

# UC SAN DIEGO RESIDENTIAL LIFE COMMUNITY STANDARDS FAQ's

Below are answers to Frequently Asked Questions about the *Residential Life Community Standards*, including both the undergraduate and Graduate & Family Housing versions. If your question is not addressed below, please contact the Center for Student Accountability, Growth, and Education (SAGE) or relevant residential life or housing office directly.

## GENERAL QUESTIONS

- What are the *Residential Life Community Standards*?
  - The *Residential Life Community Standards* describe residential-area specific student conduct standards 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 University's student conduct process.
- How does violating the Community Standards impact my Housing Contract or Rental Agreement?
  - Breach of any term or provision of the Housing Contract or Rental Agreement may 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.

## ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES & CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

- Can I drink alcohol if I am over twenty-one (21) or older?
  - Residents who are twenty-one (21) or older and their Guest(s) and/or Additional Occupants (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 follow federal, state, and local laws, and all other University policies.
- I have a roommate who is under twenty-one (21). Can I still drink in my residence?
  - Residents under twenty-one (21) and have roommates who are twenty- one (21) or over, may be present in their residence when their roommate is consuming alcohol, but may not possess nor consume possess any alcohol at any time.
- How can I have alcohol delivered to my residence?
  - Only individuals living in Graduate and Family Housing (GFH) who are age 21 and over may have alcohol delivered to their residence. Regardless of age, alcohol delivery from any source is prohibited in Undergraduate Housing.
- Can I have gatherings with alcohol and guests?
  - Social gatherings in undergraduate residential spaces, where alcohol is present, are allowed only when all Guest(s) and/or Additional Occupants are 21 years or older and attendance at the gathering does not exceed two (2) Guest(s) and/or Additional Occupants per Resident of the room/apartment.
  - Social gatherings in GFH living units, where alcohol is present, may occur so long as applicable policies are followed, are not disruptive to the community, and do not pose a health and safety concern.
  - Social gatherings in designated GFH community spaces where alcohol is present, may not exceed the posted room capacity or 18 participants, whichever is smaller. If a

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gathering is larger than 18 people, the host must reserve space through the GFH online reservation portal and follow campus event and permitting policies.

- 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.

## **BUSINESSES**

- What kind of businesses can I operate from my residence?
  - Students may not operate a business or commercial enterprise using RRSS-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 residential life or housing office.
- Can I sublease my contracted space?
  - Residents in Undergraduate Housing may not rent or lease their contracted space through any method or service. Students living in GFH may sublet their contracted space by following the [Sublease Program Regulations](#).

## **FAILURE TO COMPLY**

- A USO 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, or 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 Additional Occupants 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 responsible for any damages and/or associated costs.

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- 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 activates when it should not, like when cooking. Can I disable it temporarily?
  - 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 federal, state, and 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**

- What is the difference between “Residents,” “Additional Occupants,” and “Guests”?
  - A Resident is the UC San Diego-affiliated person contracted to live in University housing.
  - An Additional Occupant is the UC San Diego-affiliated person(s) contracted to live in a GFH space with the Resident.
  - A Guest(s) is anyone not contracted to live in the residential space being visited.
- My friend is visiting from out of town. How long can they stay in my residence?
  - Residents in undergraduate housing may host overnight Guests no more than six nights per quarter or three nights consecutively. Overnight Guests of GFH Residents can stay for up to two consecutive weeks.
- If my Guest is documented for a policy violation, am I responsible for their behavior?
  - Yes. Residents are responsible for and may be accountable for the behavior of their Guests and Additional Occupants while in undergraduate residential communities.
- When can restrictions be implemented on guest visitation?
  - Guest visitation restrictions may be implemented as part of the management for special events, such as the Sun God Festival, or unique circumstances, such as public health concerns.

## **LIVING SPACE AGREEMENTS**

- What is a Living Space Agreement?
  - Living Space Agreements, completed by undergraduate students living in Undergraduate Housing, are community-specific and designed to facilitate discussion and compromise

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around issues of individual preference. Stipulations in the Living Space 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 or House Advisor as needed.

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

## **MICROMOBILITY DEVICES**

- Can I use a bike or skateboard in the hallway of my residence?
  - No. The use of micromobility devices (e.g., bicycles, scooters, skateboards, roller-skates, rollerblades, or hover-boards) is prohibited inside any RRSS-owned, operated, or leased facilities. Performing tricks with these devices is prohibited in or around all residential facilities.
- Can I use a hoverboard in the open space near my residence?
  - No. Hoverboards are not allowed to be used, stored, or possessed in any residential outdoor area or indoor facility.
- Can I let my friends charge their e-scooter in my residence?
  - No. Residents may not use their room and its utilities to charge micromobility devices owned by someone else in exchange for compensation.

