



Housing & Residence Life Policies & Disciplinary Procedures

2020-2021

Housing & Residence Life Policies & Community Standards have been updated to comply with University safety precautions designed to mitigate the risk of viral transmission, and changes to the University of Chicago Housing & Residence Life Terms and Conditions of Residency (the “Residency Contract”). The University of Chicago has outlined these safety precautions here: <https://goforward.uchicago.edu>.

This guidance has been communicated to students, parents, and guardians, and additional education will take place to assist students in following protocols designed to help keep themselves and others safe. Knowing and upholding these revised standards will be necessary for students to remain in University housing.

Housing & Residence Life seeks to serve the University’s educational objectives by offering facilities that provide a setting in which individual education is supported. The rules and regulations of Housing & Residence Life aim to discourage conduct would disturb or endanger others and promote an environment within which residents can work effectively and live amicably.

COVID-19 Public Health-Informed Policies

Students are required to comply with all of the COVID-19 and Public Health informed policies including those set forth in their Residency Contract (including Addendum to University of Chicago Housing & Residence Life Terms and Conditions of Residency - COVID-19 and Public Health-Informed Policies) and applicable state and local public health orders. Any violation of these policies constitutes a breach of your Residency Contract as well as a violation of our community standards and students will be subject to disciplinary action by Housing & Residence Life and, possibly, the College.

Students are required to familiarize themselves with the expectations in the Addendum, as each student is personally responsible for complying with all health and safety guideline policies including but not limited to:

- Training and Attestation
- Isolation and Quarantine
- Testing, Screening, and Reporting
- Wearing Face Coverings
- Physical Distancing

The basic rights and responsibilities of residents of Houses include:

1. Each resident has the right to the use of their room, subject to the terms of their Residency Contract. **Please note that for the 2020-2021 academic year the visitor and overnight guest policies have been suspended and residents may not have any guests in the residence halls at any time.**
2. No resident shall use their room, or any space within any residential commons, connection with the operation of a private enterprise or for personal financial gain.

3. Each resident shall respect their fellow residents' interest in peace, quiet, and public order, and their need for adequate conditions for study and sleep. Each resident has a responsibility to respect the rights of their fellow residents. Additionally, residents are responsible for working to constructively address violations of this right.
4. Each resident has a right to representation, if not actual participation, in the creation of regulations by students in the House, subject to reasonable procedures for enactment and amendment. Implicit in this is the right to adequate enforcement of the House rules.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Violations of the following Rules and Regulations may result in serious disciplinary action by Housing & Residence Life and may also be referred to other University disciplinary systems. Serious or repeated violations of these Rules and Regulations may result in removal from Housing.

1. Civility

We expect every person who lives in the Residence Halls to foster an environment of respect, openness and understanding so that we can explore and discuss different – and sometimes divergent -- views.

- a. In the Houses, civility extends beyond the community spaces and lounges to the registered House social media sites that effectively extend community interactions into cyberspace.
- b. Residents are expected to follow the direction of their Resident Heads, Resident Assistants, and Virtual Programming Assistants when this policy is compromised and of University officials like Assistant Directors of Residence Life and College Deans should they be summoned to discuss these matters and their consequences in more detail.

2. Noise.

It is impossible to set specific standards regarding levels of noise in a residence hall which will satisfy all residents. Individual levels of noise tolerance vary widely. The purpose of the Houses is to offer conditions which permit reasonable order for study and sleep. At no time may a resident create excessive noise that disturbs other residents.

Quiet Hours: After 11:00 pm on weeknights and 1:00 am on weekends, and lasting until 8:00 am, residents must contain noise in their rooms and in the public areas of the Houses at levels which will not prevent other residents from studying or sleeping.

- a. Residents may not practice or play musical instruments, electronic or acoustic, in student rooms. Please note that for the 2020-2021 academic year, all music practice rooms are closed in accordance with University guidelines.
- b. Excessive noise is a problem not only for residents, but for people living in the buildings neighboring the residence halls. Residents must act to keep noise from unduly disturbing neighbors as well as other residents.

3. Threats and Harassment

The Residence Halls are intended to be communities where the individuality of all residents and their rights to make personal choices are respected, so long as those choices do not interfere with the rights of others. Housing & Residence Life staff have the responsibility to ensure that this and all policies of Housing & Residence Life are observed. In the protection of these rights and responsibilities, residents may not engage

in threatening or harassing conduct that is directed against other residents, guests, or members of the Housing & Residence Life staff. Any form of threatening or harassing conduct will be considered grounds for serious disciplinary action by Housing & Residence Life and may also be referred to other University disciplinary systems. Residents must also respect the personal property and assigned space of other members who live in the Houses.

