All resident communities at CWRU are based on the understanding that every student has both rights and responsibilities. It is each student’s responsibility to respect the rights of all community members regardless of backgrounds, beliefs, values or attitudes.

Included here are the policies and procedures that Housing and Residence Life expects all students to follow. This section describes both policies that must be abided, as well as procedures for the Housing assignment period. Failure to follow the policies or procedures in this section may result in judicial action.

Resident Rights and Responsibilities

All resident communities at CWRU are based on the understanding that every student has both rights and responsibilities. It is each student’s responsibility to respect the rights of all community members regardless of backgrounds, beliefs, values or attitudes.

Resident Rights

To read, sleep and study in an environment free from undue interference, unreasonable noise or other distractions;
1. To reside in a safe and clean environment;
2. To host guests with the expectation that these guests will respect the rights of roommates/suitmates, fellow residents, and other members of the CWRU community;
3. To discuss grievances with a residence life staff member who can assist in addressing concerns;
4. To be free from fear of intimidation and physical or/and emotional harm;
5. To expect that the personal belongings of others will be respected;
6. To expect that these rights will be respected by all community members.

Resident Responsibilities

1. To treat others with respect and consideration, and honor their individual rights;
2. To verbally express views to others, should these personal rights be violated;
3. To respond to all reasonable requests made by fellow community members;
4. To respond to and cooperate with residence life staff members;
5. To take responsibilities for personal and community safety;
6. To take responsibility for guests and their behavior;
7. To be aware of and abide by CWRU policies and procedures and the laws of the State of Ohio.

Abuse

Residents are expected to respect the rights of students, staff and faculty members by refraining from any threatening or antagonistic behaviors. Abuse includes, but it not limited to:

a. actual or threatened physical or mental abuse of any person on University premises or at functions sponsored or supervised by the University;
b. a singular situation involving an act of physical, verbal, or mental abuse directed toward an individual or individuals;
c. repeated antagonistic and malevolent acts consisting of physical, verbal or mental abuse directed toward an individual or individuals;
d. repeated acts of an anti-social nature involving physical or mental abuse directed toward an individual, a suite, a floor, a house, or any other component of the residence community.

Alcohol-Related Behavior

Residents and their guests must adhere to federal and state regulations regarding alcohol use. It is illegal in Ohio for alcoholic beverages to be made available by sale or otherwise to anyone under age 21. Unacceptable alcohol-related behavior includes but is not limited to:

a. illegal consumption or possession of alcohol in accordance with the State of Ohio age requirements and the University and Housing & Residence Life policies;
b. illegal provision or merchandising of alcohol;
c. malicious use of alcohol intended to cause harm to oneself or others;
d. public intoxication;
e. the use and/or possession of a bulk quantity of alcohol (i.e. kegs, party balls, etc.) is prohibited.

Alcohol Transports

Residence Life and Greek Life staff members are required to report any student that they suspect may have alcohol poisoning to Campus Services. Campus Services will arrange for the transport of the affected student to the appropriate location if medical attention is necessary.

Appliances

Only small refrigerators (4 cu. ft. or less) may be used in individual rooms and/or suites. The University reserves the right to exclude all refrigerators, regardless of size, that do not comply with the University’s electrical requirements.

Equipment that places an extraordinary load on the electrical system, such as microwave ovens and electrical heaters, are prohibited in individual rooms and suites. The cooking and/or preparation of food is limited to designated kitchen areas only.

Coffee pots are allowed for use in resident rooms and suites. Air conditioners are allowed only upon authorization from the Coordinator of Disability Services. All air conditioners must be installed by the University. Residents are responsible for all applicable costs of air conditioner installation and use.

Assignment of Room

Students are prohibited from taking a roommate or in any manner transferring their interest in the room or suite to which they have been assigned by Housing. Rooms and suites may only be shared by those students who have been assigned to them by Housing.

Commercial Activities

No commercial business or activity may be conducted in or from any room or any residence facility, including through electronic means. See also CWRU Computing and Network Ethics Policy.

Dishonesty

Residents are expected to act with honesty in all aspects of residential living. Dishonesty includes but is not limited to:

a. knowingly providing false information to the University and/or a University official in the performance of his/her duties;
b. falsifying documents, records, instruments of identification, or other University forms;

d. By residing in a facility that is not their assigned room.

e. By engaging in behaviors that are contrary to the policies and procedures set forth by the University.

Disorderly Conduct

Residents are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that does not create disruptions within or around University residence facilities, or involves unacceptable actions in regards to community, behavioral and/or moral standards. Such behavior includes, but is not limited to:

a. excessive noise (of any nature including but not limited to, musical instruments, loud parties, a stereo, a radio, or yelling);
b. the writing or drawing of obscene pictures and notes;
c. lewd, lascivious and vulgar behavior;
d. window peeping;
e. obnoxious and rowdy, anti-social behavior.