## **NOISE/QUIET HOURS**

- What is the general policy on noise?
  - Noise including voices, amplified music, televisions, musical instruments, and computers must be maintained at a level that does not disturb others. Unreasonable noise is considered any noise that disrupts or potentially disrupts the use or enjoyment of one's residences.
- What are the minimum quiet hours in residential areas?
  - The minimum quiet hours in each residential community are:
    - Sunday- Thursday: 10 PM – 7 AM
    - Friday: 12 AM (midnight) - 9 AM
    - Saturday: 12 AM (midnight) - 9 AM

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- During UC San Diego designated finals weeks, 24-hour quiet hours are in effect in all residential communities.
  
- **PETS**
- What kind of pets can I have in my residence?
  - Pets and animals are prohibited in all undergraduate residential spaces, and in GFH residential spaces unless approved by the respective Residential Services Office. This includes pets or animals of Guests and pet sitting, regardless of length of stay.
- Are there any exceptions to the rules about pets and animals?
  - Yes, two exceptions apply:
    - Personal 'Service or Assistance Animals' that assist with a disability as certified by the Office for Students with Disabilities; and
    - Aquarium fish in tanks not to exceed 10 gallons in undergraduate residential spaces and not to exceed 30 gallons in GFH spaces. Tanks are limited to one per Resident.
  
- **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, including residential restaurants and markets, must comply with the UC San Diego Expressive Activity Time, Place, and Manner Policy (PPM 510-1 IX) and residential area specific posting guidelines (see Appendix C of PPM 510-1 IX).
- Is it okay to put up a flag of my favorite team on my balcony or 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.

## **PUBLIC AREAS**

- What is considered a Public Area?
  - A Public Area is any residential space, excluding residence hall bedrooms and the interiors of apartments.

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- Can I sleep in a Public Area?
  - No. Sleeping is prohibited in Public Areas, unless it is approved as part of a University-sponsored event.

## **RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES**

- Am I responsible for damages to furniture caused by my Guests?
  - Yes. Residents are responsible for restitution for damage caused by Guests to RRSS facilities and furnishings.
- Can I move the couch in my residence to my balcony?
  - No. Moving furniture and other University furnishings from suites, apartments, or public areas to other interior or outdoor spaces is prohibited.
- Can I use my own folding chair on my balcony?
  - Yes. Residents may use and sit on personal folding chairs while on their balconies. However, personal folding chairs should be put away when not in use.
- Can I paint the walls of my bedroom?
  - No. Painting the interior or exterior of any RRSS facility, surface, or grounds is prohibited.
- Can I put cooking oil down the drain of a sink or flush it down the toilet?
  - No. Oil fat, and grease must be cooled and disposed of in closed containers and placed in regular trash. Human waste and toilet tissue are the only items permitted to be flushed down the toilet.
- Can I use a waterbed in my residence?
  - No. Waterbeds are prohibited in RRSS facilities.
- My favorite team is playing in the Super Bowl. Can I hang a team flag from my window ledge?
  - No. Residents may not cover or hang items from exterior windows or window ledges.

## **RESIDENTIAL RESTAURANTS & MARKET FACILITIES**

- Do I have to wear a shirt when going to a dining facility or market?
  - **Yes** Residents and Guests entering dining facilities must wear a shirt, pants, or the equivalent (e.g., dress, skirt, shorts), and shoes.
- My friend is low on Dining Dollars. Can I let them use the funds on my Dining Plan?
  - No. The person associated with the account is the only one person authorized to use an associated Dining Plan or Triton Cash Account.
- Can I place items in a backpack or other bag before I buy them at a residential market?
  - No. Placing items in anything other than a market provided basket and/or shopping cart is prohibited, except for Amazon Just Walk Out technology enabled markets

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## **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.
- Can I install a lock on my cabinet to protect my belongings?
  - No. Residents and Additional Occupants may not install non-RRSS issued locks on cabinets or doors.

## **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.
- Why can't I use a vaping device in my residence?
  - Vaping is a form of smoking and prohibited in any area owned, leased, or operated 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 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 2.5 inches (except those used to cook), martial arts equipment, slingshots, spear guns, bows and arrows, explosives, fireworks, laser pointing devices and Taser guns.