4. Dangerous Acts

Residents may not engage in activities which threaten the safety of themselves or others. A list of specific acts that come under the rubric of dangerous activities could *never* be exhaustive; however, the following is a *partial* list of prohibited activities:

- a. Possessing or using fireworks, tasers, firearms, other explosives, or weapons. For additional information regarding weapons, please see the **University's Policy on Firearms, Other Lethal Weapons, Fireworks and Dangerous Objects and Materials**.
- b. Setting off false fire alarms, tampering with fire extinguishers, fire sprinklers, or other life safety equipment.
- c. Playing with fire or incendiary materials in any manner, regardless of whether any damage or injury occurs to person or property.
- d. Tampering with elevators
- e. Physically attacking or threatening physical attack of any person including residents or visitors to the residence halls.
- f. Going out onto or accessing any roof or roofing structure of any residence hall, dining commons or fire escape (if an active fire alarm is not present).
- g. Going onto any window ledge, or staircase railing, of any portion of any residence hall or dining commons.
- h. Climbing on scaffolding, construction equipment, or any other structures associated with a building improvement or construction project.
- i. Throwing objects from the windows or internal/external stairs of the residence halls. The size, weight, and shape of such objects – and their potential for harm – is not open for debate.
- j. Obstructing the use of any residence hall door by tampering with locks, blocking doorways (even temporarily) or otherwise preventing free access or egress.

Residents who engage in any of the acts listed above will be subject to serious disciplinary action, including the likelihood of being removed from a House or Housing altogether.

5. Candles/Incense.

Candles, and incense are not permitted in any student room in the Houses.

6. Alcohol in the Residence Halls

During the 2020-2021 academic year, alcohol is not permitted in the residence halls regardless of age. Residents who violate this rule may face serious disciplinary consequences, including the likelihood of removal from Housing, and/or referral to the College for disciplinary action.

7. Illegal Drugs

The possession, use, or distribution of illegal drugs which in any form is prohibited by federal law, and the distribution of prescription drugs to someone other than for whom it is prescribed is prohibited in Housing.

This includes marijuana because, although recreational marijuana use for adults ages 21 and over is legal in Illinois, federal law prohibits its possession, distribution and use in any form on the University's campus. Residents who violate this rule may face serious disciplinary consequences, including the likelihood of removal from Housing, and/or referral to the College for disciplinary action. For more detailed information about the University's drug and alcohol policies, federal and state statutes with respect to illicit drug trafficking and possession, and state statutes regarding marijuana use and alcohol use by minors, please consult the **University's Annual Security and Fire Safety Report: http://safety-security.uchicago.edu/clery_act_reporting/annual_security_report/**.

8. Private Parties in the Residence Halls

Private parties and other social gatherings in the Residence Halls are not permitted during the 2020-2021 Academic Year. Residents may have no more than one (1) other resident of that student's Residential Commons in their room at a time and all residents must follow all safety guidelines in the UChicago Health Pact during any visit. Residents who violate this rule may face serious disciplinary consequences, including removal from University Housing and referral to the College for disciplinary action.

9. Smoking

Illinois law prohibits smoking in University Housing. In addition, the City of Chicago Clean Indoor Air ordinance prohibits smoking within fifteen feet of the entrance to any building, including residence halls and dining commons. As such, smoking of any substance is forbidden in the residence halls, including student rooms, lounges, lobbies, corridors and courtyards and dining commons. This includes the use of pipes, vapes, e-cigarettes and their variants. Housing residents are obligated to comply with the law. Residents who violate the law will be addressed by Housing & Residence Life staff and are subject to disciplinary action including oral warnings, formal written warnings (housing probation) and/or removal from Housing.

10. Visitor & Overnight Guest Procedures

No guests will be admitted or allowed in the residence halls at any time during the 2020-2021 academic year (other than during move-in in the Fall quarter). This includes non-affiliate visitors/guests, other students who live off-campus, as well as visitors/guests/students from other residence halls. The prohibition on all visitors/guests applies to all resident rooms/apartments, lobbies, lounges, and other common areas of the residence halls.

11. Restricted Areas

Residents are not permitted to go on the roofs of the residence or dining commons, fire escapes (unless there is an active fire or alarm), or to any other areas which are designated as "off limits."

In addition, during the 2020-2021 academic year, residents are not permitted to use or gather in the common areas of their residence hall, including, but not limited to, any common lounges, kitchens, and music rooms

Residents who violate this policy will be subject to serious disciplinary action, including the likelihood of being removed from a House or from Housing altogether.

Residents may not tamper with the physical plant of the residence halls including removing screens, tampering with locks to gain access, exiting from secured alarmed doors, entering/exiting a building via a

window, or tampering with electrical, fire, or phone systems, etc. This also includes scaffolding, construction equipment, or any other structures associated with a building improvement or construction project. Residents may be fined for doing so and typically results in removal from Housing altogether. Residents may not enter any student room to which they are not assigned, unless they live in that same residence hall, and are the invited guest of the person(s) assigned to that room.

