

The following provides Themed Communities programs with 1) providing a formal process of the Ferris State community to propose a new Themed Community and 2) the process of formally reviewing the existing Themed Community program to ensure they are meeting the goals of the Ferris State community. This Themed Communities Review Process requires each Themed Community to be reviewed every three years by the Office of Housing and Residence Life. Each year, Themed Communities will complete an informal review during the years between formal reviews.

In summary, the Themed Community Application and Review Process will:

- Each year, the Ferris State community may submit an application for a new Themed Community program.
- Each Themed Community is formally reviewed by the Office of Housing and Residence Life every three years.
- During the years a Themed Community is not formally reviewed, the Themed Community conducts an informal review with the Office of Housing and Residence Life to identify areas for growth as well as areas of achievement.
- A Themed Community review consists of queries meant to gather information about the program. Information is gathered from many stakeholders including: residents, faculty/staff advisors, custodial staff, Office of Housing and Residence Life staff, and the Ferris community.
- At the conclusion of the formal review, the Office of Housing and Residence Life will determine if a Themed Community program will be reviewed, conditionally approved, or not renewed.

Application Process and Timeline

Proposals for a new Themed Community should contain educational goals for its residents, Ferris community engagement goals, a draft of their Community Standards, and a letter of support from the faculty/staff advisor including their commitment to serve as an advisor. The educational goals for the community should outline learning objectives for the residents of the Themed Community. The Ferris community engagement goals should outline how the Themed Community will engage, educate, and meet a need within the Ferris community. The Community Standards document outlines basic governance for the community to aid in community accountability and communication. Finally, a letter of support and commitment from a faculty/staff member will express their support for the community proposal, what resources they or their department plans to commit, and their education goal for the community.

Review Process

The Themed Community review process is a re-application process for an existing Themed Community. This re-application consists of two parts:

1. A program proposal which contains the same information as a new Themed Community application.
2. A program evaluation, which is a compilation of what the program has accomplished since the last review.

During the years of informal review, which closely reflects the application process, the Office of Housing and Residence Life will informally review and allow a program to improve and prepare for the formal review.

The outcome of a formal review by the Office of Housing and Residence Life will be one of three things:

1. **Renewed:** These Themed Communities are scheduled for another official review in three years performing informal reviews each year with the Office of Housing and Residence Life.
2. **Conditionally Renewed:** These Themed Communities are granted a specific period of time (usually one year) to demonstrate why they should be renewed. If a Themed Community is conditionally reviewed, the Themed Community can only be renewed or not renewed during their next review.
3. **Not Renewed:** These Themed Communities will develop a transition-out plan with the Office of Housing and Residence Life and plan to turn the housing facility to a new Themed Community that has been accepted by the Office of Housing and Residence Life.

Review Timeline

Formal review of Themed Communities programs will begin in the fall semester of the three-year review.