

# FAQs - RESIDENTIAL LIFE COMMUNITY STANDARDS

Updated – 10/22/2020

Below we have listed answers to frequently asked questions about the *Housing and Residential Life Community Standards*. If your question is not addressed, please contact the Office of Student Conduct or relevant residential life/housing office directly.

## **GENERAL QUESTIONS**

- What are the *Residential Life Community Standards*?
  - The *Residential Life Community Standards* describe residential-area specific policies and is incorporated into the Standards of Conduct within the UC San Diego *Student Conduct Procedures*. Violations of these *Community Standards* may result in referral to the student conduct process.
- How does violating the Community Standards impact my Housing Contract or Rental Agreement?
  - Breach of any term/provision of the Housing Contract or Rental Agreement can result in contract cancellation prior to move-in, termination of the contract after move-in, or exclusion from future UC San Diego student housing application processes.

## **ALCOHOL & CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES**

- Can I drink alcohol if I'm over twenty-one (21) or older?
  - Residents who are twenty-one(21) or older and their guest(s) and/or non-primary resident(s) (see definitions in Guest Policy section) who are twenty-one(21) or older may possess and/or consume alcohol in the resident's contracted apartment space so long as they are following Federal Law, California law, and all other University policies.
- I have a roommate who is under twenty-one (21). Can I still drink in my residence?
  - Residents who are under twenty-one (21) and who have roommates who are twenty- one (21) or over, may be present in their residence when their roommate is consuming alcohol, but may not consume nor possess any alcohol at any time.
- How can I have alcohol delivered to my residence?
  - Only individuals living in Graduate and Family Housing who are age 21 and over can have alcohol delivered to their residence. Regardless of age, alcohol delivery from any source is prohibited In Single Undergraduate Housing.
- Can I have gatherings with alcohol and guests?
  - No, per the Guest Policy, guests are not allowed in residential facilities during the 2020-21 academic year.
- I have a medical marijuana card signed by a doctor. Can I have cannabis in my residence?
  - No. The Federal Drug Free Schools Act prohibits the possession or use of cannabis on campus, regardless of you having a medical marijuana card. CBD products are also prohibited in University housing.
- Can I use my friend's prescribed medication?

- No; Prescription medication may only be used or possessed by the person to whom it is prescribed. Additionally, the use of any prescribed medication, over the counter drugs, and other controlled substances in an abusive or recreational manner is prohibited.

### **BIKES, SCOOTERS, SKATEBOARDS, ETC**

- Can I use a bike or skateboard in the hallway of my residence?
  - No. The use of bicycles, scooters, skateboards, roller-skates, rollerblades, or hover boards is prohibited inside any Housing\*Dining\*Hospitality-owned or operated facilities. Performing tricks on these devices is also prohibited in or around all residential facilities.

### **BUSINESSES**

- What kind of businesses can I operate out of my residence?
  - Students may not operate a business or electronic business using Housing\*Dining\*Hospitality owned or operated facilities, equipment, or services. Except for food delivery, residents may not contract any vendor for services in the residential facilities without the approval of the relevant housing office.
- Can I sublease my contracted space?
  - Residents in Single Undergraduate Housing cannot rent or lease their contracted space through any method or service. However, students living in Graduate and Family Housing may sublet their contracted space by following the [Sublease Program Regulations](#).

### **FAILURE TO COMPLY**

- An RSO and/or RA/HA knocks at my door. Do I have to let them in?
  - No. You are not required to let them in. However, you must answer your room/suite/apartment door while present in the residence. You also need to immediately provide your UC San Diego Campus Card and identify any guest(s) and/or non-primary resident(s) upon request.

### **FIRE SAFETY**

- Can I lose my housing if I put a grocery bag over my smoke detector?
  - Yes. Tampering with fire alarm pull stations, smoke and heat detectors, fire extinguishers, and other fire safety and emergency equipment is grounds for housing contract cancellation.
- I accidentally burned my food and it set off the fire alarm. Will I be held responsible for this happening?
  - Burnt food may activate the building fire alarm and the resident responsible may be financially liable for any damages and/or associated costs.
- My room is starting to smell. Can I burn some incense to make it smell better?