12. Pets

Residents may not keep pets in any of the residence halls. This prohibition is imposed for reasons of cleanliness, health problems, and noise. Exceptions are made for fish in a small aquarium (less than 10 gallons). The only other pets permitted in the residence halls are those belonging to Resident Deans, Resident Heads, and the Assistant Directors of Residence Life who live in the Houses year-round. For more information on student use of Service Animals and Assistance Animals, please see the Animal Policy on the Student Disability Services website.

13. Door-to-Door Solicitation

Door-to-door solicitation in the residence halls is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to distribution of information, electioneering or campaigning, solicitation of funds, or sales of products or services by residents or non-residents.

14. Posting

The only posters/flyers authorized to be posted on in-House bulletin boards or elsewhere within a House (other than those posted for House or Hall business) are those approved for a Recognized Student Organization (RSO). Each House has at least one bulletin board that is reserved for the Residence Life staff of the House. Postings may not be placed inside stairwells, inside elevators, on elevator doors, or on student room doors unless approved by the residents of that room. A posting will not be restricted unless it violates the law, defames a specific individual, constitutes a genuine threat or harassment, invades the substantial privacy or confidentiality interests of others, or is otherwise directly incompatible with the functioning of the University. Postings may neither advertise nor refer to the availability of alcohol at any event.

15. Posting and Solicitation in Dining Commons

UChicago Dining must approve public communications made in the residential dining commons including but not limited to handbills and flyers, banners, table tents, oral announcements and performances.

Information about the approval process is available on the [UChicago Dining website](#).

16. Items Prohibited in the Residence Halls

For a list of items prohibited in the residence halls, please review the following link on the Housing & Residence Life website: [What to Bring & What NOT to Bring to Campus](#).

ENFORCEMENT OF HOUSING & RESIDENCE LIFE RULES AND REGULATIONS

It would be unrealistic to assume that all conflicts and disputes that are likely to arise in the Houses will be easily resolved by mutual understanding and agreement. Initial responsibility for settling disputes rests with individual residents and elected House Councils. Residents are expected to attempt to resolve problems whenever possible before turning to the Housing & Residence Life staff. The Resident Heads and Resident Assistants, as University

officials living in the residence halls, will strive to protect the rights of all residents by advising and assisting individual residents and House Councils. When problems cannot be settled in this manner, the Housing & Residence Life staff will enforce the rules and regulations of Housing and will impose disciplinary action as appropriate. Residents are required to follow their directives.

If a resident believes that a member of the Housing & Residence Life staff is acting improperly, the resident should

1. Follow the instructions of the Housing & Residence Life staff member.
2. Inform the staff member that the resident believes the staff member is acting improperly.
3. Register a formal complaint with the Housing & Residence Life office by emailing housing@uchicago.edu

Disciplinary Procedures

The goal of the Housing & Residence Life office and the staff is to initially address issues at the lowest possible level, and to institute formal disciplinary action only when deemed necessary. Official responses will be governed by the nature of the particular dispute or infraction. Initial action may begin at a higher level for serious offenses and/or violation of safety rules, including those adopted due to COVID-19. **Please note that for the 2020-2021 academic year any meetings regarding any student conduct concern will take place virtually instead of in-person. Please know that parents or guardians may be contacted if a student endangers the well-being of the community at any time.**

Housing & Residence Life **disciplinary sanctions** may include:

1. **A verbal warning from the Resident Head or Resident Assistant (or Virtual Programming Assistant):**
The student is told why particular conduct is a problem and what must be done by the student to correct the problem. No records of verbal warnings are kept outside of the House.
2. **Housing Probation:** Housing Probation is a formal, written warning that a student's conduct is unacceptable and must change. Probation is imposed because the student's conduct is serious or because the student ignored a previous verbal warning. Housing Probation can be imposed by a Resident Head but may also be initiated by the Assistant Directors of Residence Life. Probation is normally imposed for a specific period of time, either for the remainder of the academic year or for more serious violations up to the remainder of one's time as a resident in Housing. If after being placed on Housing Probation, the student violates Housing rules and regulations or engages in disruptive activity in the Houses, the student is usually required to move within the Houses or to leave Housing altogether.
3. **Visiting Restriction:** Any of the Directors of Housing & Residence Life may restrict a resident from visiting particular parts of Housing and/or the dining commons because of conduct problems. Similarly, students living outside of Housing may be restricted or "banned" from all or some of the Houses and/or the dining commons for their failure to abide by Housing & Residence Life rules and regulations. Students who violate a visiting restriction will likely face further disciplinary action, including the possibility of a referral to the College for further discipline.
4. **Moves within or Removal from the Houses:** A resident who engages in serious or repeated violations of Housing rules, or who violates the terms of Housing Probation will be required to move to another House or to leave Housing altogether. The decision will be made by one of the Directors of Housing & Residence Life,

