



HOUSING & RESIDENCE LIFE

The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA Housing and Residence Life Community Standards

I. Purpose

- a. This policy outlines Housing and Residence Life's role in establishing community living standards for all students who are living on campus in an OU Housing and Residence Life administered facility.

II. Definitions

- a. "Resident" means First-Year Students and Upper-Class Students living or assigned in a Residential Facility, as defined below.
- b. "First-Year Student" means incoming students who have earned less than 24 post-high school credit hours while enrolled at a college or university and who are otherwise not exempted from the University's on campus living requirements.
- c. "Upper-Class Student" means any student that is not a "First-Year Student".
- d. "You" or "Your" means the Resident residing in a Residential Facility operated by the University of Oklahoma.
- e. "Housing Contract" refers to the Terms and Conditions of the Incoming Freshman Housing and Food Services Contract, as well as the Terms and Conditions of the Upper-class Housing and Food Services Contract.
- f. "Residential Facility" means facilities operated by the University of Oklahoma for the purpose of providing student housing to enrolled University students, including but not limited to Apartments and Residence Halls.
- g. "Unit" is the room, or suite that You are assigned to by the University in a Residential Facility.
- h. "Apartment" is the apartment or space that You agree to live in according to your Housing Contract in a Residential Facility. A current list of apartment-style facilities is maintained on the OU Housing and Residence Life website.
- i. "Residence Hall" is the residence hall room or space that You agree to live in according to your Housing Contract in a Residential Facility. A current list of residence hall-style facilities is maintained on the OU Housing and Residence Life website.
- j. "University Official" means any person who is employed by the University in an administrative or support role and has the authority to enforce University policies and procedures.
- k. "Guest" means any Student, Resident, or non-Resident not assigned to reside in a Unit in a Residential Facility.
- l. "Student" is anyone enrolled at the University of Oklahoma.

III. Scope:

- a. This policy applies to all Students who are living on campus in a Residential Facility operated by the University of Oklahoma.

IV. Responsible Office:

The Vice President of Student Affairs will be responsible for this policy.

V. Policy Statement:

- a. It is the policy of OU to foster a safe, respectful, and supportive living environment for all Residents residing in Residential Facilities. The University requires Residents to adhere to community living standards that promote academic success, personal responsibility, and mutual respect among peers. These policies ensure that all Residents can enjoy a conducive atmosphere for learning and personal growth while maintaining compliance with University policies and state and federal laws.

Policy Level: 4

Approval Authority: Vice President of Student Affairs Date of Approval:

Subject Matter: Housing and Resident Life Date of Last Review:

Date of Next: Review:

Signature:



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A. Respect for Community

You are responsible for creating an environment that promotes the academic mission of the University. This includes, among other things, upholding the policies in the Residential Facilities, as well as the Roommate Bill of Rights.

1. Noise: Creating excessive noise in a Residential Facility or failing to comply with courtesy and quiet hours is prohibited. A Resident or University Official may, at any time, respectfully request that noise levels be reduced. These requests must be honored to maintain community standards and support an environment conducive to academic success. If a request made by a Resident is not honored, the Resident should notify a University Official.
 - i. Courtesy Hours: Courtesy Hours are the hours when you may play your music or TV a little louder, open your door and talk to friends and participate in other activities or practices that do not disturb others in the community. During Courtesy Hours, noise heard more than two (2) doors down is unacceptable. Courtesy Hours in Residential Facilities will be announced at the beginning of the academic year and posted on the OU Housing and Food Website.
 - ii. Quiet Hours: All Residents and their Guests must abide by the Quiet Hours while living in the Residential Facility. During quiet hours, noise heard outside of a Resident's door is considered too loud. Quiet Hours will be announced at the beginning of the academic year and posted on the OU Housing and Food Website. 24-hour Quiet Hours are observed and strictly enforced in Residential Facilities during the final two (2) weeks of the semester.
2. Instruments and Speakers: Placement of sound equipment in Units, windows, or common areas of a Residential Facility without the express permission of a University Official is prohibited. Instruments and sound equipment may only be used in designated areas of the Residential Facility.
3. Interference with Housing Processes: Any action that interferes with or disrupts Housing processes or a student's ability to occupy their assigned Unit is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, rejecting or refusing assigned roommates, coercing Residents to move from their Unit, spreading personal belongings or furniture in a way that prevents another Resident from moving into the Unit, or obstructing entry by a University Official. Residents must maintain their Unit in a manner that allows assigned Residents to access and occupy the space and allows University Officials to enter when necessary. OU Housing and Residence Life reserves the right to charge a Resident a fine for interference with the Housing Contract.

