



## **Department of Residential Life Community Living Standards**

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**I. MISSION**

The Department of Residential Life recognizes that students living in residential communities have certain rights that are not to be infringed upon by fellow community members and certain responsibilities in their relationship to other community members and to their environment. The Community Living Standards outline these rights and responsibilities. The Community Living Standards are a legally binding adjunct to the Housing Agreement. You are equally responsible for complying with the rules, policies, and regulations that appear here as you are for those directly printed on the Housing Agreement. Provisions may be added, revised, changed during the term of the Housing Contract with appropriate prior notification to residents.

**II. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Department of Residential Life recognizes that students living in residential communities have certain rights that are not to be infringed upon by fellow community members at any time. These rights include:

The right to sleep during the night.

The right to study in rooms, apartments, and common areas without being disturbed during hours designated as “quiet hours”.

The right to be informed of community events or planned disruptions.

The right to have well-maintained facilities

The right to access one’s living space during all times their building is open.

The right to privacy.

The right to redress grievances.

The Department of Residential Life recognizes that students living in residential communities have certain responsibilities in their relationship to other community members and to their environment. These responsibilities include:

Avoiding actions which inhibit another community member’s ability to sleep and study during quiet hours.

Maintaining one’s self in a manner that is not disruptive to the community.

Working with roommates and neighbors to settle disputes and disagreements in a timely and efficient manner. This may include working together on roommate agreements or neighbor agreements.

Seeking help for themselves and/or others when necessary.



Addressing University staff in a timely, respectful, and appropriate manner, including both verbal and written responses.

### **III. INDIVIDUAL-BASED STANDARDS**

#### **A. Alcohol**

No person of any age may possess or consume alcoholic beverages on campus.

No person of any age may manufacture and/or sell alcoholic beverages in the residence halls or adjoining property outside of the residence halls.

No person may be in the possession and displaying of empty alcohol bottles/cans in the residence halls.

For specific information on North Carolina Central University’s policies regarding alcohol, please see the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

For information on Medical Amnesty, please refer to the [Alcohol Medical Amnesty Regulation](#).

#### **B. Business Enterprises**

Personal business enterprises shall not be conducted in or from the University residential facilities, including Internet related business operations.

#### **C. Drugs/Drug Paraphernalia**

The transport, possession, possession with intent to deliver, delivery, manufacture, purchase, sale, distribution, or use of illegal drugs or controlled substances is prohibited.

Prescription drugs may only be taken by patients for the intended use and in the prescribed manner as directed by their physician.

Possession of drug-related paraphernalia is prohibited.

For specific information on North Carolina Central University’s policies regarding illegal drugs, please refer to the [Policy on Illegal Drugs](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

#### **D. Gambling**

Gambling is not permitted in the residence halls.

Unless approved by the Area Coordinator, the sponsoring of raffles or selling tickets is not permitted.



**E. Harassment**

Harassment, defined as any physical force, violence, threat, intimidation, stalking, or other behavior that interferes with an individual’s personal safety, academic efforts, employment, or participation in University-sponsored activities, is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to harassment in person, harassment by an accomplice, and harassment by the use of technology.

No North Carolina Central University employee or student may engage in conduct that constitutes sexual harassment.

Sexual harassment is defined in North Carolina Central University’s [Sexual Misconduct Policy](#) as follows:

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature when:

- (i) submission to or rejection of such conduct or communication is a term or condition of education/employment benefits, academic/job related evaluations or opportunities;
- (ii) submission to such conduct or communication substantially interferes with a student’s education and/or an employee’s job; or
- (iii) such conduct is sufficiently severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive as to have the effect of creating an intimidating or hostile educational/work environment or negatively affects a student’s/employee’s educational/employment opportunities.

Sexual harassment does not include personal compliments normally welcomed by persons of that sex, or social interaction or relationships freely entered into by university employees and students or student applicants.

