



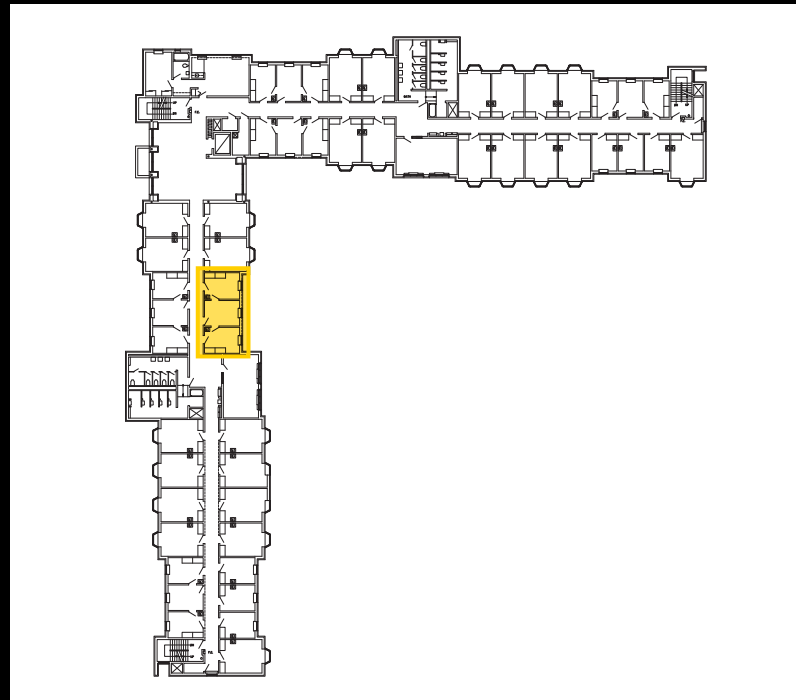
First-Year Success:  
Campus Housing Models  
that Help Students Succeed



Move-in day, Connecticut College



Siegfried Hall, University of Notre Dame







Warner Hall, University of Delaware  
(Laussat R. Rogers 1914; photograph 1951)



South Academy Residence Hall, University of Delaware  
(RAMSA, 2017; photograph 2017)

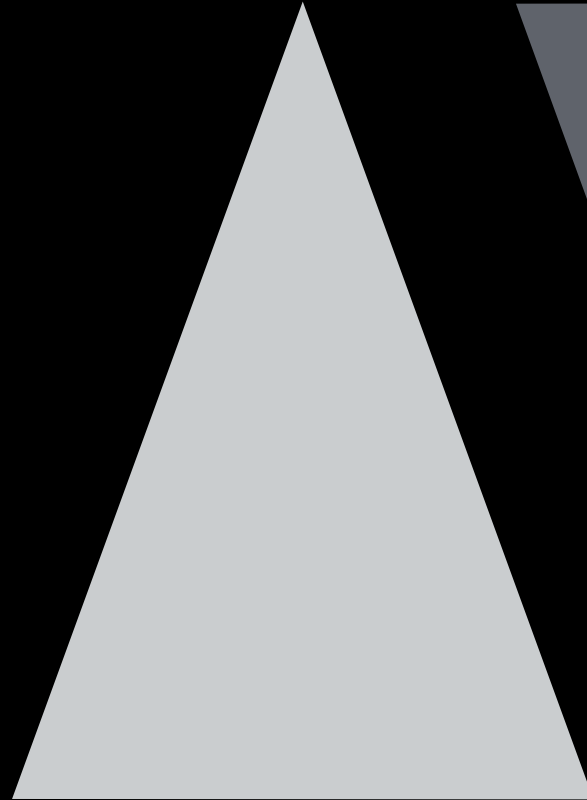
**Privacy**

**Supervision**

**First year**

**Second year**

**Third &  
fourth years**



#News

## 'All by Myself'

A new viral video from a Cornell student captures one of the most persistent problems among freshmen -- loneliness.

By [Jeremy Bauer-Wolf](#) // October 26, 2017

26 COMMENTS



Cornell University freshman Emery Bergmann's video on student loneliness has gone viral.

In a video gone viral, a first-year Cornell University student, Emery Bergmann, is curled up on her bed, hunched over her phone, lamenting how she hasn't found friends on her new campus.

"I feel like everyone else has kind of found their squad. Like, people walk around in big posses and I definitely don't have that," Bergmann narrates in the video, a class project that dealt with the loneliness she felt as a new student. "I feel more like a planet in the solar system, and, like, I know people and I say hi to them when I pass by them, but sometimes that's kind of it."

## Tech: Cell phones isolate teens, scientist says

**Anne Stych**, Contributing Writer  
Aug 4, 2017, 8:52am EDT



Getty Images (jubaphoto)

Isolation spurred by cell phones makes teens more vulnerable to mental illness, the study found



**Teen isolation.** Isolation caused by smartphones is making teens more vulnerable to mental illness, including depression and suicide, according to a professor who studies generational differences.

**Jean M. Twenge**, a professor of psychology at San Diego State University, said members of iGen – born between 1995 and 2012 – also are more immature than their predecessors, *Axios* reported.

The study found that teens are spending less time together, and are less likely to date or participate in other typical teen behaviors than previous generations.



Class colors, Wellesley College



Living and learning villages, North Carolina State University





Faculty in residence program, Goucher College

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# HOUSING

UNIVERSITY HOUSING & DINING

LIVING ON CAMPUS ▾ COMMUNITIES ▾ RESIDENCE HALLS ▾ MY HOUSING CONTACT US ▾

## HOME Communities

### Find a community

Here at Iowa, all students belong to a community. By choosing your community experience, you'll discover an avenue for making friends and connecting with the campus. These communities are the perfect place to embrace your sense of adventure, broaden your horizons, and make the most of your college years.

