Residential Education and Dining Services offers students a housing opportunity called Theme Living.

Space may be allocated on a floor or in a section of a residence hall for groups of students who would like to form a living arrangement based on, but not limited to, broadly conceived interdisciplinary intellectual interests beyond the classroom in the arts and sciences; local or national community service; and/or social or political interests of a wide variety (including international affairs, gender, or sexuality issues).

Groups are required to have an Oberlin College Faculty and/or Staff member as an official advisor. The advisor is expected to:

1. Meet with entire group at least twice a semester.
2. Assist the group if conflict arises between the group and the larger campus community.
3. Meet with the Assistant Dean in charge of the area at least once per semester to assure that college policy and the group’s theme are congruent.
4. Aid in the Theme Living evaluation and renewal process.
5. Help the group identify resources for programming, training, and reflection.

The group is also encouraged to involve faculty, staff, local organizations and/or townspeople, as appropriate, as resources in developing and administering the theme. If the theme living proposal is accepted the group will meet with the Area Coordinator for Theme Living or if more appropriate, the Area Coordinator for the approved space for the new theme. The responsibilities of the Area Coordinator will be to:

1. Evaluate the theme living group’s end of the semester program review in which all of the group members must participate.
2. Work with the theme living group to set goals for the following semester.
3. Recommend whether the group is approved for reapplication to the Student Staff Steering Committee.
4. Participate in the renewal application process.

Groups should submit the proposal application to the Residential Education Office by 5:00 p.m. Friday, February 6, 2015. Approval of the proposal will be determined by the student Staff Steering Committee in consultation with the Office of Residential Education and Dining Services. Approval will be for the next academic year only.
New Theme Living Proposal Application

1. Title of Theme Living Proposal.

2. Name of Theme Leader (person in charge of theme whom is not an RA) and the best way to contact (e-mail, cell phone, etc.).

3. Name and Signature of Advisor(s).

4. Mission Statement. Please describe how the group’s mission integrates residential living with the Statement of Goals and Objectives for Oberlin College and the mission of Residential Education.

5. Please provide a general description of your group. What is the purpose of your group?
   a) Give examples of activities that you will conduct with your members and how these activities will contribute to your overall mission.
   b) What are the goals for participant involvement as members of the proposed theme living group? State specifically your plans for development and the resources to be used.
   c) Will your theme living group require funding? If so, what sources of funding are available to the group? (Very limited funding is available through the Area Coordinator or hall council for programming only.)

6. How will having a designated living space enhance your group’s theme?
   a) What is the anticipated number of students participating in this theme living group?
   b) Do you have a preferred location within the ZEBRA Cluster (hall, floor, section)? If so, provide a rationale for this request.

7. Specify ways in which the college and larger community will benefit from this theme living group.
   a) How will this theme living option foster interactions and discussion that might not happen without this dedicated setting?
   b) How will your group recruit and involve members of the campus community who are not theme residents?
   c) Give examples of events, workshops, speakers and/or service projects your group will sponsor for members and the community at large.

8. Please attach a description of the selection criteria and process you will use for selecting students for this proposed theme.
   a) Please outline your plans for dealing with conflict and/or non-participation within the theme living group.
   b) Please provide the names and signatures of the founding members of your proposed theme living group.

Please Note:

- If your proposal is accepted, all founding members who sign up for your proposed group will be required to live within the designated theme community.
- If you have any questions, please contact Thom Julian at tjulian@oberlin.edu or 440-775-8878