Collegetown Active Citizen Information

What is an Active Citizen?

An Active Citizen (AC) is a student that is a positive and engaged member of their community. They see the residence halls not just as a room to stay in but as a collection of people they can learn from, support, and build connections with. Active citizens are leaders in the community and are welcoming to new community members. They work with the student staff to create a safe and caring community for their fellow residents.

What are the benefits of being an Active Citizen?

Benefit number one is the leadership skills learned as someone who works to support others in the community along with stronger connections with professional and student staff that can provide support to you as an Active Citizen.

Benefit number two is that Active Citizens are given preference in the continued occupancy housing process. Selected students will be able to choose their rooms ahead of general participants in that process. This is done so that students that exhibit a dedication to the community are more likely to be retained to the community for multiple years and able to continue their engagement.

What would an Active Citizen be expected to do?

Active Citizens will be expected to assist with welcoming new students, including coming back during orientation week in the fall and participating in all floor meetings and discussions with transfer students and returning students. Active Citizens will also be expected to assist with large scale events in the community such as our annual Haunted House and end of the year BBQ. Active Citizens be assigned a group of transfer students to connect with through social events or personal engagement. Active Citizens will also work closely with the student staff on in their area and the professional staff to help engage others and create a stronger community.

Why does the community have Active Citizens?

Residential and New Student Programs values Community Engagement in our residents. In particular we strive to have learning outcomes that foster personal and community health and create a caring community. The involvement of students that live in the hall in fostering a strong community is of particular importance because a caring community is not one that can be created solely by the professional and student staff, but rather by all members. We want to encourage engagement and to recognize and reward community members that are examples of strong engagement, leadership, and a support to others.

What is the application process?
Applications will be available in mid-October and will be due back on November 3rd at noon. Applications will require short essay answers about how applicants have been engaged in the community and plan to continue to be engaged during this academic year; how the applicant plans to be a positive and active member of the community in the coming year; their understanding of the role of rules, the judicial process; and the effect of bias in a community and how they intend to support building a safe and comfortable community for all members. In addition a short recommendation from a student staff member will be required.

**How are the Active Citizen’s Chosen?**

The Residence Hall Director and Assistant Residence Hall Director will make all choices in this first year of the program. In the future a panel of Active Citizens that are leaving the program will also participate in the decision making process.

**Will I be able to block with my friends if chosen?**

Active Citizens will be able to block with up to four other students. All must be current residents of the same building the AC resides in and all apply to the Continued Occupancy Lottery.

**How many Active Citizens will be chosen?**

Cascadilla Hall- 10  
Sheldon Court- 5  
Edgemoor- 1

**If I am not chosen as an Active Citizen and don’t know any I can block with does that mean I won’t get a room?**

No, even if we select the full number of Active Citizens and they all choose to block with 4 other people there will still be beds available in Cascadilla and Sheldon Court during the general Continued Occupancy process. It is possible that Edgemoor could be filled through Active Citizen depending on the interest of applicants and their blocking preferences.

**What are my chances of getting a room if I go through the regular Continued Occupancy process and don’t do Active Citizen?**

Unfortunately it is impossible to answer that question with any specifics. The chances depend entirely on how many people apply and are chosen for AC, how many people they choose to block with, and how many other people are applying through the general CO process. In the past we have had to turn away students twice from a community in Collegether. However the new AC process could change how this works in future years.