

Office of Residence Life Code of Student Conduct

Updated 6/25/2014

The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and the Office of Residence Life have high expectations for what it means to be a UW-La Crosse student. You are responsible for your behavior and how you interact with other members of the community. 3,500 students live on campus at UW-La Crosse and our students thrive in part because of the strong sense of community in the Residence Halls. Your experience will be shaped by those around you and you will have an impact on the experiences of others. Because of this, it is important that you are sensitive to the needs and wishes of all members of the community, including your roommate(s), staff members, maintenance and custodial staff, or anyone else that is present in your community. An important part of living in a Residence Hall community is feeling comfortable addressing concerns with fellow residents on issues such as noise, cleanliness, or treatment of one another.

The Office of Residence Life staff wants your time in your Residence Hall home to be safe and enjoyable. As a citizen of your Residence Hall community, you are responsible for the safety, security, and cleanliness of your living environment. Care for Residence Hall facilities is the responsibility of all residents and staff.

There are established rules and policies that work to create a healthy living environment for student success. These residence hall specific policies, together with the University of Wisconsin Code of Conduct, constitute the expectations to live in our Residence Hall community. In signing a UW-L Residence Hall contract and moving into a Residence Hall, you accept responsibility for knowing and adhering to these policies.

THE ADJUDICATION PROCESS

You will meet with your Hall Director or Assistant Hall Director for most policy violations. They may refer you to an Assistant Director, the Director of Residence Life, or the Student Life Office depending on the severity or circumstances of the situation. Common disciplinary action may include assigning one or more of the following: an official warning, educational sanction, Residence Hall probation, parental notification, relocation to another Residence Hall, cancellation of your housing contract, and/or referral to the Student Life Office for University disciplinary action. Through this process, there is an opportunity to appeal a decision if you believe it is excessively severe, there is new evidence, or it is believed that a procedural error occurred. All appeal decisions are final.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM CODE OF CONDUCT

In addition to Office of Residence Life policies, all UW-La Crosse students are expected to uphold the policies set forth by the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System. The policies may be found [HERE](#).

OFFICE OF RESIDENCE LIFE POLICIES

1. COURTESY AND QUIET HOURS

Courtesy hours promote a positive living environment and are in effect 24 hours per day. Residents and guests are to maintain a noise level conducive to a comfortable living environment. Compliance with requests from other residents and Office of Residence Life staff members to adjust noise levels is expected.

Quiet hours are designed to promote a positive atmosphere for study and sleep. Quiet hours are in effect from 10pm to 9am during the week (Sunday evening through Thursday) and midnight to 9am on Friday and Saturday. When quiet hours begin, outdoor recreational activities/games near the Residence Halls are expected to stop.

- a) Causing excessive or repeated noise and/or disruption.
- b) Misusing speakers or stereo systems

Facing speakers out windows is prohibited. Playing loud or disruptive music is not permitted at any time. Repeated misuse of audio equipment may result in confiscation of this equipment.

2. GUESTS

Guests are defined as anyone not currently assigned to the room in question. Overnight guests are not permitted until the roommate/suitemate agreement form has been completed and turned in to a Resident Assistant. In situations where roommates cannot agree about guests, the right of the person not to have guests in the room takes precedence over the privilege of hosting a guest. Residents must accompany their guests throughout the visit. Residents are responsible for the behavior of their guests and are responsible for informing their guests of Residence Hall policies.

- a) Misusing keys and door access/student identification cards
Residents are not permitted to give Residence Hall keys or door access/student identification cards to guests or other students.
- b) Hosting overnight guests
Each room may be occupied by a maximum of two overnight guests per night. Overnight guests may stay a maximum of two nights in any Residence Hall within a seven-day period.
- c) Hosting guests who violate policy
Hosts may be found responsible for policy violations of their guests. Alleged policy violations may prohibit the guest from remaining in the Residence Halls and/or may restrict future visits.
- d) Exceeding maximum room occupancy
A maximum of ten people are permitted in any student room at one time including occupied study lounges and Reuter apartments.