B. Guests

You are responsible for contributing to a community that is safe and respectful. Guests may be allowed to visit Residential Facilities. You and your Guest are responsible for following the Community Living Standards. A failure to follow these standards may result in the Resident being held accountable. Guests may also be held accountable if they are a Student or member of the OU community.

1. **Guests:** Residents are responsible for the behavior of their Guests. While in Residential Facilities and on campus, Guests are expected to comply with all applicable laws and University policies, including, but not limited to, the Community Living Standards, Title IX & Sexual Misconduct Policy, the Student Rights and Responsibilities Code of Conduct, and the Alcohol and Other Drug Policy.
2. **Guest Supervision:** Guests must always be escorted by their host Resident while in any Residential Facility and on campus if their Guest is not a Student.
3. **Roommates and Guests:** Residents must notify their Unit roommate(s) at least 24 hours in advance of an overnight Guest in the Unit, and all roommate(s)/suitemate(s) must agree the Guest may stay overnight.
4. **Overnight Guests:** An overnight Guest may not stay more than 72 consecutive hours in a Residential Facility while visiting a Resident. Residents may not host overnight Guests in their assigned Unit for more than a total of nine (9) days per semester.
5. **Cohabitation:** The continual residence of any Guest or Resident not assigned to the Unit in a manner that suggests occupancy is prohibited.
6. **Overnight Use of Unit:** Guests or Residents may not occupy a bed or bedroom within a Unit without the permission of the Resident(s) to whom the space is assigned.
7. **Overnight Use of Residential Facility:** Overnight Guests may not sleep in lounges or other public areas of a Residential Facility.
8. **Occupancy Regulations:** Having more than three (3) times the designed occupancy in a Unit is prohibited.
9. **Guest Access:** Residents may not provide Guests with keys, access cards, mobile credentials, or any other means of independent access to a Residential Facility or Unit.

C. Living Environment

You are responsible for promoting a clean and well-maintained living environment.

1. **Damage or Defacement of Property:** Damage, destruction, or defacing of property of another person, group, or the University is prohibited. Damage to Residential Facility decorations or postings is prohibited. Damage to interior or exterior surfaces of any space in a Residential Facility is prohibited.
2. **Altering of Internal Space:** Installation or addition of any non-approved items, painting a Unit, and installing wallpaper or LED strip lights in any part of a Residential Facility is prohibited. The use or installation of interior or exterior cameras, or any recording devices positioned to monitor spaces within or around a Unit or Residential Facility, is prohibited. You are not permitted to remove any University owned furniture from the Unit. Residential Facility chairs may be removed only upon submission and approval of a work order through OU Housing Operations.