[Learn More](#)

PICK AN EXPERIENCE ▾

WHAT ARE YOU INTERESTED IN? ▾

WHAT ARE YOU MAJORING IN? ▾

RESET



All In



Arts



Be-WISE: Women in Science and Engineering



BizHawks



First Generation



Honors



Iowa Writers



New Student



People In Engineering



Political Matters



Public Health



Returning Student



Second Year Experience



Sport and Recreation Management

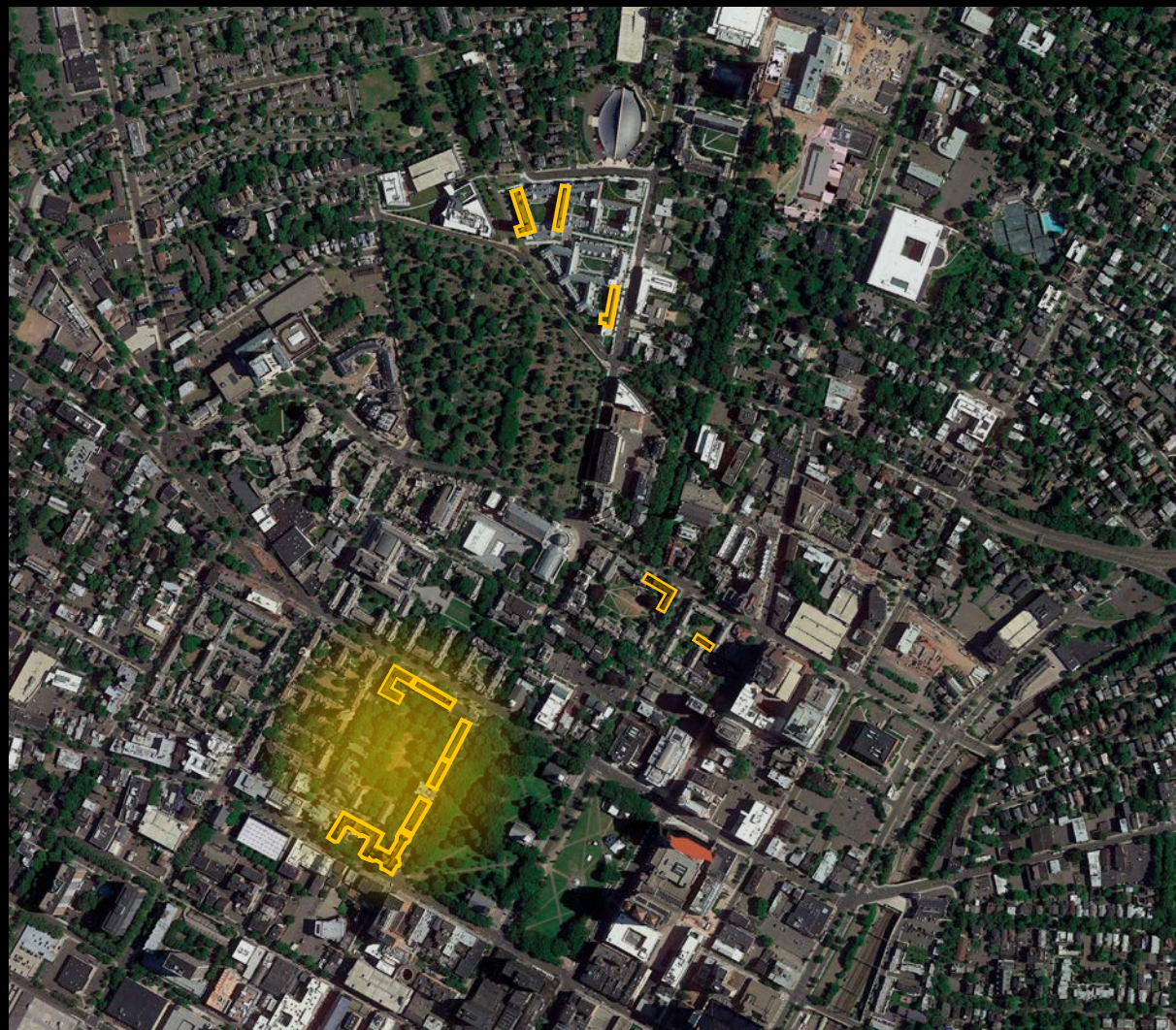


Young, Gifted, and Black



Thematic living learning communities, The University of Iowa

Community

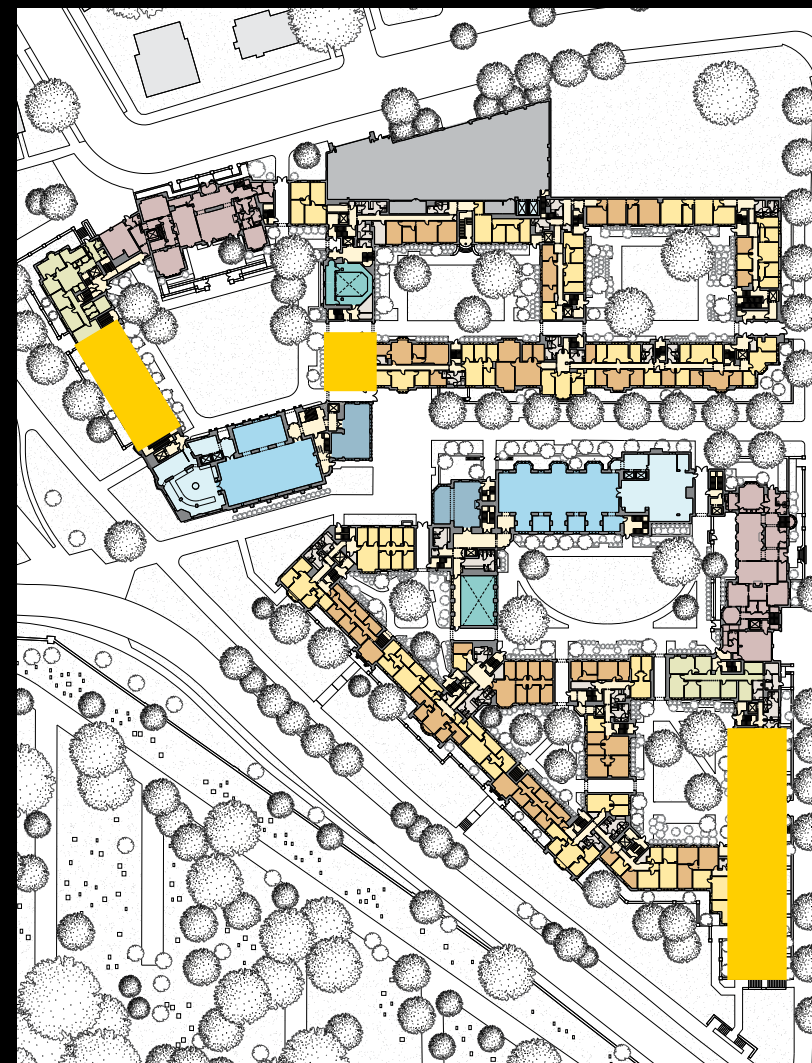


First-year students grouped together  
Yale University