**F. Illegal Entry/Trespassing**

Unauthorized entry into any Residential Life property, including restricted access areas of residence halls, is strictly prohibited. These areas include, but are not limited to, any place that is officially closed, restricted only to designated persons (including other residents’ rooms), or where the safety and welfare of residents could be endangered. Examples of restricted areas include mechanical rooms, telecom rooms, roofs, closed buildings, housekeeping closets and storage areas.

**G. Physical Violence**

Physical violence or conduct that threatens the health and safety of one’s self or any other person in or around the residence hall community is prohibited.



**H. Sexual Assault/Sexual Misconduct**

Sexual assault and sexual misconduct are prohibited. Sexual assault and sexual misconduct in their various forms are defined under the North Carolina Central University’s [Sexual Misconduct Policy](#).

**I. Smoking**

Smoking is prohibited in residence halls and on all residence hall property within 25 feet of the facility.

**J. Theft and Possession of Stolen Goods**

Theft of any kind or the possession of stolen property is prohibited. Theft or unauthorized possession of university owned furniture or property is prohibited.

**K. Weapons/Explosives**

Possession, storage, manufacture, use, sale or distribution of firearms, fireworks, explosive material, ammunition, BB and pellet guns, paint guns, knives, martial arts weapons, and all other dangerous weapons are prohibited. Any item that intentionally resembles an actual weapon is not allowed. For reasons of safety, explosives are not permitted in the residence halls.

**IV. COMMUNITY-BASED STANDARDS**

**A. Damage/Vandalism**

Vandalism is not permitted in or around residence hall areas.

Unintentional damage to residence hall areas should be reported immediately to your RA, the community desk or Area Coordinator.

Damages will be billed to the responsible individual. When the responsible individual(s) cannot be identified, the residents of the entire hall, floor, wing, or suite will be collectively responsible.

**B. Holiday and Break Periods**

During times when residence halls are closed for break periods, entry or attempted entry by residents is prohibited.

Residents are responsible for knowing and complying with break period guidelines set forth by their community.

**C. Pets/Aquariums**

Pets other than fish are prohibited in the residence halls.



Residents are permitted to keep fish in their room providing: (a) the fish tank is fresh-water and its size does not exceed 12 U.S. gallons; (b) all residents of the room agree to have a fish tank in the room; and (c) all appropriate precautions are taken to ensure that the electrical connection to the fish tank is safe.

This policy does not apply to persons with a disability that require the use of a service animal. If you require the use of a service animal, approval from the Office of Disability Services must be submitted to the Department of Residential Life.

**D. Posting Policy**

No one, with the exception of community staff or a member of hall council may post or distribute materials on campus, including in any residential community, without authorization/approval from Student Engagement and Leadership. Authorization/approval requires a stamp (provided by Student Engagement and Leadership) on each item to be distributed. The requestor must provide a hard copy of the posting as well as individual contact and organization information with each request. Materials deemed harassing, harmful to the community, or promoting at risk behavior or conduct that violates any University policies, regulations, rules and/or federal or state will not be approved for posting.

**E. Quiet Hours/Noise**

Quiet Study Hours occur daily between 10:00pm and 10:00am. During this time, noise must be kept at levels that will not interfere with the study or sleep of other residents. Quiet Hours is extended to 24 hours during final exams.

Excessive noise is defined as any unreasonable noise level that can be heard inside and/or outside of the residence hall room or space from which it originates and is not allowed at any time.

Courtesy quiet hours are in effect 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Placement of sound equipment in windows is prohibited.

**F. Recreational Activities**

Any activity that includes throwing an object or running in the halls is not allowed.

Riding a bike, skateboarding, floor hockey, or rollerblading and engaging in sports, including, but not limited to, water fights, Frisbee throwing, horseplay, ball bouncing, golf clubs, basketball playing, etc. are prohibited inside all residence halls

**G. Residential Computing Policy**

Residents of campus housing who register for Ethernet or wireless connectivity agree to abide by the Information Technology Services (ITS) [Responsible Use Regulation](#).

Misuse or tampering with an Ethernet or wireless connection is prohibited.



