Bear Dens is an exciting new housing option for University of Montana students that offers groups of students with a shared interest the opportunity to live together in a themed residence located in the University Villages. The living learning program is a collaboration between the ASUM Housing Board and the Residence Life Office. The Bear Den program enables participants to experience learning outside of a formal classroom setting and engage with faculty members in a unique way. Each group of students will create their own themed program that centers on their specific area of interest. This involves organizing two events per semester and arranging for an academic component (at least 1 credit) with their faculty advisor. For the 2015-2016 academic year we will be accepting two to three student groups into the Bear Den program depending on the number of quality applications that we receive. Groups can have between 3 and 8 students.

Benefits:
- Provide a meeting and gathering space for engaged students
- Valuable leadership opportunities
- Gain experience in event planning and networking in your field
- Help to establish and advance a culture for your academic department and interest group
- Opportunity to receive academic credit
- Guaranteed housing in nice, affordable, apartment that is close to campus

Bear Dens Application Checklist

___ Review Bear Den Expectations
    (signed by prospective residents, and sponsoring faculty advisor)
___ Fill out entire Application Form
    (signed by prospective residents, and sponsoring faculty advisor)
    *To be selected your group will be asked to conduct an in-person interview. (Your group will be scheduled once your proposal has been reviewed)
___ Include supplemental sponsoring faculty advisor form with endorsing signature.

If Selected:
1. Fill out a rental application with Residence Life
2. Sign a statement of understanding
Bear Dens Group Expectations

1. Each Bear Den group must have a specific educational purpose that goes beyond merely enabling a group of friends to live together. This educational purpose must be clearly stated in the application.

2. Each Bear Den group must host at least one event/program per semester. Collaboration with at least one other campus group or community organization to plan these events is highly encouraged.

3. Each Bear Den resident must attend at least one program sponsored by another UM living learning community over the course of the year (these include other Bear Den groups, Residence Life’s Living Learning floors, the UM FLAT, the Wildhaus, and any other themed residences in the University-owned homes on 5th & 6th Streets)

4. Each Bear Den group must set goals that identify what they hope to learn through the experience and what they can contribute to the campus community.

5. In keeping with the living and learning concept, each student resident is required to complete an educational component related to their group’s theme. This can be a 1 credit internship or practicum.

6. Each Bear Den group is required to have an academic advisor with whom they will work to fulfill the academic component. The academic advisor should be someone working in a field that is related to your group’s theme.

7. Each Bear Den group must select one of their members to act as the student Group Coordinator. The Group Coordinator will serve as the contact person for your group. He/she will be responsible for organizing meetings for your group’s residents at least bi-weekly. S/He will also be responsible for organizing meetings with your academic advisor (at least) one time per month.

8. Residents should plan to participate in meetings with the Bear Dens Advising Committee a minimum of two times per semester, and more if deemed necessary. The Director of the ASUM Off-Campus Renter Center (Katherine Brady) will contact the Group Coordinator to schedule these meetings.

9. Each Bear Den resident will maintain a lease agreement with Residence Life and abide by all applicable Residence Life policies that apply to tenants of the Toole Villages.

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1 The Bear Dens Advising Committee serves as the program’s oversight committee. This committee consists of members of the ASUM Housing Board, the Director of the ASUM Off-Campus Renter Center, Residence Life representatives, and Bear Den academic advisors.
10. Each group member is expected to participate in the planning and organization of the group’s events.

**Bear Dens which do not fulfill the above expectations may be subject to:**

- Loss of recognition as a Bear Den
- Requirement to move out of University-owned residences
- Denial of future applications for renewing the program into future years

**Conditions:**

- Qualifying students must:
  - be attending classes at UM or Missoula College ½ time or more.
  - be in good standing with the Residence Life Office
  - be of sophomore status or above as of the Fall of 2015 (so current freshman CAN apply)
- Qualifying academic advisors: must be full-time faculty employed at UM

Bear Den Name or Concept _____________________________________________

**Signatures:**

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**Bear Den Academic Advisor**

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1. Provide a theme idea that all members of the house agree upon and support.

________________________________________________________________

2. Provide the name of the academic advisor who will meet with residents on a monthly basis and work with them to complete the academic requirement. Please provide the UM department with which the advisor is affiliated.

________________________________________________________________

3. In keeping with the living and learning concept, each student is required to complete an educational component related to their tenancy at the Bear Den residence. This may be a 1 credit internship or practicum. Briefly describe how you and your advisor plan on meeting this learning objective.

________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________

4. Describe the contribution your group will make to the University community through possible programming/event ideas.

________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________
4. (continued)

5. Describe measures your home will take to ensure a healthy living and learning dynamic amongst all residents.

6. Draft and submit a potential mission statement for your Bear Den. This should encompass your group’s unique contribution to the University of Montana community.

7. If your group has a long-term vision for a theme home, please provide an explanation of proposed student programs and recruitment over time.
8. Have you submitted an academic advisor form with your application?
_____ YES  _____ No

9. Provide the name of each student who will be a resident of proposed Bear Den. Please indicate who the Group Coordinator will be in the #1 position.

1. Group Coordinator
   • Name:
   • Phone:
   • Email:
   • Major:
   • Cumulative GPA: (?) most recent:
   • How is this person qualified for the Bear Den’s Program?:

2. Student Resident
   • Name:
   • Phone:
   • Email:
   • Major:
   • Cumulative GPA:
   • How is this person qualified for the Bear Den’s Program?:

3. Student Resident
   • Name:
   • Phone:
   • Email:
   • Major:
   • Cumulative GPA:
   • How is this person qualified for the Bear Den’s Program?:

4. Student Resident
   • Name:
   • Phone:
   • Email:
   • Major:
   • Cumulative GPA:
   • How is this person qualified for the Bear Den’s Program?:
5. Student Resident
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How is this person qualified for the Bear Den Program?:

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How is this person qualified for the Bear Den Program?:

7. Student Resident
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• Phone:
• Email:
• Major:
• Cumulative
How is this person qualified for the Bear Den Program?:

8. Student Resident
• Name:
• Phone:
• Email:
• Major:
• Cumulative
How is this person qualified for the Bear Den Program?:
BEAR DENS Academic Advisor Agreement:

Name of Bear Den group: ________________________________

Brief overview of expectations of theme home residents:
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

I am aware that the Bear Dens program requires that each resident complete a minimum of 1-credit of academic course work related to the group’s chosen theme. (Course work can be in the nature of internship or practicum work)

Signature of Theme House Academic Advisor: ________________________________________________

Signature of Bear Den Group Coordinator: ________________________________

Signature of Bear Den Resident: ________________________________

Signature of Bear Den Resident: ________________________________

Signature of Bear Den Resident: ________________________________

Signature of Bear Den Resident: ________________________________

Signature of Bear Den Resident: ________________________________

Signature of Bear Den Resident: ________________________________

Thank you for your interest in Bear Dens!