3. **Window and Balcony Safety:** Hanging from windows or balconies, removing window screens, or throwing or projecting objects from windows or balconies of a Residential Facility is prohibited.
4. **Displaying Items from Windows:** Hanging items in and out of any Residential Facility window or in any other manner that obstructs the windows is prohibited, including, but not limited to, flags, banners, and signs.
5. **Trash:** Residents must dispose of trash in designated areas.
6. **Noxious Odors:** Causing noxious or offensive odors or fumes (e.g. drugs, incense, cigarettes, clove cigarette, candles, trash buildup, etc.) are prohibited in a Residential Facility.
7. **Pets:** Possession of animals in a Residential Facility, other than fish as defined below, is prohibited regardless of the length of stay or visit, unless it is an Assistance Animal under section 8 below. If an unapproved animal is present, the Resident will be notified and required to remove the animal within 24 hours. Failure to comply may result in a fine of \$200 per day until the animal is removed.
 - i. Fish may be maintained as pets in the Unit, provided they are kept in tanks no larger than ten (10) gallons. Residents are responsible for the care and maintenance of the tank and for any damage caused by the fish or the tank.
 - ii. Any costs associated with the presence of an unapproved animal, or damages caused by any animal, including Service or Emotional Support Animals, may be charged to the responsible Resident(s) or to all Residents assigned to the Unit (e.g., damaged furniture or carpet, cleaning, pest control)
8. **Assistance Animals:** Only Service Animals and approved Emotional Support Animals (ESAs) are permitted in Residential Facilities. Emotional Support Animals must be approved through the Accessibility and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) and registered through the Housing and Residence Life Assistance Animal Registration process in the housing portal prior to being brought into a Residential Facility. Residents approved for a ESA must comply with all applicable University policies, including the Animal Owner Responsibilities, for the animal to remain in the Residential Facility. Failure to comply may result in removal of the animal and/or conduct action.
9. **Gambling:** Gambling, raffles, betting pools, or operation of any form of gambling business or related activity in or adjacent to any Residential Facility is prohibited.
10. **Business:** Operating a business from any Residential Facility or your assigned Unit is prohibited.
11. **Loitering:** Loitering is not allowed in front of any Residential Facility entrance or exit.
12. **Solicitation:** Residential Facilities may not be used for commercial or non-commercial solicitation. This includes, but is not limited to, door-to-door solicitation and the distribution of materials. Residents and University-affiliated groups may reserve designated spaces within Residential Facilities through OU Reserve for approved activities.
13. **Posting:** Posting is permitted only in designated areas within first-floor lobby spaces of Residential Facilities. Posting in non-designated areas, including residential floors, doors, windows, and other common spaces, is prohibited. All postings must comply with University policies and applicable laws. Materials must include a visible date and be removed within 24 hours after the event or posted date. *Postings that do not comply with these guidelines may be removed by Housing and Residence Life staff.*

D. Safety and Security

You are responsible for promoting and maintaining a safe and secure environment.

1. Unauthorized Access: Attempting to gain unauthorized access or trespassing in any Residential Facility is prohibited.
2. Tailgating: Access to Residential Facilities is restricted to authorized individuals only. All Residents must use their own access cards or designated entry methods to gain entry. Residents are prohibited from allowing non-Residents or unauthorized individuals to enter a Residential Facility behind them without proper verification of Student identification.
3. Blocking Egress: Hanging or placing items, including but not limited to beads, tapestries, flags, banners, or sheets, in a manner that blocks exits or escape routes within a Unit or Residential Facility is prohibited. This includes any obstruction of a path of exit from a Unit.
4. Evacuation Procedures: In the event of a fire alarm or fire drill, all Residents and Guests must immediately and fully evacuate the Residential Facility. Residents and Guests must remain outside in the designated gathering area until authorized to reenter by emergency personnel or University Officials. In the event of severe weather, Residents and Guests must immediately relocate to designated storm shelter areas or areas of refuge as directed by University Officials or posted emergency procedures and remain there until an all-clear is given. Failure to comply with evacuation or emergency procedures is prohibited. Balconies, hallways, and stairwells must remain clear at all times.
5. Fire Alarms/Fire Safety Equipment: Tampering with, damaging, covering, or disabling any fire safety equipment (including smoke detectors, pull stations, fire extinguishers, sprinkler systems, or related equipment), as well as initiating false alarms, silencing alarms, or failing to evacuate during an alarm, is prohibited and may violate state fire codes. Violations may result in University disciplinary action and/or legal consequences.
6. Illegal Use of Emergency Exits: Emergency exits in Residential Facilities are to be used during emergency evacuations only. Any misuse of emergency exits is prohibited.
7. Key Policy: Distribution/Loss/Lockouts: Delivering, sharing, surrendering, or otherwise providing access to keys, access cards, or any device that provides entry to a Residential Facility or Unit to anyone other than a University Official is prohibited. Unauthorized duplication or modification of keys or access devices is prohibited. Failure to report lost or stolen keys is prohibited. Repeated lockouts due to failure to carry or properly manage keys may result in administrative action.

