings, and all of your utilities are included. That is heat, water, electricity, air conditioning, every single one of our residence halls has both heat and air conditioning to accommodate for the Iowa weather, and it also includes internet, both wireless and, if you wanted to plug in for internet, you could bring an Ethernet cord as well. We have a full packing list on our website. It's pretty hefty, but it helps you understand what to bring, maybe what's not allowed, and just in case, if you forget anything, we do have shopping nearby for if something doesn't fit in your suitcase, but, you know that you might want to have an extra pillow while you're here on campus.

**Virginia:** So we're going to transition into a period where we're going to answer some frequently asked questions, but first we'll talk about break housing.

**Danielle:** Yeah. So break housing over Thanksgiving in spring break, the residence halls are open at no additional charge, but you must register with us in the hall so that we can know who is around, we like knowing who is around and all those pieces. So there is an application sent out before those that reminds students to register to let us know who is here. Over winter break you must apply and pay an additional $300 fee that is charged to your Ubill. This will cover the entire break from December to January, so if you want to stay in the residence halls over winter break, that is a possibility. Students that do not stay in the halls over break do not need to move their belongings out of their room. So once you've moved in, you've moved in for the year until the summer when you go to leave, so you don't have to remove all of your belongings over winter break.

**Virginia:** Now for FAQs. Kendall, please take it away.

**Kendal:** So every so often when students are applying for on-campus housing, they do have the question do I have to pick a roommate? All right. And so we can tell you right now is no, you do not have to. In the application process, only about 30 percent of applicants actually request a roommate at that time. Alright. And so if let's say you do not select a roommate, you will have the option to look at other options during the online selection, just to figure out something that works out for you alright. And so
the other thing we like to let you know is that, if you are the first person to pick a room, your new roommate will select you.

**Virginia:** Now sometimes we have students who ask can I request two roommates? And no, our roommate requests are just limited to one fellow Hawkeye. The triple rooms are limited across campus, so it’s really best to plan on having a double room assignment, you and one other student. As a gentle reminder, all roommate requests must be mutually confirmed online by May 31 2019 and we will certainly send you a reminder when those dates are approaching.

**Danielle:** Now, you might be asking what are some good tips for living with a roommate? So we’ve kind of compiled pieces based on what we’ve seen in the residence halls and have put them into these five tips. So first, we recommend you really trying to get to know your roommate. If you have the opportunity to have a conversation with them before you move in, that’s great go ahead and start that communication. If you can’t, that’s also okay. But just take the time we get to know who your roommate is, what they like, what they don’t, what they want the residence hall room to look like, all of those pieces. Second, take your roommate agreement seriously. So in within the first couple of weeks, your RA will be coming around and talking with you and your roommate about a roommate agreement. Essentially, this is a contract that you would your roommate come up with together to talk about how you want the room to be, where you can talk about overnight guests, talk about all these different things, temperature, all of the things you need to feel comfortable in your room and you work together to come up with a compromise that works for both of you. So take that seriously and know that that’s a document that can be edited throughout the year if something comes up. Third, we talk about assuming goodwill with your roommate. If a disagreement happens or something comes up or something is frustrating you, we really encourage you to assume good intent in that and assume that the person is not trying to be malicious or mean towards you, but assume that everyone wants to live together productively. Four, we really recommend open and direct communication and can’t stress this enough. If you were having a difficulty with your roommate, we really want you talk with him about it and have that open communication to talk about the issues you have the ability to work together and live together productively. And if it at any point in time you’re having trouble with that, you can also utilize your resident assistant for support in open communication practices. And lastly, remember that all relationships take time. It can take time to figure how to live with each other, and if something feels awkward for the first couple of days, that’s totally normal. We recognize that it’s not always easy living with other people, but we encourage you to take that time and, again, work to get to know your roommate in those pieces and know that you are never alone and if you need support, a resident assistant and the hall coordinators are there to support you.

**Kendal:** The next request that we always get is are all buildings co-ed? Yes, all of our residence halls are open to students of any gender. What we like to let you know is that we have some buildings with single-gender floors or wings, and these are Burge, Currier, Hillcrest, and Rienow. The rest of our buildings have mixed-gender floors. And these are Catlett, Daum, Mayflower, Petersen, Stanley, and Slater.