Location on campus

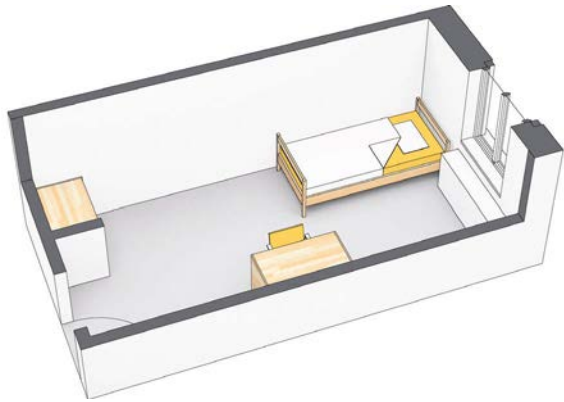


First-year students dispersed around campus  
University of Virginia

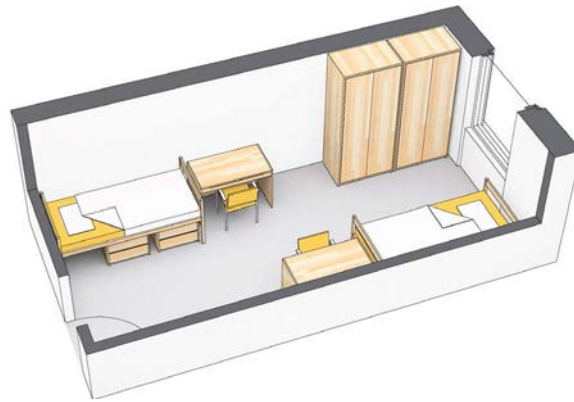


Benjamin Franklin and Pauli Murray Colleges, Yale University (RAMSA, 2017)

Location within building



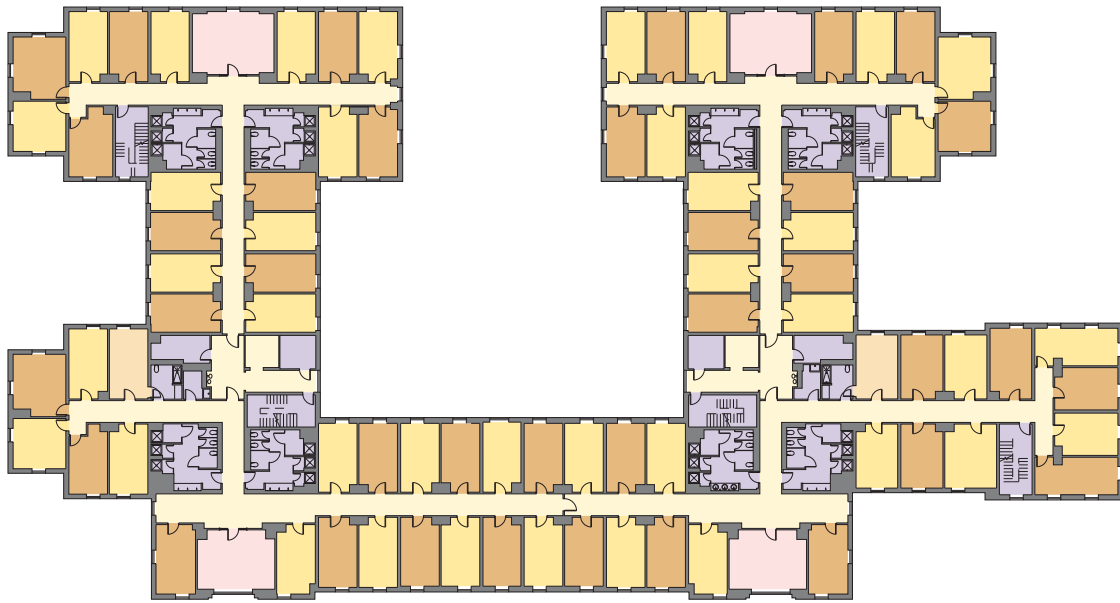
Singles



Doubles



Triples, quads, & more



Double-loaded corridor

Unit arrangements



Apartments



Lavelle Hall  
Marist College  
(RAMSA, 2018)



Benjamin Franklin College  
Yale University  
(RAMSA, 2017)



New College House  
Franklin & Marshall College  
(RAMSA, 2011)



What is right for your campus?

