

Frequently Asked Questions

Bill and Joan Alfond Main Street Commons

MISSION of Bill and Joan Alfond Main Street Commons

The Program for Civic Engagement and Community Partnerships offers opportunities for students to become thoughtful leaders, critical thinkers, and socially responsible citizens by living and learning at the intersection between academic work and community involvement. Grounded in a model of reciprocity and mutual respect, the Program will form liaison relationships with many different civic and community partners to develop a paradigm of shared learning and knowledge for Colby faculty, staff, students and members of Maine communities. These partnerships are inherently interdisciplinary and thus will align well with both the liberal arts mission of Colby and the needs of our community.

Why should I consider living in the Main Street residential community? There are many reasons to consider living in this new residence hall:

- The opportunity to better integrate and learn from community partners in Central Maine
- The ability to put academic experiences into practice to support the work on non-profit organizations in the community
- To develop or advance skill sets that help to identify, address and solve problems
- To build an intentional community dedicated to civic engagement in and out of the classroom

How do I apply?

You will apply through Colby's same housing process with a specific set of questions as part of the application process. You will have the opportunity to either identify a group as part of an application or apply as an individual.

Can I apply if I can't fill an apartment?

Yes, you can complete an individual application, and residential education staff will work to assign suite mates based on interests. This is an exciting opportunity to meet and learn from other members of the community.

Can I apply to both the Downtown Resident Hall and the Alfond apartments?

Yes, you will be asked to rank your choices. You will then have the opportunity to answer the relevant questions depending on which of the residence halls you would like to reside in.

Can I apply if I plan to spend a semester abroad?

Yes, you will have one of two choices: you may identify a roommate to fill your place or we will work with the group to identify someone to join the group.

Do I have to have prior experience or involvement in civic engagement?

No, civic engagement residential education staff will work with you to identify a project with our community partners. Having the opportunity to experience a residential community committed to civic engagement is filled with learning and leadership opportunities. There are several ways to fulfill the requirement to live in the Main Street residence hall. Staff and faculty and your advising deans can assist you with this process of identifying academic and co-curricular civic engagement opportunities.

What is considered civic engagement?

There are many options that will allow you to fulfill your requirements to live in the Bill and Joan Alford Main Street Commons.

Some of the options include:

- A civic engagement course like “Resettling Refugees and Immigrants in Portland” or “Marine Conservation and Policy”
- A research project that supports the needs of a specific community partner and is supported by a faculty member
- Weekly hours of service with a non-profit organization; students currently participating with an organization can choose to remain with the same organization
- An independent study with a non-profit that is supported and approved by a faculty member

In addition to one of the above mentioned options, residents will also take a non-graded seminar for credit for each of the semesters they live in the Bill and Joan Alford Main Street Commons. This seminar will initially explore the history of Waterville and the principles of civic engagement, offering students additional interactions with community members. There will be enough sections of the seminar to ensure everyone has the ability to enroll. There will also be opportunities to write an article from coursework for a new online publication.

What class years can apply?

Seniors and juniors are encouraged to apply.

Is there a required GPA?

No, there is no GPA requirement to apply.

Is the cost to live in the Bill and Joan Main Street Commons is the same as living on Mayflower Hill?

Yes. Colby believes we should ensure all students have the opportunity to live in any of Colby’s housing and thus offers one comprehensive fee to all students.

Will there be a shuttle?

We are working on a continuously looping professionally staffed shuttle that will run daily (including weekends) to ensure reliable transportation.

Security presence?

The downtown residence hall is part of the Colby campus, therefore, Security will manage the facility in a similar fashion as they do residence halls on campus.

Will I be able to change my meal plan?

Colby offers to all students living in a college owned apartment the 100 meal plan. Students have the ability to opt back to the full meal plan.

What is offered in each apartment?

There are two apartment choices. Students can choose to live in either a 4 person or a 6 person apartment. Each apartment is fully furnished. In each apartment, there are:

- Single bedrooms that will have a full size bed, desk, desk chair dresser and wardrobe
- Two bathrooms
- Kitchen with island and chairs, stove, refrigerator and dishwasher
- Living room with couch, chair and coffee table

Laundry

There are laundry rooms located on the 3rd and 5th floors in the new residential building.

Is there a fitness center?

Although it is not meant to take the place of our Athletic center on Mayflower Hill, there will be a fully functional fitness center on the 1st floor open to all residents of the building.

Parking

There is one parking spot per apartment; all other vehicles are expected to be parked on campus and students will take the shuttle back and forth to the main campus and the downtown residence hall.

Process for apartment selection

Students are required to submit the attached application. If you are applying as a group, please only submit one application. Individual applications can be submitted as well, and Campus Life Staff will work to create groups to fill apartments.

Does the Student Handbook apply in the Downtown residence hall?

Yes. Although this residence hall is located downtown, it is apart of Colby College housing. Therefore, all the rules and policies apply. The Student Handbook, which applies to all Colby students, can be found at <https://www.colby.edu/studentlife/handbook/>. We encourage you to read the Student Handbook, especially the Residential Life section. The Residential Life section provides you with specific information regarding your rights and responsibilities as a member of the residence hall community. The downtown residence hall is committed to civic engagement and social responsibility. Students who are found in violation of the

College's community standards or Student Handbook or who violate Maine or Waterville laws, may have their privilege of living in our residential communities alternated or removed. If you have questions about policies in the Student Handbook, please contact Melvin D. Adams, III, Assistant Dean of Conduct and Accountability/Title IX Coordinator at (207) 859-4256 or melvin.adams@colby.edu.

What happens if a student does not honor their commitments to be part of the Bill and Joan Main Street Commons?

If any of the requirements are not met, a student must return to Mayflower Hill and will be placed in an available room. If a student's conduct impacts their residency, that decision will be decided through the conduct process.

Is the Bill and Joan Main Street Commons part of Waterville Police jurisdiction?

Colby College is the the city of Waterville. Both Mayflower Hill and downtown properties are in the police jurisdiction. Of course, because the the downtown residence hall is more visible and is in the heart of the city, it is likely the Waterville Police Department will have more of a presence downtown.

DOWNTOWN RESIDENTIAL COMPLEX APPLICATION

Please list (print and sign) apartment applicant names below with the group representative (the person we will communicate with) on the first line.

Print

Sign

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

For individual applications, please print and sign below with the apartment representative (the person we will communicate with) on the first line.

Print

Sign

As an individual or group, please write and submit one response for each of the following questions.

Your response will be used to determine eligibility for Downtown Residence Room Selection.

Additionally, your responses will be shared with the selection committee comprised of The Program for

Civic Engagement and Community Partnerships, Campus Life Staff, HFAC (housing and facilities advisory committee) and student leaders to be discussed and reviewed.

Downtown Residence Application Questions

1. Why are you interested in living in the Main Street residence hall?
2. How will you contribute to establishing healthy, productive, and mutually beneficial partnerships with local residents, businesses, and institutions?
3. If known, describe the project you are interested in developing or working on? If you don't have a specific project in mind, how do you plan to fulfill the civic engagement requirement?
4. In addition to students, there will be faculty and staff living within the residence hall, and community members will actively engage with the program. Please share how you will work to create a positive and inclusive community, and any challenges and opportunities you expect to encounter in the process of developing relationships and building intentional community.