**Virginia:** People often ask what are the bathrooms like? And we have three different types of bathrooms in our residence halls. We have a community style, single user, and suite-style bathrooms. And the community – in all of the bathrooms you have privacy to handle your daily schedule. They just may have the facilities laid out a little bit differently. In a community style bathroom, it’s a locked access
bathroom, they are single-gender, and they are shared between 12 and 15 students. And so what you would see is you would see a roll of toilets, a row of sinks, and a row of showers. And the showers and the toilets all have doors that latch on them so you can have privacy. Those community-style bathrooms are located in Burge, Currier, Hillcrest, and Rienow hall. We have single-user pod-style bathrooms, those are more similar to what you might have been in an individual house and again, those are locked access, but there are open to any gender. There are shared between 12 and 15 people, and they are only used by one person at a time, but there may be a series of five or 6 of these individual little bathrooms in the hallway and they have one sink, one shower, and one toilet all in a room behind a locked door. Those single user bathrooms are located in Catlett, Daum, Petersen, Slater, and Stanley hall. And then in Mayflower Hall, it's a suite style building, and so there are two resident rooms with a kitchen in a bathroom in between and that bathroom has two doors on it. There are two sinks. There’s one shower and one toilet. So you have adequate privacy, but you only share it between just a couple of students.

Danielle: Now, you might be asking if you can change your meal plan. Absolutely. So in the first two weeks of the semester we allow for meal plan changes to happen. If you realize that you are eating as much as you thought you were going to move to a different one or if you realize, you want to eat some more, one thing we tell you to think about is if you typically eat breakfast, go for the gold unlimited plan. It’s probably the best option for you and it gives you the most opportunities to eat within the residence halls.

Kendal: OK. Now, let's talk about what the process or whatever time it is when it comes to your arrival and let you know the application process. Our application opened online on October 2nd last year. The deadline of May 5th, that would be the deadline to apply for living learning communities. If you need ADA accommodations, the priority deadline for that is May 15 and roommate request deadline is May 31st, so please note that these deadlines are coming up quickly so you will need to act and submit the paperwork so that you can meet those deadlines.

Kendal: Alright, after all of these pieces, the deadline to select a room online would be in June and you have until July to get to know roommates and faculty members assigned to you, depending on what option you choose. Alright, international student arrivals, that starts August 17th. Move-in and On Iowa will be August 20th to 22nd. Once again, please know that many rules and deadlines are fast-approaching, so if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please reach out to us so that we can support you in the application process and before you arrived here on campus.

Virginia: Just a reminder about our anticipated costs for 19-20. This is a total snapshot of a room, a black male plan, and your 200 Hawkeye dollars broken down based on which type of building you might live in. In one of our traditional halls, you can budget for approximately $10,485. If you were to live in a double room in mayflower, you'd be looking at $11,321, and if you lived in Petersen or Catlett, which are our newer buildings, you could budget for approximately $11,521. again all of our rates will be finalized by the board of regents in May, but this at least allows you to plan for what you might be able to receive.

Danielle: Some final tips to consider - remember room selection is on a first-come, first-serve basis. So you will be impacted by those who submitted applications before you and you will impact the students who submitted applications after you. We really encourage you to be flexible and open to multiple
housing options because by the time your room selection process comes forward you're only going to be able to see the rooms that are still available. We talked about this earlier but all roommate relationships take time and communication, over any point in terms if you are struggling with your roommate, please remember to have that open communication and to really work to try and build up relationships. Another thing: students should be the primary person admitting applications and communication to UH&D, we know that some have family or an agency that is involved in helping you work through these pieces, but we really want to work with you as a student to be the primary person for all of our communication. And last, we really encourage you to live on campus for two years. We have a really vibrant returning student population who likes to live on the campus for a second year. And we definitely have space if you want to continue to live on campus with us. Other perks for being on campus for a second year is they tend to have a higher GPA and then you can connect more to the campus community and really engage in that second year.