3. RESTROOM USAGE

Entering a restroom designated for another sex is prohibited. Residence Halls have open gender restrooms available. Within Eagle and Reuter Halls, suitemates must agree upon terms of restroom usage.

4. SANITATION AND CLEANLINESS

The Residence Hall staff takes pride in maintaining a clean community. It is our hope that every student feels that same pride about their hall community and helps to maintain a clean and safe environment. Students are expected to contribute to the cleanliness of common areas within the Residence Halls and maintain a clean personal living space.

- a) Improperly disposing of garbage
Students are responsible for the disposal of personal garbage. Garbage and recycling must be properly sorted and taken to the appropriate receptacles in or near the Residence Halls. Personal trash may not be put in public trash cans in the Residence Halls.
- b) Cleaning game
Skinning, cleaning, or butchering animals is strictly prohibited anywhere in the Residence Halls or in the immediate vicinity.
- c) Negatively affecting community cleanliness

Any action or inaction that compromises the cleanliness of the Residence Hall environment is prohibited, such as: failing to clean up after personal grooming; misusing drinking fountains, sinks, toilets, and showers; or not cleaning up after using public spaces.

5. ANIMALS

Animals other than fish and service animals are not allowed in the Residence Halls at any time. Guests with service animals may bring their service animals into the Residence Halls. Residents requiring live-in service animals must contact Disability Resource Services (165 Murphy Library, 608-785-6900).

6. INDOOR SPORTS

Sports are prohibited in the Residence Halls. To maintain safety and to avoid potential damage to facilities, the following are examples of activities and equipment that may not be done/used within the Residence Halls:

- Frisbees
- Water guns
- Bats and balls
- Wheeled shoes
- Rollerblades
- Skateboards
- Scooters
- Bicycles
- Running
- Wrestling

7. ALCOHOL

For persons under 21

- a) Possessing and/or consuming alcoholic beverages
State law prohibits the possession or consumption of alcohol by persons under the age of 21.

For persons 21 and older

- b) Providing alcoholic beverages to students under the age of 21
- c) Transporting unconcealed alcoholic beverages and/or consuming alcoholic beverages in public areas within the Residence Halls
- d) Having more than one open alcohol container per of age occupant
- e) Consuming alcohol in the presence of minors
 - If a person of legal age and a person underage are roommates, alcohol may be present in the room, but only in the possession of the legal age person

Policies regardless of age

- f) Hosting a gathering where alcohol is consumed and violates other alcohol policies
- g) Displaying alcohol containers and paraphernalia
Students are not allowed to have empty alcohol containers or alcohol paraphernalia displayed in their rooms.
- h) Participating in high-risk alcohol consumption. Examples include:
 - Large or excessive amounts of alcohol
 - Kegs or other large containers of alcohol
 - Beer bong, funnels, or other devices used to rapidly consume alcohol
 - Beer pong, flip cup, drinking card games, or other "drinking games"
 - Excessive use of alcohol: Alcohol usage that results in the need for staff and/or police intervention, medical attention (use resulting in the inability to function without assistance, unconsciousness, inability to recall events, incoherent or disoriented behavior, loss of control of bodily functions), or any other disruptive behaviors

8. DRUGS

- a) Possessing or using drugs and/or controlled substances
- b) Possessing drug paraphernalia
- c) Possessing with the intent to manufacture, sell, or distribute any drug and/or controlled substance
- d) Misusing over-the-counter medications and/or prescriptions
- e) Hosting a gathering where drugs and/or controlled substances are consumed