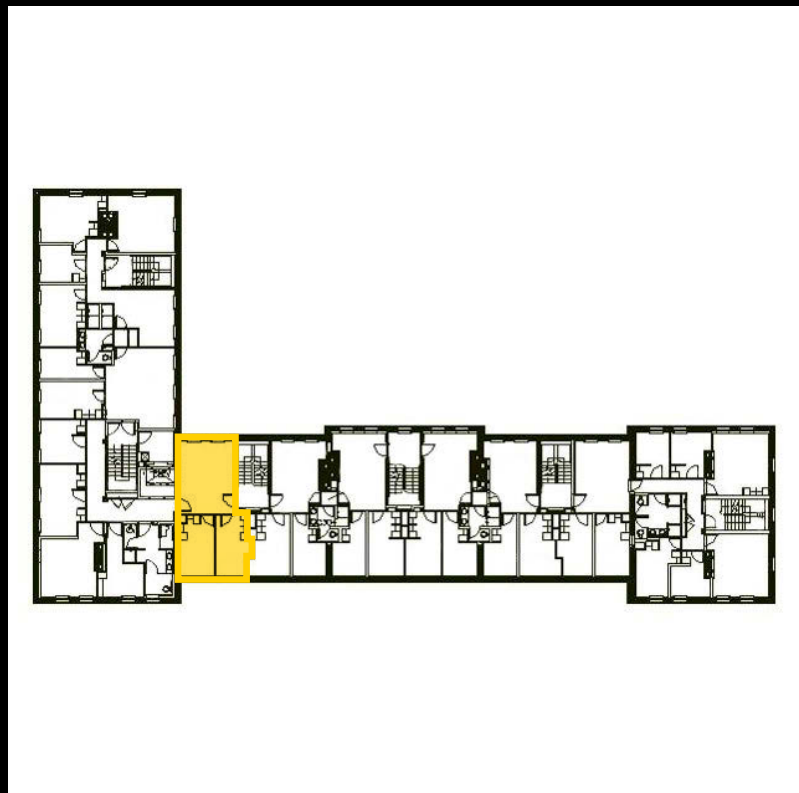
What creates the best living environment for first-years to succeed?



Case study: Connecticut College



Sage Hall, Williams College



## housing context

- private liberal arts college
- approximately 1850 students
- all students reside on campus
- majority of on-campus units are single rooms



