

# “The Rules”

## A Primer on Residence Hall Living Standards

Residence Hall living is a unique experience for most people. Not only will you be living with someone you may never have met before, but you will be surrounded by over a thousand people, all of relatively the same age, and all doing relatively the same thing. Though residence hall living is a lot of fun, in order for everyone to get along we ask each resident to agree to a set of guidelines that have proven over time to allow the greatest individual freedom while also protecting everyone’s right to the Three “S’s” - Studying, Socializing, and Sleeping.

Within this document you will find 11 of the most important rules and procedures we have to protect the Three S’s. If you want to read the full text of rules and procedures, consult *The Guide to Residential Living* and the *Code of Student Responsibility – on line at: <http://www.wou.edu/student/residences/contracts.php>*. Also, feel free to contact our office at anytime for clarification.

### 1. Your Contract

The contract you sign to live in the residence halls is a legally binding agreement between you, and the University. You and ***only you*** can sign this document. The contract outlines what the University will do for you and what the University expects from you. This may be your first experience with a contract. Please be sure to read this document in its entirety. We will be sending out your contract in July. In July, you can also view this year’s contract on our website at: <http://www.wou.edu/student/residences/contracts.php>

### 2. Freshman Live-in Requirement

All WOU students who graduated from high school within the year they begin at Western Oregon University must live within the residence halls for the entire year. Although a petition process exists for students who wish an exception to this rule, exceptions are very rarely granted. Exceptions to the live-in requirement include: living at home with parents or legal guardian(s) (within a commutable distance of 30 miles or less), marriage, or caring for a legal dependent.

### 3. Alcohol and Drugs

Drugs and alcohol are prohibited on the campus of Western Oregon University. Students who are found in possession of alcoholic beverages or drugs, alcoholic beverage *containers* or drug paraphernalia, or merely remaining within a residence hall room where alcohol or drugs are being consumed, face disciplinary action. Students who violate the alcohol rules three times will be evicted in most cases. It only takes two drug violations to face eviction, and possible suspension from the university.

### 4. Noise

When up to 1,400 people all live in close quarters, things like noise disturbances can become serious problems. When those 1,400 people are all trying to get an education, simple noise problems can become the difference between success and failure. We recognize that the living area for students is a “multi-tasking” environment where students socialize, study, and sleep. Keeping noise to a minimum and respecting the rights of your neighbors will amount to an environment where all these tasks can be successfully completed.

## 5. Guests

The guest policy exists to protect the right of roommates to have a say in who visits their living space. The mechanism we use for roommates to communicate on this issue is the "Guest Consent Form" which every resident must fill out and have approved by their roommate if they want to have a guest in their room overnight. Hosts are responsible for the behavior of their guests. This means that if you host someone, you are in charge of making sure they understand and comply with all of the University's rules.

## 6. Keys/Access Cards and Lockouts

When you move in, you will be issued a set of keys or an access fob for your room and community. These keys/fobs become your responsibility throughout the year. Most students take their keys/fobs with them everywhere and rarely lock themselves out of their room. In such instances, University Housing staff unlocks your door for free. However, students who abuse this service by having more than 5 lockouts during a year will be charged \$5.00 for each subsequent unlock by staff, and face disciplinary action after 10 lockouts.

## 7. Pets

Pets are not allowed, unless they are fish. Students may bring an aquarium/fish tank no larger than ten gallons. In addition, residents are not allowed to *harbor, feed, or pet-sit* any animals for any length of time.

## 8. Open Flames and Smoking

For safety reasons candles and incense are prohibited from being lit in the residence halls. Smoking is also prohibited for safety and health purposes. University Housing has designated several locations where smoking is allowed outside of the residence hall buildings. Smoking around the residence halls must occur in these specially designated locations. *Please refer to the campus map of the residence halls within your Guide to Residential Living – on line at: <http://www.wou.edu/student/residences/contracts.php>*

## 9. Firearms

Firearms, weapons, and ammunition are not allowed anywhere on campus at any time. This prohibition includes storage of hunting weapons in cars. There is no place on campus where firearms or weapons may be stored.

## 10. Credits to Carry

To remain in the residence halls, you must carry at least 12 academic credit hours per term.

## 11. Checking out of Your Room

An agreement you will make on your contract is that when you decide to leave the residence halls, you will follow the proper procedure for doing so. This procedure includes filling out a petition, (available in the University Housing office) completing paperwork, making an appointment to check out with a staff person, going over a room condition report form with that staff person at the appointed time, and finally, turning in your keys/fob. Failure to properly check out will result in significant charges accruing on your student account. Fines as high as \$75 as well as charges assessed for a mandatory lock change in the event that the keys/fob are not returned will be applied as needed to student accounts.