ordinarily with the recommendation of the Resident Heads. A resident who is required to leave a House or all of Housing is normally forbidden to visit in that House or in any part of Housing for a specific period of time and is normally prohibited from returning to that House or to Housing as a resident for a specific period of time. When a resident is required to leave Housing, the student's area Dean of Students is notified in writing of the action. If the resident is required to leave Housing and is a student in the Class of 2023 or 2024 in the College, the Dean of Students in the College determines whether the residency requirement will be waived, and parents/guardians of the student may be notified of the action where applicable.

5. **Area or University-wide:** The Executive Director of Housing & Residence Life can recommend to the area Dean of Students in a particular academic area or to the Associate Dean of Students in the University for Disciplinary Affairs that a student be brought before the applicable College, division, or school disciplinary committee or the University-wide Disciplinary Committee, respectively. If the area Dean of Students or Associate Dean of Students in the University for Disciplinary Affairs accepts the Executive Director's recommendation, the student will be required to appear before the appropriate disciplinary committee. These committees have the authority to suspend or expel a student from the University.
6. **Violation of Public Health-Informed Policies and Removal from the Houses:** In addition to the foregoing, in the event a resident violated the terms of the Addendum to University of Chicago Housing & Residence Life Terms and Conditions of Residency - COVID-19 and Public Health-Informed Policies, Housing & Residence Life may terminate a resident's Residential Contract, and remove that resident from University Housing.

REVIEW PROCESS

Required Moves within Housing

A student who is required to move within Housing for disciplinary reasons may request a review of the decision of the Directors of Residence Life by the Housing Disciplinary Review Committee. A student who seeks a review of a disciplinary decision must, within 48 hours of the decision, submit a written request and any supporting material to the Executive Director of Housing & Residence Life. Upon request, the student may be granted an additional 48 hours to prepare this material. The only legitimate grounds for seeking a review are: (1) that prescribed procedures were not followed, and (2) that new and material information unavailable to the Director(s) of Residence Life bears significantly in the student's favor. The Executive Director of Housing & Residence Life will evaluate the request for review to determine whether it meets the above-stated criteria for convening the Disciplinary Review Committee. Sanctions may be effective immediately and may not be postponed while the review process is pending.

If the grounds for review are not met, the disciplinary decision stands and is not subject to further review within the University. If the grounds for review are met, then the Housing Disciplinary Review Committee will be convened as soon as possible. This Committee consists of three students selected randomly from a larger list of residents appointed to the committee, and two Resident Heads selected randomly from a larger list appointed by the Senior Associate Director of Residence Life. All members of the Review Committee must maintain independent judgment and an open mind about the decision under review. No member of the sitting Review Committee will be from the student's House.

At the review meeting, an Assistant Director of Residence Life (or a designee) and the student, are given the opportunity to present their cases and to rebut the other's presentation. A majority of three votes in the Committee is

required to sustain, overturn, or modify the original decision. The decision of the Housing Disciplinary Review Committee is final and binding on both the student and Housing & Residence Life.

Removal from Housing

A student who is required by the Directors of Housing & Residence Life to leave Housing for disciplinary reasons may request a review of the decision by the student's Area Disciplinary Committee. The only legitimate grounds for review of a decision made by an Area Disciplinary Committee are: (1) that prescribed procedures were not followed, and (2) that new and material information unavailable to the Area Disciplinary Committee bears significantly in the student's favor. The Dean of Students (or designee) will evaluate the request for review to determine whether it meets the above-stated criteria for convening a Review Board.

A student who seeks a review must, within 48 hours of the decision, submit a written request and any supporting material to the appropriate area Dean of Students with a copy to the Executive Director of Housing & Residence Life. Upon request to the area Dean of Students, the student may be granted an additional 48 hours to prepare those materials. The appropriate Area Disciplinary Committee, to which will be added one Resident Head from the Housing & Residence Life staff, will be convened as soon as possible after the student files for a review.

In conducting a review, the Area Disciplinary Committee will follow the procedures outlined in the student manual (**Area Discipline Systems Review Process**) for a broad review. In making a decision, the Review Board does not conduct a new disciplinary proceeding and normally does not interview witnesses or seek additional information from the student seeking review or witnesses, although the Review Board has the authority to do so and may seek additional information regarding the proceeding from Housing & Residence Life or of the unit in which the matter originated. The decision of the Area Disciplinary Committee is final and binding on both the student and Housing & Residence Life.

Questions about these rules, regulations, and procedures should be directed to one of the Directors of Housing & Residence Life (housing@uchicago.edu, 773-702-7366).