Community Standards

Community Standards are designed to support and guide the residential experience at Texas Tech University. Members of this dynamic community must strive for mutual respect. We can learn best from one another in an atmosphere of positive encouragement. Each person has a role to play in our residence hall community and brings value to the environment. We must possess an interest to learn from those around us, as well as giving the respect we desire from others.

University Student Housing believes that for residents to be an important part of their residential community, everyone’s actions can contribute to or take away from the positive experience. At a floor meeting during the first few weeks of the semester, residents will discuss standards for communication, respectful engagement with each other, and how common space(s) will be utilized. Community Standards are universal and will be posted throughout the building. All residents will be held accountable to the standards set forth for the community. Community Standards are reviewed frequently to make sure they continue to meet the needs of the residents.

A major component of community standards is the roommate agreement. This process is essential to creating a space where all members of the room/suite/apartment can set clear expectations for resident and guest behaviors. By openly discussing and making group decisions about negotiable items, the residents of the room/suite/apartment have the opportunity to set boundaries for an environment that fosters success.

Your Community Rights Include:

- To set agreed upon expectations with the residents of the room/suite/apartment related to studying, sleeping and socializing in the room/suite/apartment
- To live in a safe, secure, healthy and clean environment
- To be an active member within a supportive community
- To gain access to a variety of programs and services
- To grow and develop as a member of Texas Tech University by interacting with others in the community

Your Commitments to the Community Include:

- To demonstrate dignity and respect for the needs of all individuals
- To provide open communication with other community members and Residence Life staff
- To consider involvement in the community through student leadership opportunities and planned events
- To care for the facilities and the community environment
- To promote individual and community safety

The Residence Life staff in each hall/complex is present to assist students in creating a positive living community. They are focused on creating a residence hall environment that leads to
success at Texas Tech University. By organizing floor meetings, educational interactions, and social events, students and staff come together to enjoy all the benefits and conveniences of living on campus. Actively participating in the residence halls and on-campus affords you many opportunities for success and growth as an individual.

Adapted from *In Search of Community*, Ernest Boyer, Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

**Roommate Relationships**

Communication between roommates is the key to establishing a positive relationship. This relationship will contribute to your overall satisfaction with college life. Roommate agreements are an important tool to ensuring clear communication, appropriate boundaries, and agreed upon expectations of shared space(s). You should discuss any problems that arise and work together to resolve any differences. Staff are available to assist in facilitating these conversations. Keep in mind, individual rights to sleep, study, and privacy precede all other rights and privileges.

**When a Conflict Arises**

Learning to navigate conflict is an important life skill. Living with others is an opportunity to develop skills to assist in approaching future conflicts. Following these guidelines provides a framework for resolution should a disagreement arise.

- **Set up a meeting**
  - Privately approach the roommate or person displaying unacceptable behavior.
  - If a person finds it difficult to approach a roommate or a roommate is unresponsive, seek assistance from the community advisor. Take the initiative to act positively.
- **What happens during the meeting**
  - Be direct and specific about the behaviors which are problematic or concerning.
  - Discuss the person's behavior, not the person's personality (this enables the person to be less defensive).
  - Each person involved should take a turn describing their perception of the situation, how they feel about it and what they believe may be an optimal solution.
  - Each person should agree to a compromise and help develop a solution. This means all individuals may not get 100% of their desired outcomes.
  - Together, develop a plan of action and set a timeframe for the changes to occur.
  - Update roommate/suitemate agreement in roompact to reflect current resolutions.
- **What follow-up happens**
  - Resolutions may take time and on-going conversations are necessary. Do not expect change to happen overnight. It is the responsibility of all parties to work together in creating change.
  - If unable to resolve the situation or the situation does not improve, reach out to your Community Advisor to assist in facilitating a new meeting.
- Set a future date to evaluate the situation and renegotiate if necessary.
- If working with the Community Advisor is unsuccessful, please reach out to the complex professional staff through the hall office to set up an appointment.

To assist you and your roommate/suitemate with getting to know each other and setting out some preliminary expectations regarding living together for the upcoming year, we encourage you to read and complete a roommate or suitemate agreement at the beginning of the year. This should be revised throughout the year as necessary, including if any new roommates/suitemates are assigned to the space.