New York, NY

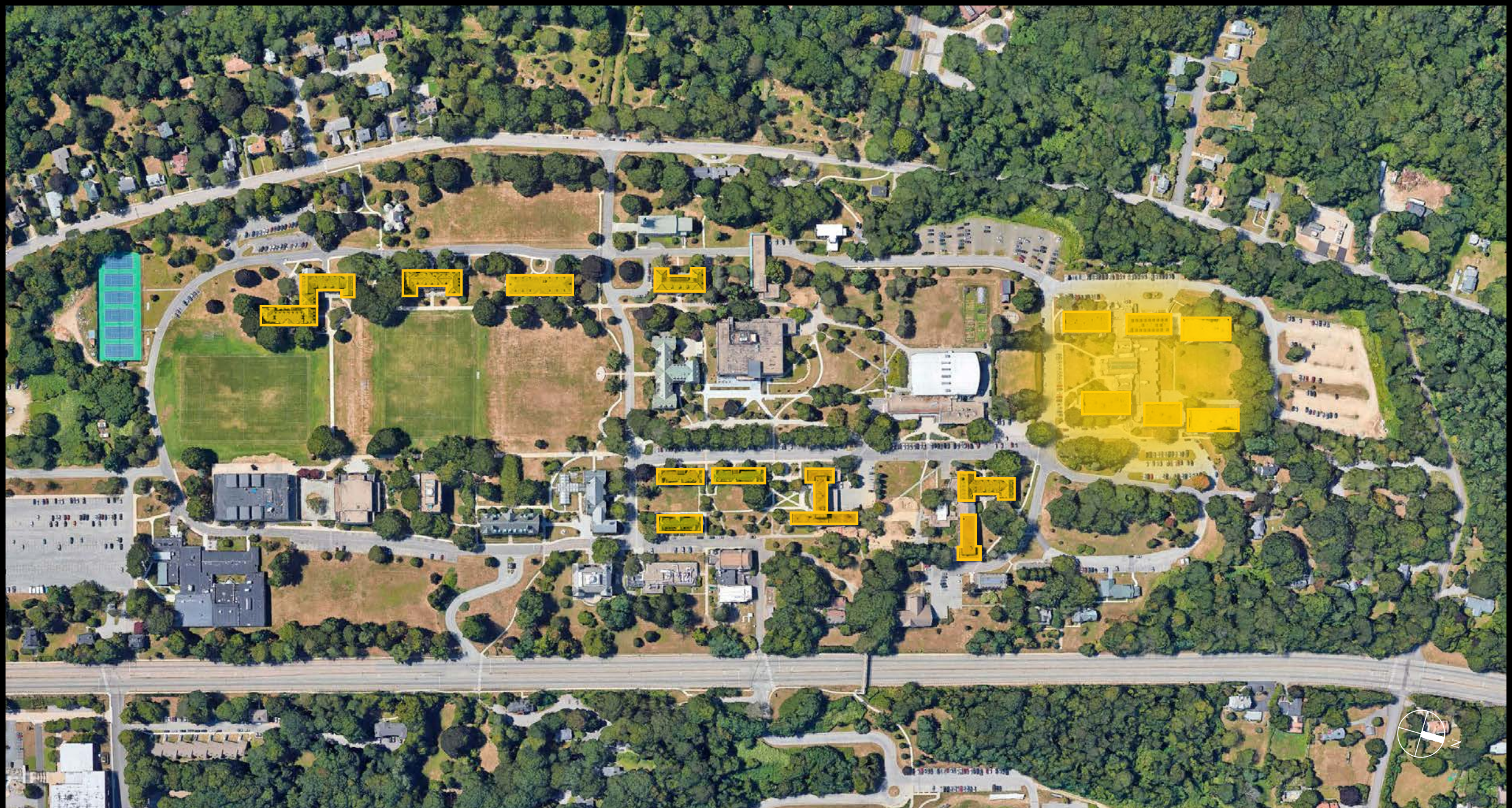
New Haven, CT

New London, CT

Providence, RI



Connecticut College aerial (Google Earth 2018)



Connecticut College aerial (Google Earth 2018)



Connecticut College (photograph 1920)





Blackstone House (Ewing & Chappell, 1914)



Mary Harkness House (Shreve, Lamb, & Harmon, 1934)

## challenges

- isolation
- small clusters of first-year students with upperclass students
- lack of class-affiliation and community
- poor adjustment to college
- impact on retention rate

## Hamilton Dorms Renovated, Designated for First-Years

🕒 September 28, 2017 👤 Christina Tougias 📁 News 💬 0

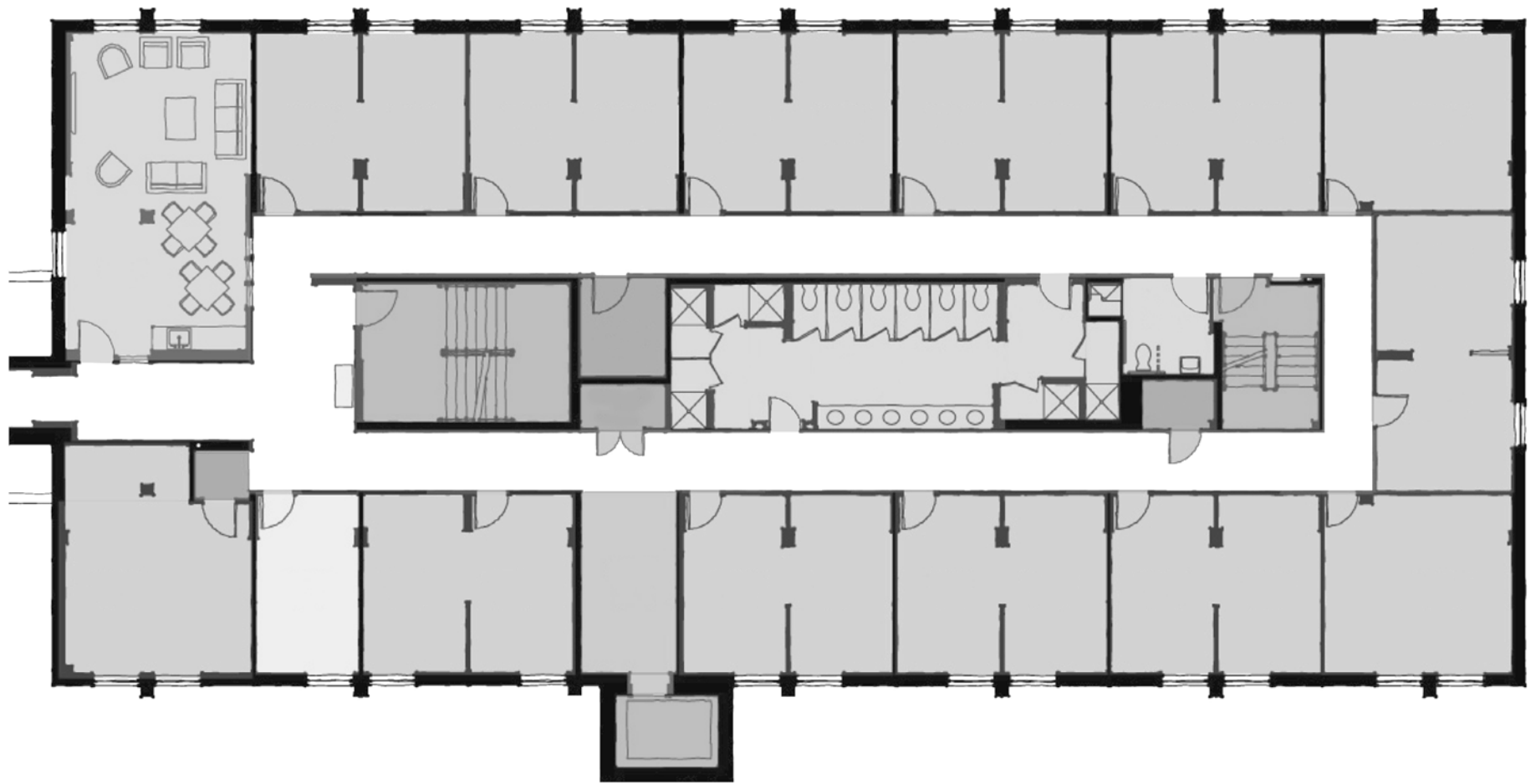


Room of KK Patterson'21 and Meredith Kenny'21 in Hamilton. Photo courtesy of Shae Albertson.