9. DISORDERLY BEHAVIOR

- a) Engaging in disorderly conduct
 - Displaying behavior that disrupts or interferes with the orderly functions of the University community or its members
 - Displaying obscene, lewd, or indecent conduct. Examples include, but are not limited to: voyeurism, public urination/defecation, or public exposure of private body parts
 - Engaging in hurtful, indecent, profane, boisterous, unreasonably loud, or otherwise disorderly communication
- b) Inappropriately treating University personnel
University personnel must be able to perform their assigned duties free from harassment, intimidation, or obstruction. When University personnel are engaged in the performance of authorized duties, the following behaviors by residents are strictly prohibited:

- Verbal or written abuse
- Physical contact, intimidation, or menacing behavior
- Display of visual materials that demeans or humiliate
- Providing false or misleading information
- Failure to comply with a reasonable request

10. HARASSMENT

Causing repeated, severe, or pervasive intimidation, invasion of privacy, or any threat to the well-being of a person or group which is communicated by any means is prohibited, including but not limited to: verbally, non-verbally, in writing, through technology, through a third party, or by any other means of communication.

11. ASSAULT

Striking, shoving, hitting, punching, kicking, or otherwise subjecting another person to physical contact or causing bodily harm is prohibited.

12. FIRE SAFETY

All Residence Halls are equipped with fire detection and notification devices in student rooms and common areas. To ensure the safety of the community, please immediately report malfunctioning fire equipment to a Residence Hall staff member.

- Tampering with fire safety equipment
Tampering with, removing, or inappropriately using fire safety equipment including all smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, fire doors, sprinklers, and emergency exit signs is prohibited.
- Initiating a intentionally false fire alarm
Initiating a false fire alarm, whether by means of a fire alarm system or otherwise, is prohibited.
- Using prohibited heat-generating devices
Open flames are strictly prohibited. Burning incense and potpourri is also prohibited. Candles without burnt wicks may be used for decorative purposes only. Candle warmers are allowed only if the student is present when it is being used.
- Failing to evacuate a Residence Hall
All occupants must immediately evacuate Residence Halls when a fire alarm sounds.
- Possessing or using fireworks and/or firecrackers
- Using flammable decorations
Traditional holiday decorations, such as wreaths and evergreen trees are prohibited in the Residence Halls.
- Obstructing a hallway
No personal items are allowed to be stored in the hallways. Items including, but not limited to, door mats, shoes, shower caddies, and umbrellas create a fire hazard, cause damage to carpet, and inconvenience Residence Hall staff members.

13. SMOKING TOBACCO AND ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

All Residence Halls are smoke free, including a 25 foot perimeter around the buildings. Smoking tobacco products or using electronic cigarettes is strictly prohibited in these areas.

14. DESTRUCTION OR DEFACEMENT OF PROPERTY

Damage to facilities or furnishings may result in restitution, disciplinary action, and potential legal action. The University does not assume responsibility for student property. Report damages to University or personal property to a Residence Hall staff member and/or University Police.

15. WEAPONS

- Possessing weapons
Prohibited weapons include, but are not limited to: firearms of any type, ammunition, hunting knives, switch blades, laser pointers, swords, sling shots, BB guns, airsoft guns, paintball guns, TASERs, bows and arrows, and other weapons as defined in the State of Wisconsin Statutes. All firearms, air guns, paintball guns, bows and arrows, and swords must be stored with University Police unless an exemption is granted by the Office of Residence Life. University Police does not store ammunition.
- Using weapons/objects as weapons
Using any object (including weapons, imitation weapons, and non-weapons) to threaten or cause harm is prohibited.

16. PHOTOGRAPHY AND RECORDING

Undisclosed and/or unauthorized photography or recording of individuals within the University community is prohibited. Students are expected to respect the reasonable standards of privacy of other individuals. The recording of private, nonpublic conversations and/or meetings on University premises without the knowledge and consent of all participants is prohibited. This provision does not extend to the recording of public events or discussions.

17. COMPLICITY

Because presence as a bystander may condone, support, or encourage policy violations, students who anticipate or observe a violation of policy are expected to remove themselves from the situation and are encouraged to report the violation to the appropriate University personnel.