**Kendal:** Yes, in a bit we will be allowing you to ask some questions. However, if you have questions after this webinar that's totally fine. We're more than happy to assist in different ways. If you are internal and you want to speak to someone in person, feel free to stop by Burge Hall, open Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm central time. If you need to call someone to get a live voice, our phone number is 319 area code 335-3000, and we respond to emails all the time, and our email is housing@uiowa.edu. So make sure you use that information to get your questions answered. We are more than happy to assist you before you get here on campus.

**Virginia:** And now it's time for your questions. And so Michael will help moderate for us. We know that you've had a number of that you've been posting in the Q & A section and we look forward to helping him as best we can.

**Q&A**

**Michael:** And I just posted this message in the chat, but for those who arrived late, you can ask your questions using the Q & A function in the zoom and will go through those and answer them live and we're going to start with the question: should I apply for other LLCs beforehand in case I don't get space in Daum or honors housing?

**Virginia:** I think if you are interested in joining one of the other living learning communities, I would certainly recommend that you do that. I think it's important to be aware of that space in Daum is extremely limited, and if you submit it a housing application, depending on the date when you applied, the likelihood of you getting a room in Daum may vary significantly. And so if there is a living learning community that you find intriguing, I would say go for it and go for the living learning community because then you could participate in the LLC and still be a member of honors through your coursework and through some of the honors program activities and you'll have a more, well rounded experience here on campus.

**Michael:** OK. So here's a kind of technical question that I think I know the answer to, but I'm hopeful that you guys do because I'm not positive. Are you able to apply for University accommodation if you haven't yet completed the full University of Iowa application?
**Virginia:** For this individual person who is writing in, when you say applied for accommodation, do you mean can you apply for housing if you have not accepted your admission to the University of Iowa?

**Michael:** I think they haven't even completed the full application to the University of Iowa.

**Virginia:** OK, well, if you have not applied to the University of Iowa yet and you have not been admitted then no, you cannot apply for housing until after you've been accepted as a University of Iowa student. You'll need your university credentials in order to log into your application and submit all the materials. But once you're accepted we'd be happy to have you apply for housing.

**Michael:** And just in case I misunderstood the question, if you're asking if you can apply for housing before you complete the information in iHawk, the immigration information, you can apply for housing before you do the things in iHawk. It's absolutely fine for you to apply for housing before you get your visa but you should do it as soon as possible.

**Michael:** OK, another question here. So this person was actually able to visit the university and while they were visiting they heard from one current student that someone else can potentially choose your room for you. And the situation is that if someone selects you as their preferred roommate and they also select the room, would you have to accept that room or would you have to accept that roommate?

**Virginia:** So the first thing that comes is your roommate request. So if you and another student have agreed to be roommates, then the first of you two that has the opportunity to pick a room will pick on behalf of your roommate pair. Ideally if you have said to this person yes, I'm excited to be your roommate and you officially accept their roommate request online, you will trust whatever room they have selected for your roommate pair. However, when it is your turn to select a room, if life is changed in you have decided that you no longer want to be a part of that roommate pair or you don't want to live in the room that that person has selected for you, when it is your room selection time, you could change your room assignment if you wanted to. You just wouldn't - the likelihood of you being able to live with that other person is just decreased because it may be hard to find another room for two people. It's a complicated and very nuanced answer, so my recommendation is if you're going to be roommates with someone say, yes, and trust the room that they might pick for you.

**Michael:** OK. So the next question is that the pod style bathrooms. And the person wants know if the 5 to 6 pod style bathrooms are enough for 12 to 15 people to share.

**Danielle:** In general, we find that students are aren’t waiting for restrooms because everyone tends to have different times they are needing to use them. The other thing that's nice of the pod style is, if for some reason all of them on your floor are busy, you’re in a residence hall that has multiple other floors. So you can go up a floor or down a floor if you are really struggling, but we don't tend to have any concerns from students saying that they’re not able to use the restrooms when they need to.

**Michael:** We have two follow-ups to previous questions. So the first of the person who is talking about the LLC. They want to know if they need to keep honors as an option on the application.