Drugs

Residents and their guests must adhere to federal, state and University regulations regarding drug use. Illegal drug use includes but is not limited to:

a. illegal consumption or possession of drugs;
b. illegal provision or merchandising of drugs;
c. possession of drug paraphernalia, including, but not limited to, pipes, bongs, hookas, etc.;
d. malicious use of drugs intended to cause harm to oneself or others.

Environmental Safety

Residents must adhere to federal, state and University regulations regarding environmental safety. Residents are responsible for the proper disposal of personal, room and/or suite waste into appropriate waste containers. Intentionally, negligently or recklessly exposing someone to hazardous waste as determined by the law or University policy is strictly prohibited. Violations of the environmental safety policy include, but are not limited to:

a. inappropriate storage and/or disposal of chemicals, paints, etc.;
b. inappropriate disposal of sharps (e.g., needles, syringes, broken glass, fluorescent bulbs);
c. inappropriate disposal of or exposure to blood borne pathogens, bodily fluids, biological waste, etc. (e.g., public urination, defecation or regurgitation).

Exterior Aerials and Antennae

Exterior aerials and antennae may not be placed on or extended from a residence hall. Transmissions originating from any residence hall that are in violation of FCC regulations are prohibited and may lead to confiscation of equipment, disciplinary action or both.

Failure to Comply

Residents are expected to cooperate with all University officials including Residence Life staff members at all times. Failure to comply includes but is not limited to:

a. failure to follow the directions of University officials, including but not limited to residing life staff persons acting in performance of their duties;
b. failure to respond to a request to see identification;
c. failure to complete judicial sanctions.

False Alarms

A false alarm includes but is not limited to:

a. the false report of fire, bomb threats, serious injury or any other emergency;
b. intentionally or negligently activating a fire alarm when no fire is present;
c. tampering with a fire alarm pull station or fire suppression system.

Fire Safety

All residents should assume responsibility for ensuring fire safety in all residence facilities. Violation of fire safety includes but is not limited to:

a. setting a fire;
b. using a fire extinguisher in a non-emergency situation;
c. not evacuating the residence hall when the fire alarm sounds;
d. tampering with a smoke/particle detector;
e. tampering with or removing fire hoses, oxygenators or fire fighting equipment;
f. using or possessing a microwave oven, toaster or toaster oven, hot plates, electrical heaters, halogen lighting sources, or similar electrical equipment;
g. leaving cooking items unattended while in use;
h. excessive smoking in residential areas;
i. using candles or incense;
j. storage of a motor vehicle of any type within a residence facility;
k. the blocking of any inside or outside exit by a vehicle;
l. storage of explosive or flammable materials;
m. obstructing or blocking fire doors, corridors, hallways or tampering with self-closing mechanisms.
Firearms/Weapons
The unauthorized carrying or possession on University premises of firearms, ammunition, gunpowder, fireworks, air rifles, air pistols, knives, or any weapon with which injury, death or destruction may be inflicted is prohibited. Possession of a firearm on campus may lead to immediate removal from housing, interim separation or possible permanent expulsion. A full explanation of the CWRU Weapons Policy can be found in the CWRU Student Services Guide.

Guests
A guest is defined as any individual who visits a CWRU residence hall in which he or she does not reside. Guests are expected to observe all University rules and regulations. Overnight guests may be accommodated in the residence facilities for a maximum of three (3) consecutive nights if the presence of a guest does not constitute an inconvenience for suitmates or roommates or otherwise interfere with the residence community. Violation of the guest policy includes but is not limited to:
  a. not escorting a guest while he/she is in the residence facility;
  b. entering a residence hall without an escort;
  c. allowing a guest to enter a residence hall without an escort;
  d. violation of any University or Residence Life policy by a guest.

Harassment
Residents are expected to respect the rights of others by refraining from any inappropriate behaviors that may negatively impact a student’s residential experience. Harassment includes but is not limited to:
  a. conduct which intimidates, threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person;
  b. behavior that intentionally or negligently causes physical, financial or emotional harm to any person;
  c. behavior that is construed as a nuisance, including but not limited to prank phone calls or abusing or harassing another user through electronic means.

Pets
Only approved small, caged, non-poisonous animals or fish are permitted in the residence halls. Dogs, cats and ferrets are strictly prohibited in any residence hall facility. Housing and Residence Life reserves the right to determine if an animal is appropriate. Residents desiring a pet must complete a Pet Registration form and have it signed by their room/suitmate and First-Year Coordinator or Residential Village Coordinator. If, at any time, a pet infringes upon the rights of others, the approval may be rescinded. Approval shall terminate:
  a. upon proper written notification from the Office of Housing and Residence Life;
  b. at the time the pet is removed from the hall, or;
  c. upon termination of the housing contract.

Greek letter organizations subject to this agreement may petition for permission to have one mascot, provided all conditions set forth in any contract or agreement between the organization and the University are met. Students should contact the Office of Greek Life, (216) 368-3780 for more information.