- No. The use of candles, charcoal grills, incense, tiki torches, and any other open flames are prohibited in and around the residential facilities. We encourage you to use other methods for alleviating such smells from residences, that do not require an open flame or improper heating element.
- My fire alarm is sensitive and sometimes alarms when it shouldn't, like when cooking. Can I disable it temporarily as needed?
  - No. Tampering with fire alarm pull stations, smoke and heat detectors, fire extinguishers, and other fire safety and emergency equipment is a misdemeanor and violates local/state/federal law. It also violates University policy, is grounds for housing contract or rental agreement cancellation and may result in suspension from the University. You must report malfunctioning fire safety equipment to HDH FixIt promptly. You are also encouraged to use other methods to reduce the chances of setting off your alarm by accident, like opening windows and using the fan above your stove.

## **GUEST POLICY**

- Why can't I have guests in my residence during this academic year?
  - For the 2020-2021 academic year, guest limitations are in place to help control the spread of the novel coronavirus. All living areas are considered "residents-only" communities. For Graduate and Family Housing, "non-primary residents" are also permitted (**see below for how this is defined**). No guests will be permitted in these areas, unless a specific exemption applies (e.g., necessary care givers, approved residential pod).

The *Housing and Residential Community Standards* define these as:

**Resident host:** The UC San Diego-affiliated person contracted to live in the relevant University housing.

**Non-primary resident:** Anyone contracted to live in University housing with the UC San Diego affiliated resident (only exists in Graduate and Family Housing).

**Guest:** Anyone not contracted to live in the relevant residential bed space or unit

- What is the difference between "resident hosts," "non-primary residents," and "guests"?
  - A resident host is defined as the UC San Diego-affiliated person contracted to live in University housing. A non-primary resident only exists in Graduate and Family Housing and is defined as the person(s) contracted to live in University housing with the UC San Diego affiliated resident. A guest(s) and/or non-primary resident(s) is defined as anyone who is not contracted in the residential space that is being visited.

## **HEALTH & SAFETY**

- Do I always have to wear a face covering while in my building?
  - Residents must wear face coverings whenever coming within 6 feet of another person while on Housing\*Dining\*Hospitality property, unless a specific exemption applies (e.g., approved residential pod). As conditions related to the novel coronavirus evolve, the University may consider relaxing these requirements in the future.

- For information on specific requirements and exemptions, particularly restrictions on gatherings, please refer to the most recent orders issued by the San Diego County Public Health Officer and the Return to Learn website ([returntolearn.ucsd.edu](http://returntolearn.ucsd.edu)).

## **NOISE/QUIET HOURS**

- What are the minimum quiet hours in residential areas?
  - The minimum quiet hours in each residential community, except La Jolla Del Sol, are:
    - Sunday: 10 PM – 7 AM
    - Monday: 10 PM – 7 AM
    - Tuesday: 10 PM – 7 AM
    - Wednesday: 10 PM – 7 AM
    - Thursday: 10 PM – 7 AM
    - Friday: 12 AM (midnight) - 9 AM
    - Saturday: 12 AM (midnight) - 9 AM
  - The minimum quiet hours at La Jolla Del Sol are:
    - Sunday: 10 PM – 8 AM
    - Monday: 10 PM – 8 AM
    - Tuesday: 10 PM – 8 AM
    - Wednesday: 10 PM – 8 AM
    - Thursday: 10 PM – 8 AM
    - Friday: 11 PM – 8 AM
    - Saturday: 11 PM – 8 AM
  - During UC San Diego posted finals weeks, 24-hour quiet hours are in effect in all residential communities.
- What are Courtesy Quiet Hours?
  - Any resident may ask any other resident or guest(s) and/or non-primary resident(s) to cease making noise that is disruptive to study or sleep at any time. Residents are expected to directly request that other residents or guest(s) and/or non-primary resident(s) cease any activity hampering their ability to study or sleep. Residents are to take the initiative to self-monitor noise that may disrupt the study or sleep of others at any time.