**Virginia:** No, honors is actually not an option that you can request on the application. There is only a separate, pardon me, there is only the other communities that are listed, and that is because we will automatically know if you have been accepted to the honors program, and as a result automatically give
you access to try to select a room and Daum Hall. So honors should not be an option that you can select on your application. If for some reason that has shown up on yours, send us a private message or an email so we can follow up on where you’re applying for housing because it might not be Iowa.

Michael: Fantastic. Our other follow up is regarding the person who hadn’t completed the application. It turns out they’re an exchange student in, so they’ve been nominated by their university, but their exchange student stuff hasn’t yet been done so what’s the order of operations for applying for housing there?

Virginia: So as an exchange student, once you've been accepted into your exchange program and admitted to the University of Iowa through that exchange program, then you should be issued University of Iowa credentials and be able to still submit a housing application for university housing and dining. We work very closely with International Student and Scholar Services to make sure that we have rooms reserved for folks in exchange programs to make sure, so we look forward to having you live with us on campus once you come.

Michael: And I'll just say that the person in International Students and Scholar Services who works directly with exchange students is Lee Seedorff and if you haven’t been in contact with her yet, she'll probably be in contact with you shortly. OK. So we have some other questions that are popping up. Somebody wants to know, when they move in, is there any help available for them? Will they get any help when they move in?

Danielle: Yes. There is lots of help available. So we have volunteers each year who are returning students or community members who are around to help you with your items in. So we have a plethora of people who are there to help you lift pieces. I know that there is some families last year who literally didn’t lift anything of their own belongings because there are so many volunteers available to help. We also have carts that are available for checkout in our residence halls, so if any point in time you need to get a cart or a bin to help you move, you can get those. There's lots of help and support.

Virginia: I think the only important thing to note is that if you happen to come on the 17th or on the 18th of August, that's when all our moving volunteers are also moving in. So if you are coming on an early arrival date, you would have to move your own belongings. But will have carts available for you to be able to use.

Michael: Another good question we've got here is: it possible to send my luggage ahead of time? Can I send my luggage to my room ahead of time?

Virginia: You can ship your belongings to campus, but we ask that it arrives when you arrive. Our mail rooms are not very big, and we know that some of your suitcases are quite large. And so if all of you were to send your suitcases ahead of time, it would take up quite a bit of space. So please plan if you are going to ship belongings to ensure that it arrives right around that same time that you will be here on campus.
Michael: Here's a question I don't know if I've seen before. Is there halal meat available in the dining halls?

Danielle: There is halal meat available in Catlett. I know that their burger station - Our dining halls in general house, again, lots of different options. Again, we talked about if there are specific dietary restrictions that you need, or if there are dining needs that you have, you can always reach out to the chef to work with you individually, but I do know that we have.

Virginia: Yeah, I think it just depends on the time of year in the conversation that you might need to have with either Laura our dietitian or the head chef at the marketplace, so the manager, where you going to be heating most common. Halal meat is not available in every single location all the time but if it's a holiday they’ll work with you on that. On that same note though, our kitchens are not certified kosher, and that's important, if you happen to maintain a kosher lifestyle.

Michael: Thank you. Another question is if I want to choose a single room with the pod style bathroom, what is the configuration?

Virginia: It is possible that during online room selection, if there is a single room available in a building that happened to have single user or pod style restrooms, that you could select that. I want to be very clear though that single rooms are not very common on our campus it can be quite difficult to get a single room because many students who are living on campus for their second or third year will pick rooms before you as a new student. Additionally, the majority of our rooms are just double rooms. So you should anticipate having a roommate, I think that's very important for you to be prepared for.

Michael: Good question here. When did they have to pay for housing and do they have to pay for a whole year at a time?

Virginia: Your housing is billed by the semester. And so if you are going to be here for the full academic year, your first housing payment will come on your August 1st university bill, right along with your semester tuition. And that is due towards, typically, around August 22 and then and is again paid through for the semester. And then in January, your January 1 University Bill will have the charges for your spring semester. And that will be due January 22. In your UBill can be paid centrally through our billing office. They have some really great YouTube videos on how to make sure that you are making your University Bill Payment.