Remaining Occupants of Rooms Where Vacancies Occur
When vacancies occur, the University reserves the right to show rooms and assign new occupants to fill those vacancies. In order to accommodate a potential new roommate, the resident of a partially filled double is required to keep clear and make one set of furnishings available for use and to keep the rest of the room reasonably clear and ready for occupancy. In a partially filled room or suite, Housing may:
  a. allow the resident to find a suitable roommate to fill the vacancy;
  b. assign a new resident to fill the vacancy without prior consultation;
  c. allow the existing resident to pay the appropriate single rate only through the current contract period, or;
  d. reassign the remaining occupant(s) to different accommodations.

When a new roommate or suitmate is assigned, the current occupant(s) is/are expected to welcome this resident and treat them with respect as outlined in the Resident’s Rights and Responsibilities.

Failure to respect the Resident Rights and Responsibilities by any current occupant of a room is considered a policy violation and subject to judicial referral. Other actions violating this policy include, but are not limited to:
  a. expressing not wanting anyone living with them
  b. expressing not wanting the specific person assigned living with them;
  c. describing the new roommate’s experience will be difficult in the assigned space;
  d. any other disparaging comments made to or about the new resident or assignment process.

Room Decorations and Modifications
Students may not make any permanent structural changes to their rooms. This includes, but is not limited to, wallpapering and paneling.

Students who wish to paint their rooms and/or suites or hallways must first obtain written permission from their First-Year Coordinator or Residential Village Coordinator. The Office of Housing and Residence Life does not provide the paint and materials for room modifications. Any leftover paint may not be placed in residence hall waste containers and is the student’s responsibility to discard properly.

Residents who paint are responsible for restoring the painted areas back to their original colors at the end of the contract period. Original paint is available for purchase at the university’s approved vendor. The specific paint color that must be used and the vendor’s address can be obtained from the office area. Upon completion of restorative painting, all remaining paint and supplies must be disposed of properly. If the room is not restored to its original paint color and condition, residents will be billed accordingly.

Residents must use removable plastic adhesive – rather than masking tape, scrap tape, glued picture hooks or nails – to fasten pictures and posters to the walls.

Some rooms have loftable or bunkable furniture. In other rooms, a student must have written approval prior to building a loft or bunk bed. Approval for student constructed lofts will be conditional upon the student signing a waiver of rights releasing the University from any responsibility for injuries or damage resulting from the construction or use of a loft or bunk bed. Students building a loft must store the existing bed parts within their own room, and rooms must be returned to their original condition at the end of the contract period. Lofts and bunk beds must not be attached to the wall; this is considered a structural change. Lofts and bunk beds may not be stored during the summer. Waterbeds are prohibited.

Safety/Security
All residents should assume responsibility for ensuring safety and security within University residence facilities. Violation of the Safety/Security policy includes but is not limited to:
  a. creating an unsafe situation in the residence facility;
  b. contributing to or participating in the unauthorized entry of individual(s) into a building facility, including dining facilities, by transferring or duplicating a key or ID card;
  c. removal of building window screens;
  d. leaving a door or window propped open;
  e. propelling any object out of or towards a building or at an individual;
  f. climbing into or out of windows or going on the roof areas of a residence facility;
  g. inappropriate use of elevators or knowingly disrupting elevator use, (e.g., “elevator surfacing”);
  h. instigating and/or participating in water or shaving cream fights;
  i. playing sports in the hallway;
  j. wearing roller blades inside a residence facility.

Sexual Assault
Any nonconsensual physical contact of a sexual nature is a sexual assault. A full explanation of the CWRU Sexual Assault Policy can be found in the CWRU Student Services Guide.

Smoking
Smoking is prohibited in all public areas. Smoking may be permitted in an assigned residence hall room only if the roommate and/or suitmate(s) do not object. In the event of a conflict, the rights of the non-smoker will prevail. Violations of this policy include but are not limited to:
  a. smoking in an unauthorized area (public areas, lounges, bathrooms, hallways, balconies, smoke-free environments);
  b. non-compliance with the community standards established in the residence facilities;
  c. use of smoking materials in a smoke-free building.

Solicitation
No sale or solicitation of materials or services of any type is allowed within the residence facilities without the written permission of Housing & Residence Life.

Telephones
Students are prohibited from using a University-provided telephone line to contract for any product or service other than direct dialed telecommunication services. These prohibited services include, but are not limited to: calling cards billed to a university number, 1-900, operator service charges, and the acceptance of a collect call. The resident(s) of a room/suite shall be responsible for all prohibited charges billed to the telephone line, plus a $25 service fee.

Theft
Students are expected to respect the property belonging to persons other than themselves, as well as University property in residential facilities. Students should never take possession of items belonging to other persons. Theft includes but is not limited to:
  a. theft from of a member of the University community or a campus visitor;
  b. removal of University property from its permanent location. Such unauthorized removal may also result in a special assessment against the student for the cost of locating and transporting furnishings back to their appropriate locations.

Unauthorized Transfer of Furnishings
Furnishings provided by the University may not be removed from the assigned student’s room, suite unit or common areas in the residence hall. Furnishings in common areas are for use by all residents of the respective buildings.

Vandalism
Intentionally, recklessly, or negligently causing damage to the property of the University or of an individual.