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Editorial: Beat the economy, consider living on campus

By: Editorial Board

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Independence is one of the many life lessons that college students learn during their time at Eastern. Every person learns different lessons of independence, some students move off campus and some work on personal goals while living on campus.

While Eastern's enrollment is now at 12,040, the Planning and Institutional Studies department shows only 5,527 students lived on campus annually during the past several years.

However, numerous circumstances, such as increased tuition and economic recession, may cause more students to stay on campus instead of embarking on a journey of paying bills, learning tidiness, practicing home security, having good neighbor relations and creating good eating habits that do not involve the dining halls.

Lucky for Eastern students, the upper classman residence halls are being renovated for the better. Creating more individualized bathrooms in Douglas Hall provides less of a college scene and more of an individualized private environment that exists in apartments.

The suites in Stevenson Hall are good ways of preparing students for independence, and University Court and University Apartments are good substitutes for students who prefer the personal freedom without the economic drain.

Living in residence halls all four years is not ideal, but is convenient and comes with social and geographic perks.

Being on campus provides quick access to the Booth Library and various building computer labs, not to mention social activities such as athletic games and the various register student organizations that meet in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

The cost of college itself has caused more students to attend community colleges, which allows those students to live at home rent-free.

Approximately 9 percent of Eastern's enrollment is incoming transfer students who avoided two years of living expenses and may be forced to live in residence halls because of future inflated gas, grocery and utility prices.

So, consider saving money by applying for on campus housing as soon as possible, unless you're comfortable with shelling out more loans for that independence. At least waiting until after graduation means having an income for that apartment.

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