University of Oklahoma Food Services Policy on Food Allergies

I. Purpose of policy

The purpose of this policy is to: (1) alert the University Community to the prevalence of food allergies and the importance of keeping students with food allergies safe; and (2) notify the University Community of the accommodations offered to students with food allergies through the Department of Housing and Food Services.¹

II. To Whom This Policy Applies

This policy applies to: (1) all students and any non-student customers who use Food Services; and (2) Food Service employees.

III. Policy Definitions

Food Allergens – Substances that can cause allergic reactions

Food Allergy ²- An abnormal response to food triggered by the body’s immune system. Such reactions can cause serious illness, including death. Foods that commonly cause allergic reactions include: shellfish, peanuts, tree nuts, eggs, dairy, fish, wheat, and soy.

Food Services – This term refers to all food operations operated by The University of Oklahoma Housing and Food Services located on and off campus including catering.³

¹ Sooner Housing Center and Wagner Dining are not a part of University of Oklahoma Housing and Food Services. Please contact Stacy Lemmert at (405) 325-8350 for information on Wagner Dining’s Food Allergy Policy.
² This policy does not apply to food intolerances, which is a digestive response which is not triggered by the body’s immune system.
³ Reference number 1 footnote
IV. Policy Statement

The University of Oklahoma Housing and Food Services will work with students who have food allergies to develop a plan for dining that accommodates each student’s needs. In order to meet the needs of students with allergies, Food Services provide menus with a variety of selections on its website at [food.ou.edu](http://food.ou.edu) so that students can make informed food selections and avoid dangerous foods. Students may also utilize the Nutrition Calculator to find food ingredients and allergen information. Dorothy Flowers of Housing and Food Services is available to discuss dining options with students. In addition, peanut butter and other products carrying nuts will be isolated from other foods to the extent reasonably possible. Furthermore, All Food Services staff undergoes an informative training session pertaining to food allergies and cross contamination risk reduction.

Students who are anaphylactic in their food allergies should notify OU Health Services of such allergies and provide medical documentation and medication information relevant to their condition. Students are responsible for carrying on their person any prescribed medication to treat the effects of food allergies. It is the responsibility of students with food allergies to inform Food Services of their need to develop a plan to accommodate their dietary needs and review any labeling and ingredient information available on the OU Food Services website and within the

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4 While every effort is made to identify allergic ingredients to those counseled there is always a risk of contamination with allergic ingredients. There is also a possibility that manufacturers of the commercial foods we use could change the formulation at anytime without notice. As well, any self-service area does not have control over cross contamination. You need be aware of this risk, recognizing that neither Food Services nor any employee thereof will assume any liability for adverse reactions to foods you may consume or come in contact with while eating at any University of Oklahoma Food Services establishment.

5 Students are urged to disclose their food allergies on the Health History Form.
various food operations. Such efforts made by students with food allergies in conjunction with the accommodations offered by the Department of Housing and Food Services can aid students in selecting safe allergen free food products.

V. **Policy Contact**

Please Contact Director of Food Services, Frank Henry (405) 325-6851, to discuss food allergy accommodations or if there are any questions regarding this policy.

*Disclaimer: This policy does not form a contract of any kind and may be modified, changed, altered, or rescinded by The University of Oklahoma at its discretion and without notice.*