## **POSTING**

- Can I put up fliers for my student organization's event in the lobby of my building?
  - All posting, distribution, or solicitation in public areas of the residential facilities must be approved by the relevant housing office. Refer to the relevant housing office's standards and the University posting policy for more details.
- Is it okay to put up a flag of my favorite team on my balcony or in my window?

- Posting on exterior balconies or railings is prohibited. Postings inside bedrooms, or on the inside of exterior-facing bedroom windows or doors, may not interfere with the operation of doors or windows or otherwise endanger health or safety.
- My suitemate put up a couple of posters in our common area. Can I ask them to take the posters down?
  - Yes. Posting of material in common living areas not open to the general public is permitted, if none of the residents of adjoining rooms with access to the common area object to the material. Any material posted in the common area must be removed if any resident of an adjoining room with access to the common area objects to the posting of such material.

## **PETS**

- What kind of pets can I have in my residence?
  - Pets and animals are prohibited in all undergraduate residential spaces. This includes pets or animals of visitors, regardless of length of stay.
- Are there any exceptions to the rules about pets?
  - Yes, two exceptions apply: (1) Personal 'Service or Assistance Animals' that assist with a disability as certified by the Office for Students with Disabilities; and, (2) Aquarium fish in tanks not to exceed 10 gallons. Limit of one tank per resident.
  - For Coast, La Jolla Del Sol, Mesa, and One Miramar Street, the University will approve two indoor cats, caged birds, and fish in aquariums with a 30 gallon or less capacity, per apartment. A signed pet addendum and a \$250 pet deposit will be required for up to 2 indoor cats.
  - For Rita Atkinson, Mesa Nueva, Nuevo West, and Nuevo East, the University will only approve fish in aquariums with a capacity of 30 gallons or less, per apartment. Cats are not allowed at Mesa Nueva, Nuevo East, Nuevo West, or Rita.

## **SECURITY**

- My suitemate gets home late, and we live on the first floor. Can I bolt the security door open so they can easily access our living space?
  - No. Residents should not bypass or disable residential security. Residents should not allow suite and/or building access to unauthorized persons. The safety and security of the community is everyone's responsibility. If the lock is damaged by your efforts to bypass or disable it, the person responsible will be charged for the repair or replacement.

## **RESIDENT AGREEMENTS**

- What is a Resident Agreement?
  - Resident Agreements, completed by undergraduate students living in Single Undergraduate Housing, are community-specific and designed to facilitate discussion and compromise around issues of individual preference. Stipulations in the Resident

Agreement supplement the Residential Life Community Standards. When there is conflict, residents are expected to review and revise their agreement, consulting with their Resident Assistant/House Advisor as needed.

- When are Resident Agreements completed?
  - Within the first four weeks of moving into their contracted space, undergraduates residing in Single Undergraduate Housing are required to complete a Resident Agreement with their on-campus housing room/apartment mates. A Resident Agreement is to be completed each time there is a change in contracted occupants of a room/suite/apartment and will be due within four weeks of that change becoming effective.

### **SMOKING**

- Can I smoke outside my building?
  - No. Smoking of any kind is not permitted in any area owned or leased by UC San Diego.

### **WEAPONS**

- What is considered a weapon?
  - A weapon is considered any device resembling a firearm, including, but not limited to airsoft, paintball, bb guns, and nerf-type guns. This definition also includes the use, possession, or storage of any kind of ammunition, explosive, or weapon(s), including, but not limited to: stun guns, daggers, knives with a fixed blade over 2.5inche (except those used to cook), martial arts equipment, slingshots, spear guns, bows and arrows, explosives, fireworks, laser pointing devices and Taser guns.