**H. Solicitation**

Only recognized student groups are permitted to canvass, sell solicit, or promote the sale of goods or services in the residence halls. Recognized student groups must have received prior written approval from the Director of Residential Life.

Campaigning for campus student leadership positions must meet regulations set forth by the Elections Board of Student Government.

**I. Visitation Policy**

The Visitation/Guest Policy is a shared responsibility between residents of a community and residential staff. Students are encouraged to notify their RA or Area Coordinator of potential violations of this policy in a timely manner.

The Department of Residential Life has two defined levels of visitation:

**Standard Visitation**

Guests of the same sex are permitted anytime with roommate consent.

**Limited Visitation**

Guests of the opposite sex are permitted only during co-ed visitation hours, with roommate consent and being registered at the respective Community Front Desk. The hours of coed visitation are:

Every day (Sunday –Saturday): 12:00Noon- 12Midnight

The host is responsible for their guest and the actions of their guest.

Guests must call their resident host from outside of the building in order to gain entry.

The resident host must escort their guest in the residence halls/apartments at all times.

The roommate’s rights to privacy, sleep, study take precedence over the rights of a host to have a guest. The host must have approval from their roommate(s) to have a guest.

A guest of the same sex is permitted to stay overnight with the stay being limited to no more than 72 consecutive hours within a 10-day period and/or the immediate vacate when requested to do so by the roommate or a Residential Life staff member.

The overnight visitation of a resident’s partner/significant other is prohibited regardless of sex.

Habitation of a room by anyone other than an individual assigned to that room is prohibited.

Guests may use only appropriately designated restrooms.

A guest of the same sex may only stay or sleep in their host’s room.





Each resident can have up to four guests in a room at a given time.

## **V. FACILITIES-BASED STANDARDS**

### **A. Decorations**

When decorating exterior room doors or common areas, the Department of Residential Life requires that residents avoid posting materials that would constitute harassment or discrimination on the basis of race, color, gender, national origin, age, religion, creed, disability, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. Decorations that may obstruct traffic and may potentially be a fire hazard (e.g. live Christmas trees) are not permitted in rooms, hallways, and suite corridors.

Hallway and suite decorations may be placed on resident room doors, bulletin boards, and in spaces approved by your RA and /or Area Coordinator.

Lobby and lounge decorations must be approved through the Area Coordinator.

Decorations may not be placed within two feet of a fire protection system component (i.e. manual pull station, smoke detector, bell/horn/strobe/sprinkler, fire extinguisher, exit sign, emergency lighting, or any egress doorway).

Room and exterior room door decorations and wall hangings may only be hung with non-damaging materials or removable hangers and must not cover more than one third of the total door or wall space.

### **B. Electrical Appliances**

Each individual residence hall room is restricted to a maximum of 1800 watts usage at any time.

No single appliance can exceed 1000 watts or have an exposed heating element.

Two refrigerators are permitted in each room; however, it may not exceed 4.5 cubic feet in capacity with an electrical rating of 120 volts and no more than 2.0 amps when in operation. Only one micro-refrigerator is permitted in each room.

No microwaves are permitted in the residence hall rooms

Halogen and octopus lamps are expressly forbidden in the residence halls.

Extension cords are not permitted in the residence halls.

For examples of items that have been approved and not-approved in previous years, please refer to the Guide to Campus Living.

### **C. Fire Safety**





Starting a fire; activation a fire alarm without due cause; tampering with smoke/heat detectors; fire extinguishers, sprinkler heads; falsely reporting a fire emergency to police or fire department; and the unauthorized use or damage done to any emergency or safety equipment, are all prohibited.

The use of fire equipment for any reasons other than its intended purpose (e.g. sprinklers should not be used to hang clothes) is prohibited. Students will be held financially responsible for any damages and cleaning charges resulting from the unauthorized activation of the sprinkler system and subject to student conduct action.

In the event of a fire alarm or fire drill, all residents must evacuate the building completely and immediately. Residents must remain outside at the building's designated assembly point until instructed by fire department officials or University staff that they may re-enter. Balconies, hallways, and stairwells must have clear passage at all times.