In the last few weeks, Hamilton has often been referenced in discussions of residence-hall desirability. It's been said to resemble all sorts of things from a hotel to the dorms on the TV show *Zoey 101*. Much of this is due to the new renovations and housing style changes that were made during the summer of 2017.



Hamilton House (1962; 2017)



Hamilton House (1962; 2017)



Hamilton House (1962; 2017)



Morrisson House (1962; 2018)



Morrisson House (1962; 2018)





Morrisson House (1962; 2018)



Morrisson House (1962; 2018)

## summary

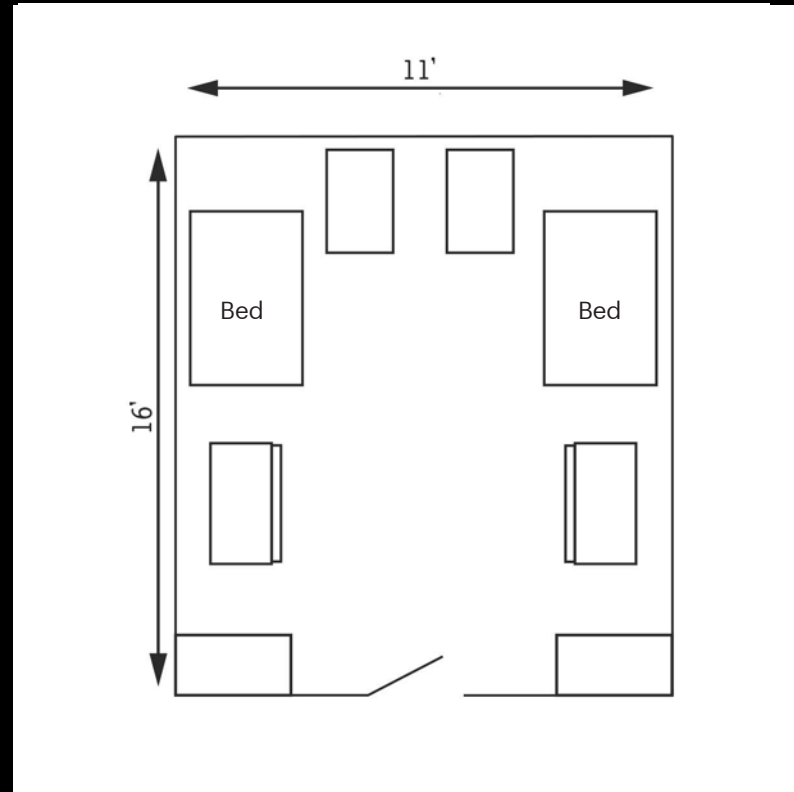
- 42% of Class of 2021 lived on first-year floors
- 48% of Class of 2022 lived on first-year floors
- introductory spaces to social life at Conn
- positive feedback from students in first-year buildings

