The Special Interest Housing Program (SIH) is a collaborative effort between the Office of Academic Enhancement and the Department of Housing and Residential Life. Established in 2008, this initiative is designed to provide upperclassmen, united by a common interest, activity, or cause, with the opportunity to create uniquely themed communities that provide educational opportunities and enhance their on-campus living experience. In addition to living together, these student groups receive funding, advising, and specialized training to assist in the programming and management of their communities.

Special Interest Housing communities reside in Mahoney and Pearson residential colleges and each community has a minimum of 12 members. SIH community options vary from year to year and are based on themes proposed during the application process held at the beginning of the Spring semester. Communities are required to develop/conduct a minimum of eight programs, four academic/educational and four cultural/social, throughout the academic year (August – May). Programming should provide direct and unique opportunities to its community members, and encourage student success.

Groups wishing to continue as or propose a Special Interest Housing community should complete the Current Community Application or New Community Application by Wednesday, February 6, 2013. Late and/or incomplete applications will not be considered. Applications should contain the following elements:

1. **Theme**
   Groups must have a title and theme that can be concisely and clearly articulated, and enhance the overall residential experience through exploration of a unique interest.

2. **Group Coordinator & Member List**
   The Group Coordinator is the point of contact between the community and the SIH Selection Committee during the application process, and is responsible for:
   - Submitting a complete on-line application
   - Organizing the group’s presentation
     - If a group is selected to make a presentation, 2 – 3 group members will be asked to conduct a 20 minute info-session for the SIH Selection Committee
   - Meeting with SIH Selection Committee to review Community Member applications
   - Conducting a community meeting to elect a three member Executive Board (President, Vice-President, & Secretary/Treasurer)

3. **Faculty Advisor**
   Faculty Advisors support the theme of the community by actively engaging in its programs and the mission of the community. FAs work closely with their SIH communities to assist them with reaching their goals, designing programs, and serving as a mentor for the community’s students.
Community Application/Selection Process Timeline

Application
Prospective and returning communities submit application by deadline. **Wednesday, February 6th**

Phase I
Applications reviewed by SIH Selection Committee **February 7th-11th**

Presentation Notifications
Groups are notified of their application status **February 12th**

Phase II
Community presentations: Select groups are invited to present their community idea to the SIH Selection Committee **February 14th-15th**

Community Notifications
Approved communities are notified **February 19th**

Phase III
Member recruitment: **February 19th-March 6th**
Community member application deadline: **March 6th**

Community Member Notifications
Floor members are notified of their SIH status **March 18th**

Phase IV
Group Coordinator and Selection Committee review floor member applications **March 7th-8th**

Special Interest Housing is a collaboration between Office of Academic Enhancement and Department of Housing and Residential Life. sih@miami.edu