

## **NCAT housing portal closed after being open for two days**

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On March 3, NCAT closed its housing portal due to the reached capacity of applications.

The total number of applications was met within two days. 3,200 was the maximum number that the school could accept.

The NCAT housing department sent emails to students ahead of time before the portal opened on the scheduled date. The e-mail sent to continuing students from the housing department reads, "Based on your completed credit hours, you will have access to complete your housing application on your designated access date and time."

On Feb. 27, the housing department sent the housing e-mail to students' inboxes with a selected date and time for them to apply. It is important to note that students do not all have the same set date to complete the housing application. The e-mail indicates that access would open for some students on March 3, 2023. Other students had the advantage of being registered for earlier dates.

Housing filling up in a short period isn't something new. This concern has happened for the past few years. Near the end of the 2021-2022 school year, NCAT some students felt stressed and frustrated due to limited on-campus housing.

Several continuing students who live off campus didn't attempt to look into the housing portal due to this being a constant reoccurring issue. They believe waiting for housing isn't worth the trouble, effort, or disappointment when they receive an e-mail encouraging them to look elsewhere as an alternative.

While looking for students who could find housing, only a few could be found. Travis Watts Jr. explained that he was ahead of schedule when getting his application done, paying his \$175 fee, and moving on with his life.

To submit a housing application, students pay a non-refundable \$175 fee and agree to the housing contract. The fee has always been a morale detractor amongst currently enrolled students.

University communications sent the following e-mail explaining to those who were unaware of the situation. The e-mail explained how NCAT houses an abnormal amount of its students and how they have attempted to accommodate. The e-mail read, "We have added more than 2,000 new beds by acquiring seven apartment complexes over the past five years, which has allowed A&T to make housing available for more than half of our undergraduate student body. Still, demand continues to grow."

NCAT is the largest Historically Black University, which means it will have a high student body count. Even with their attempts to adjust to the growing population of students, they continue to run into trouble with on-campus housing, especially for their continuing students.

The housing situation continues to be a recurring issue every year for NCAT. There will always be a fair share of students that will be affected by this problem and voice their frustrations about it. The best thing students can do is apply as early as possible.