E. General Conduct

You and your Guests are responsible for respecting the rights of all others in the Residential Facility and complying with all applicable laws and University policies, including the Student Rights and Responsibilities Code of Conduct. Fighting, threats, digital threats, harassment, and intimidation of any person for any reason will not be tolerated in a Residential Facility or on any University property. You are responsible for contributing to a community that promotes respect, awareness, accountability, and consideration for all individuals within the Residential Facility. All Residents are required to comply with the terms and conditions of their Housing Contract. Any violation of the Housing Contract is also a violation of this Community Standards policy.

1. **Failure to Comply:** Residents and Guests must comply with any lawful order or reasonable request of a clearly identifiable University Official (e.g., Housing and Residence Life Staff, OU Police Department) acting in the performance of their duties. Residents and Guests must present a valid ID upon request of a University Official.
2. **Furnishing False Information:** Residents and Guests must comply with any lawful order or reasonable request of a clearly identifiable University Official (e.g., Housing and Residence Life Staff, OU Police Department) acting in the performance of their duties. Residents and Guests must present a valid ID upon request of a University Official.
3. **Compliance with the Law and University Policies:** Residents must comply with all University policies, including the Student Rights and Responsibilities Code of Conduct, as well as all applicable federal, state, and local laws and ordinances. Violations may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.
4. **Imposition on Community:** Residents are expected to maintain a living environment that supports academic success and does not interfere with the rights of others to access University education, employment, services, or privileges.
5. **Misuse of Technology:** Residents and Guests must comply with the University Acceptable Use Policy. Misuse of OU Information Systems, including, but not limited to, tampering with, disabling, or unauthorized use of technology, software, or hardware within Residential Facilities, is prohibited. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, the creation or use of false or misleading information generated through Artificial Intelligence (AI), and interference with safety or security systems.
6. **Implied Consent:** Residents are responsible for activities occurring within their assigned Unit and are expected to take reasonable steps to prevent prohibited behavior or the presence of prohibited items within their Unit.
7. **Passive Participation:** Residents and Guests are expected to remove themselves from situations in which University policy violations are occurring and report such behavior or items to a University Official. Failure to remove oneself or report violations may result in conduct action.

F. Substances

You and your Guests are responsible for upholding all applicable federal, state, and local laws regarding alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. Alcohol is not permitted for Residents, Guests, or Students under the age of 21, in Residential Facilities, or surrounding areas. Illegal drugs are prohibited for all individuals. For additional information, please refer to the Student Alcohol Policy.

1. **Alcohol Paraphernalia:** Unless a Resident is 21 years or older and lives in campus apartments, possession of alcohol paraphernalia including, but not limited to, funnels, drinking game paraphernalia, such as beer pong tables, and empty alcohol cans and containers is prohibited.
2. **Residents of the Legal Drinking Age:** Alcohol may be permitted in Apartments in the Residential Facilities if the Resident is the age of 21 or older. Bulk or common source alcohol containers (kegs, etc.) are not allowed in Residential Facilities. All Residents and Guests in the Apartment must be of legal drinking age to possess the alcohol out in common space areas. If not everyone who resides in the Apartment is of legal age, the alcohol must be stored in the bedroom of a Resident who is the age of 21 or older.

3. Tobacco and Nicotine: Possession or use of nicotine or tobacco is prohibited in the Residential Facilities. This includes but is not limited to, any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, water pipe (hookah), E-cigarette, vaporized inhalants or vape, pipe, or smokeless tobacco product.
4. Smoking: Smoking is prohibited on the University of Oklahoma campus, including within all Residential Facilities.
5. Drug Paraphernalia: Possession of paraphernalia used or intended for controlled substances, or items containing illegal drug residue, is prohibited in Residential Facilities. This includes, but is not limited to, devices or materials used to prepare, consume, or conceal drug use.
6. Medical Marijuana: The University of Oklahoma complies with federal law, which prohibits the use, possession, or distribution of marijuana on campus or at University-sponsored activities. Residents and Guests are prohibited from consuming, smoking, or possessing marijuana in Residential Facilities, including those with a valid medical marijuana license, card, or prescription.