Storage of any item(s) that may pose a fire hazard in a residence hall room is prohibited. Items may include, but are not limited to any open flame source (i.e. celebratory candles or decorative candles), incense, hookah pipes, live cut trees (e.g. Christmas Trees) or flammable liquids. The possession or use of combustible materials (e.g. hay, straw, Spanish Moss, cloth ceiling coverings) is prohibited.

Because of the fire hazard they represent, two prong extension cords, plug adapters, and halogen lamps and bulbs are prohibited. Residents using extension cords must use grounded three wire extension cords and/or surge protectors. Space heaters are prohibited in residence hall rooms.

Splicing into or altering the electrical wiring in a residence hall is prohibited.

#### **D. Housekeeping**

Residents are responsible for the cleanliness of their rooms and/or suites.

Building residents and their guests are responsible for cleanliness of common areas.

Residents may not leave personal trash or pizza boxes in any public or shared areas (e.g. bathrooms and hallways).

Residents are responsible for removing their trash and/or recycling to designated outdoor trash containers on a regular basis as need to prevent health and safety concerns.

Residents are not permitted to store items in public or shared areas (e.g. hallways and bathrooms).

#### **E. Keys/Locks**



Unauthorized use, possession, or duplication or residence hall keys are strictly prohibited.

Switching and/or borrowing keys with another resident for any reason, including, unauthorized room changes, is prohibited. To conduct a proper re-assignment, residents should contact their Area Coordinator.

Failure to report lost keys is prohibited.

Residents are allowed three (3) grace key lockouts without penalty. Further lockouts will be allowed but require an Area Coordinator conversation.

**F. Room/Common Area Alterations**

Students are responsible for returning their furniture to the designated positions at the end of the year as set forth by the community office.

Adhesive tape, staples, adhesive holders, brackets, tacks, and nails are not to be used on the walls, woodwork, floors, or ceilings.

Furniture is not to be removed for use in spaces other than its original location.

Removal of residence hall room furniture from the room is prohibited.

Waterbeds are not permitted in the residence halls.

Residents are not allowed to paint any interior or exterior area of any residence hall space.

Additional locks may not be added to doors or other University property or equipment.

Damages that result from making room or common area alterations will be billed to the appropriate residents.

Damaged or missing furniture in public areas may be subject to group damage charges to all residents of the floor or buildings.

**G. Safety**

Breaking the plane of a window, breezeway or balcony is not allowed by a person or an object.

The throwing, dropping, propelling, pouring or handing of anything from windows, balconies, ledges, rooftops, and landings is strictly prohibited.

Climbing and repelling on any housing property is prohibited.

Following a building resident into a residence hall that is not of your own (“tailgating”) is prohibited.



Propping open exterior doors creates a potential unauthorized entry, promoting an unsafe living environment, and is prohibited.

Pranking that causes harm or the potential for harm is prohibited.

Precautionary steps should be take while cooking including turning on vents (where applicable), opening windows, and closely monitoring cooking food.

**H. Window Damage**

Tampering with or removing any window screens, latches, stops, or apparatus in either resident rooms or public areas is prohibited.

**VI. COMPLIANCE WITH UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATE/FEDERAL LAW**

Violation of a University policy, regulation or rule; the honor code; town ordinance; or state or federal law is prohibited.

Failure to comply with verbal, written, or published instruction by University staff, when such officials are working within the appropriate performance of their duties, is prohibited.

Abusive behavior that is threatening and directed toward University staff is prohibited.

Residents and their guest(s) are required to present proper University identification or government issued identification to University staff in a cooperative manner when requested.

It is a violation to knowingly supply University staff with false or misleading information that is needed for an official purpose, including the misrepresentation of identity or misuse of identification cards.

There are several other guidelines set forth by the Department of Residential Life. These include but are not limited to content included in our housing agreements, website, and verbal or written instructions from staff members. These guidelines are considered part of the Community Living Standards.