# Case study: University of Delaware



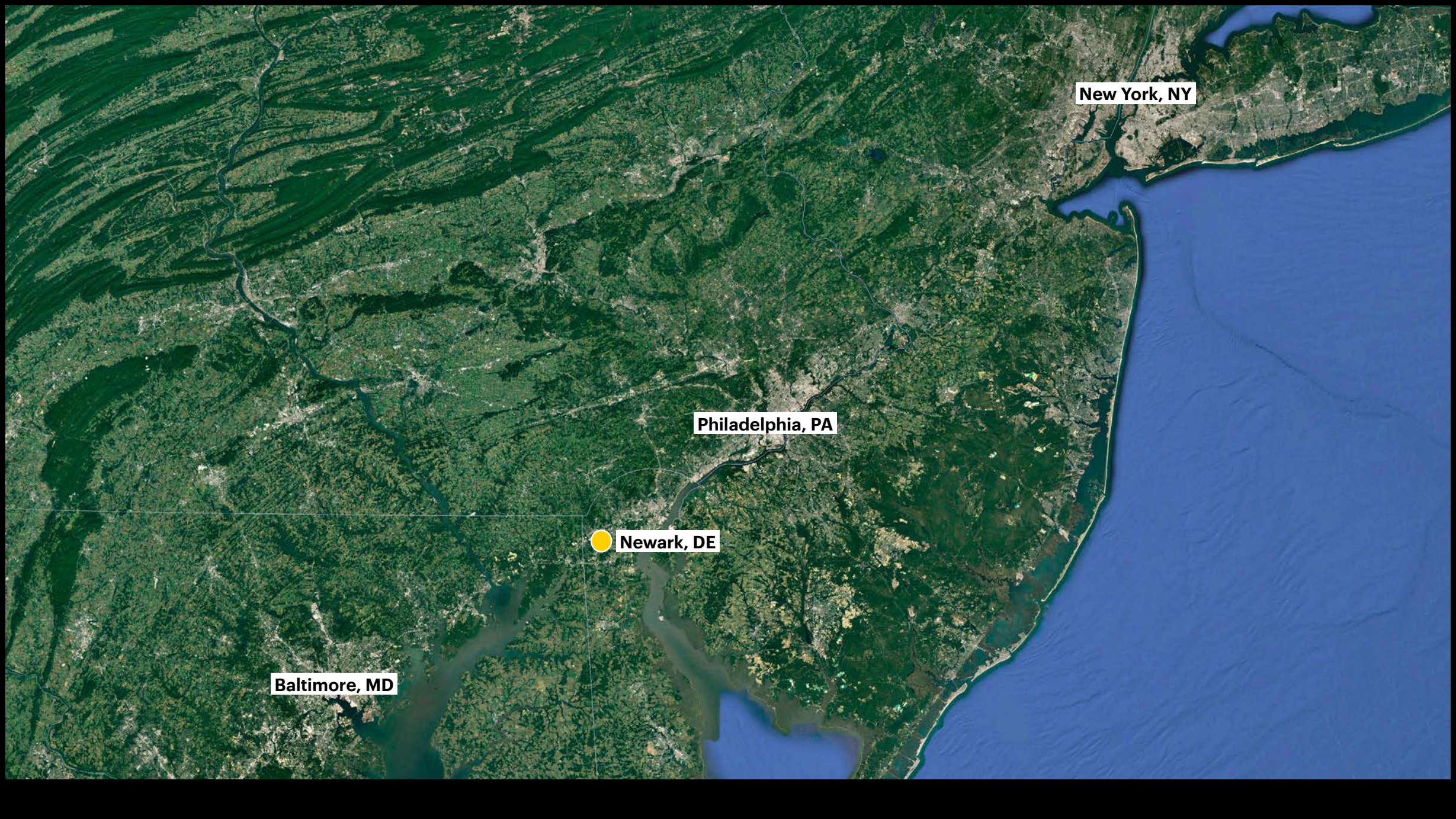


Seneca Hall, SUNY Oswego



## housing context

- public research university
- approximately 18,350 undergraduates
- fewer than half of all undergraduates live on campus
- all first-years live on campus



New York, NY

Philadelphia, PA

Newark, DE

Baltimore, MD



University of Delaware aerial (Google Earth 2018)





Old College Hall, Delaware College (photograph c. 1900)



Women's College of Delaware (photograph c. 1900)

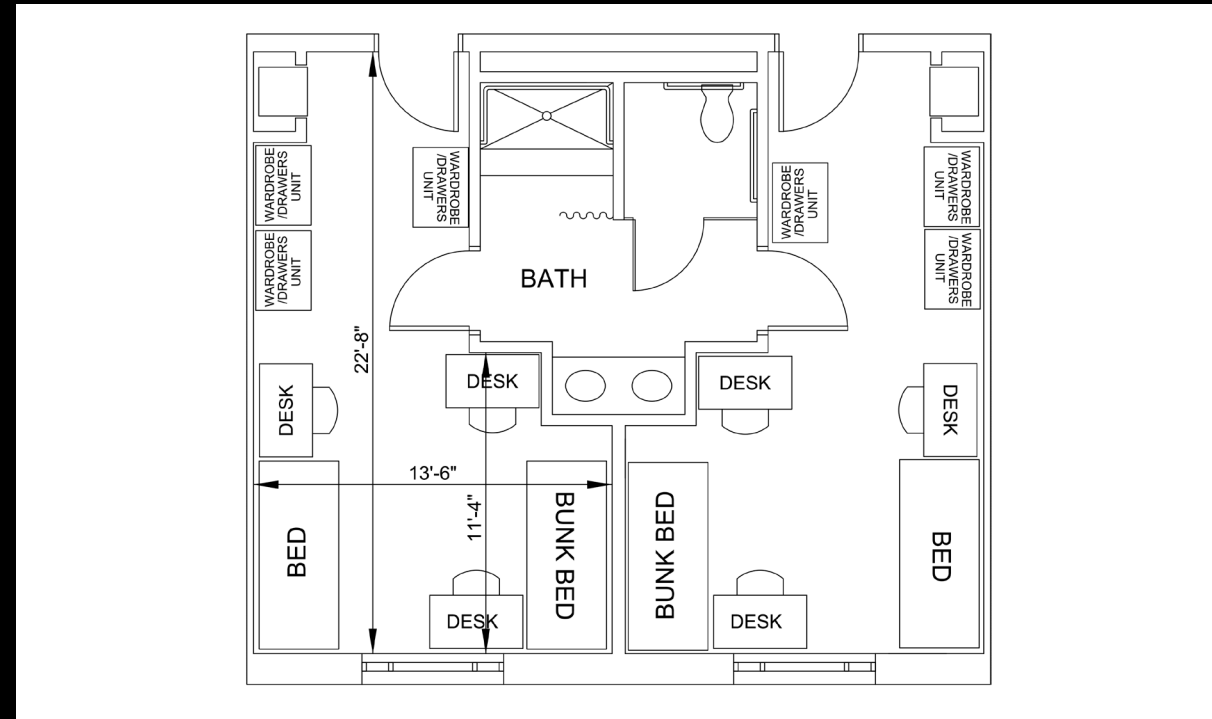


University of Delaware (photograph c. 2016)

## challenges

- large student population
- aging and underperforming residence halls
- need to understand how residence life contributes to student experience

TABLE 1		Traditional Approach vs. Curriculum Model	
Traditional		Curriculum	
Identifies list of general topics or categories that students are exposed to		Clearly defined and more narrowly focused educational goals are tied to institutional mission	
Often based on reaction to recent needs displayed by students		Based on scholarly literature, national trends, and campus assessment data of student educational needs	
Student leaders or student staff determine the content within the categories and the pedagogy		Clearly defined learning goals and delivery strategies are crafted by professional staff	
Determining effective pedagogy is often the responsibility of student leaders or student staff members		Lesson plans or facilitation guides developed by professional staff provide structure to guide student/peer leaders or student staff members	
Focuses on who will show up to publicized programs; evaluated based on how many students attend		Utilizes a variety of strategies to reach each student; assessed based on student learning outcomes and effectiveness of the strategies	
Sessions stand alone, disconnected from what has come before or what will come after, and vary by each student leader or staff member		Content and pedagogy are developmentally sequenced to best serve the learner	
Often in competition with other campus units for students' time and attention		Campus partners are integrated into the strategies and content, and pedagogy is subject to review (internal and external)	