G. Prohibited Items

You are responsible for promoting and maintaining a safe and secure environment in Residential Facilities. Items that are prohibited from being brought into or stored in any Residential Facilities are listed below. Housing and Residence Life Staff have the right to request the removal of any prohibited item.

1. Appliances:

- i. Personal Appliances: Personal Appliances, including but not limited to a personal air conditioner, space heater, ceiling fan, bidet, or fog/smoke machine are prohibited. Appliances already installed in Residential Facility are permitted to remain.
- ii. Kitchen Appliances: Cooking tools that pose a fire hazard are prohibited, including but not limited to: Air fryer, deep fat fryer, electric griddle, electric grill, electric sandwich makers or presses, electric waffle iron, electric wok, hot oil popcorn popper, hot plate, indoor grill or boiler, toaster oven, crock pots, or any cooking tool that does not have an automatic shut off feature. *Kitchen appliances are permitted in Apartments that are already installed in the Residential Facility. Kitchen appliances are permitted in Apartment Units as long as appliances have an automatic shut-off feature.*
- iii. Microwaves: Microwaves larger than 4-cubit feet, use more than three (3) amps per hour of electricity, or have a power outside of 500-750 watts are prohibited.
- iv. Mini-Fridges: Mini-Fridges larger than 4-cubit feet or that use power outside of 150-350 watts are prohibited, unless they are provided by the University.
- v. Permitted Appliances: One refrigerator and one microwave are allowed per Unit. Each appliance may not exceed 4 cubic feet in capacity.
- vi. Residents must remain present while cooking or heating food and actively monitor appliances in use.

2. Fire Hazards:

- i. Flammable Materials: Items covering one-third or more of a door or wall surface within a Unit are prohibited, including but not limited to posters, canvas art, t-shirts, flyers, flags, blankets, or tapestries.

- ii. Fire Hazards: Items with an open flame or flammable liquid are prohibited, including but not limited to oil lamps, candles, candle warmers without automatic shut-off, hookah pipes, incense, or halogen lamps.
 - iii. Flammable Hazards: Items that may serve as fuel for fire are prohibited, including but not limited to charcoal, extension cords, natural cut trees, branches, or greens. Surge protectors are permitted.
 - iv. Storing & Utilizing Vehicles: Parking, riding, or storing bikes, motorcycles, scooters, electric bicycles, hoverboards, mopeds, or similar devices in unauthorized areas, including Units, stairwells, hallways, lounges, balconies, or exterior fixtures, is prohibited.
 - v. Electronic Vehicles: Electric personal vehicles with lithium-ion batteries, including but not limited to electric scooters, bikes, hoverboards, and skateboards, may not be stored or charged inside any Residential Facility or University building.
 - vi. Personal Furniture: Self-constructed furniture is prohibited in Residential Facilities, including lofted beds, personal desks or tables, couches, mattresses, or unapproved lofting materials such as bed risers. Items that obstruct entryways, including hallway rugs, are also prohibited.
3. Prohibited Weapons:
- i. Non-Lethal Handheld Items: Non-lethal handheld items are prohibited from being used in any Residential Facilities, including but not limited to: Tasers, stun guns, pepper spray, or mace.
 - ii. Flammables and Combustibles: All explosives, combustibles, ammunition and fireworks are prohibited, including but not limited to: Gasoline, propane, lighter fluid, bullets, BB bullets, sparklers, or firecrackers.
 - iii. Knives and Blades: Kitchen knives used for cooking are permitted. Pocket knives with blades 2.5 inches or less are permitted. All other knives and blades, including throwing stars, hunting knives, and throwing knives, are prohibited.
 - iv. Guns and Gun Replicas: Firearms, toy guns, replicas, Nerf guns, water guns, BB guns, and similar items are prohibited.