Michael: We've got some more questions here but I just wanted to make it quick plug. Thank you, everybody for attending and we have a survey that would love for you to fill out to let us know how we're doing or if there's anything you want to know but can't get. And so I'm just going to quickly send that link in the chat and then I'm going to move on to our next question, which is: if I don't choose my roommate, will I get assigned somebody with the same major that I have?

Virginia: No, not necessarily. If you do not choose a roommate, it is possible that, you know, if you pick a room in there is not a roommate assigned that someone who is selecting a room after you would choose you as their roommate and people choose roommates for a variety of reasons. We do not assign specifically based on major if our staff wind up making your room assignment.

Michael: What does the flex mean in the flex meal plan?
Kendal: Yes. So flex basically means that, you know, it can be used on the go, if that makes sense. And so what I need is that you are able to go into that convenient store able to use your card and take meals on the go, with you to back to your room, class, etc. Whereas, in the dining halls, it is not flex because once you swipe in, you actually need to sit there to have that meal.

Michael: We have a follow up again about the LLC and honors I think we're just trying to clarify it. So if somebody applies for an LLC but also gets accepted into Daum Hall, can they choose between honors and the LLC that they were chosen for?

Virginia: That's a great question. So you actually will find out if you are admitted to a living learning community in mid-May. And that will take place, and you will actually have to decide before you know if you get into Daum Hall. And so in mid-May you'll have to make a decision: either yes, I'm going to join this living learning community, or I'm going to kind of risk it and see if I'm able to get into Daum Hall when I pick my room in June. And the reason that you have to commit to the LLC ahead of time is because we need to get you registered for any courses that might be associated with your living learning community. And that all has to be done before room selection takes place. So there is a bit of an unknown factor that may come up and that's why I would say if you have the opportunity and are accepted into a living learning community, that's guaranteed. And so I would recommend that you take the living learning community whereas during online room selection in June, it really is up in the air whether or not you'll actually get a room in Daum or would have a room in another building. So I hope that helps you. I know that trying to navigate the unknown can be complicated, but it's part of the adventure and no matter where you wind up, you're bound to have a great experience.

Michael: We only have two more questions, but we do have time. So if you have more questions keep on coming in. But question is: is there any prayer room in the Residence Hall?

Virginia: You are able to pray in your individual rooms and we have a prayer room at the Iowa Memorial Union for you to utilize. Additionally there are number of faith communities located right next to campus. So depending on what your faith tradition is, you could always pop into one of those places of worship for your prayers.

Michael: Right. The last question we currently have submitted, and one I wondered about, is: why is the dorm called a residence hall?

Danielle: I'll go for that one. Sorry, trying to figure out how to go through this question. Essentially, we call them residence halls because we don't want you to think of it as just took place where you're going to be sleeping. The residence halls really are a very involved environment and community. You get to meet your neighbors, you get to build relationships with people, you get to really kind of explore and learn more about yourself and get to build those relationships and engage in the community. So all of that happens in the residence halls, whereas dorms are kind of an outdated term that comes from the sixties and seventies, talking a lot about places where people just sleep. As we rebranded and reimagined what Residence Hall living looks like, we wanted to change that name away from the dorm and away from the, this is just a place where you sleep, because the residence hall really is a place for you to engage. It's a place where your learn and it's a place where you get to build relationships.
Michael: OK. So thank you everybody for all the questions that have been submitted. We've gotten through all of those. And let me see here we only have a few slides left. So I'm going to ask just to advance the slide here. So if you have other questions about the pre arrival checklist or other issues about coming here or issues that you might have before arrival, please contact us at ISSS-orientation@uiowa.edu. And you can always visit the ISSS website for new international students to get more resources. Please remember this is just one of many pre-arrival webinars. Our next webinar is on April 26: that's going to be getting started in making your travel arrangements. So that's going to talk to you about doing the pre arrival checklist, completing that, if you have not done so already, and how you make your arrangements to get into Iowa City. And that is the end of our session. I just want to kind of throw it out to everybody and say thank you so much for presenting with us today. We really appreciate it and thank you all for listening. If you haven't done so, please take a moment to do our survey that we shared in the chat and have great time guys.

Kendal: Thank you.