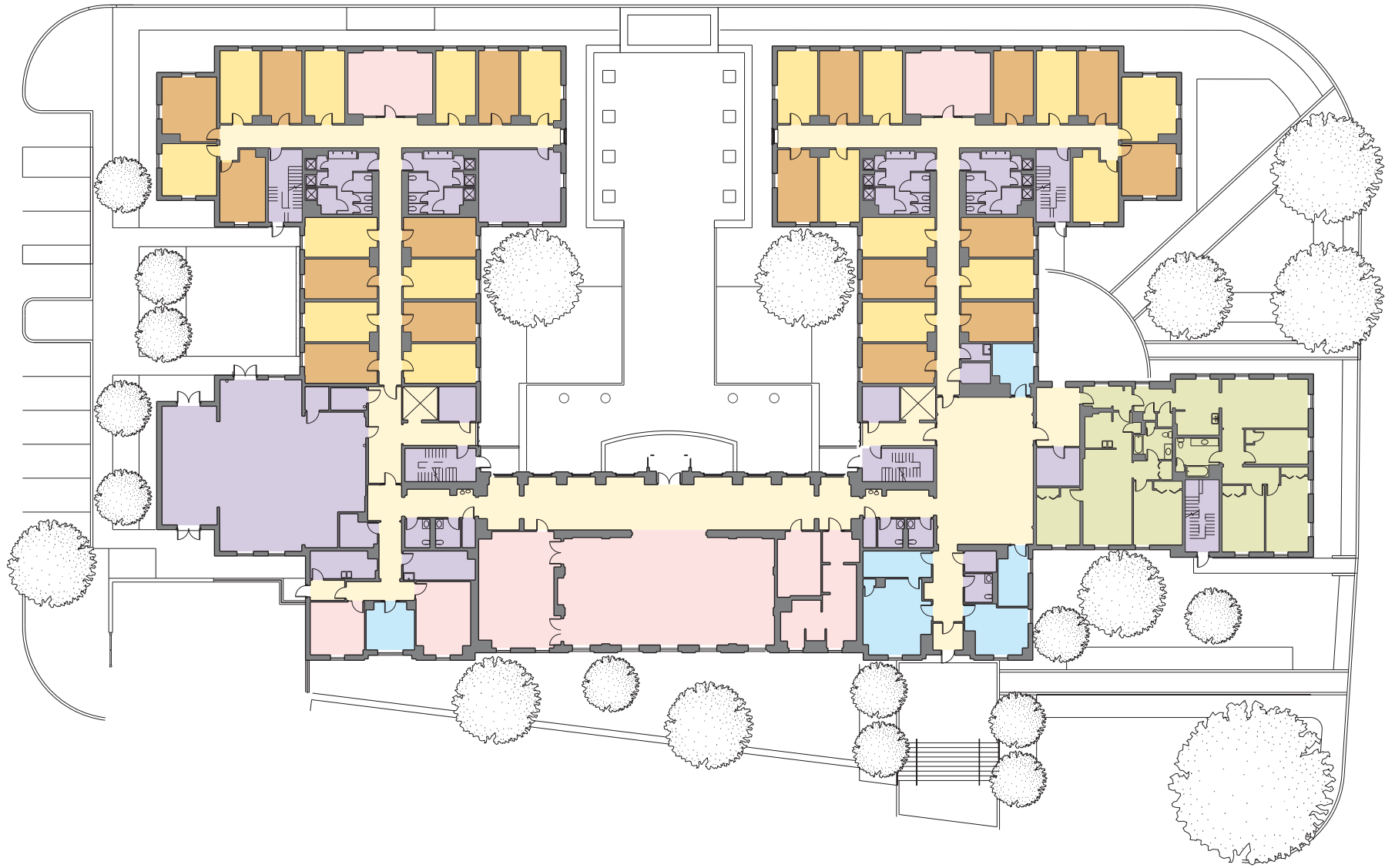




George Read Hall, Laird Campus



South Academy Residence Hall, University of Delaware (RAMSA 2017)



South Academy Residence Hall, University of Delaware (RAMSA 2017)





South Academy Residence Hall, University of Delaware (RAMSA 2017)



South Academy Residence Hall, University of Delaware (RAMSA 2017)



South Academy Residence Hall, University of Delaware (RAMSA 2017)



South Academy Residence Hall, University of Delaware (RAMSA 2017)

Fall Floor Feedback Questions:

Sense of Community:

Q23 It is important to us that you feel connected to your community. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following questions:

	Strongly Agree (4)	Agree (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
I have meaningful relationships with my floor mates. (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The floor community is better because I am a part of it. (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
People on my floor care what happens to me. (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel appreciated by someone within my floor community. (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
People want to get to know me here. (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I express concern when I see harm occurring in my community. (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Given the opportunity, I would choose to attend UD again. (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would recommend UD to a close friend or family member. (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Sense of Community

Table 14.

Group	Mean	SD
South Academy	3.23	0.72
George Read	3.01	0.65
James Smith/Thomas McKean	3.06	0.73



## summary

- students in Redding and South Academy had significantly higher scores compared to all students
- units are designed for doubles, with enough space to add an additional person if needed
- large floors have smaller “pod communities” that are defined by gathering spaces



Closing thoughts



## takeaways

- benchmark, research, and learn from different first-year student housing models
- survey first-year students to better understand housing needs
- test on your campus, learn from the results, then implement!



“I met some of my closest friends in my first-year housing. There was a strong sense of community and loyalty to people in your dorm. During strenuous weeks, I knew I could fall back on their support.”



First-Year Success:  
Campus Housing Models  
that Help Students Succeed

