

Residential Community Standards

The purpose of the Residential Community Standards is to provide a safe, inclusive living environment and to create learning opportunities that support the holistic growth of each resident.

As a member of the University of San Diego community, each student is responsible for understanding and abiding by USD standards, policies, and procedures. This includes all of the standards, policies, and procedures listed in the [Student Code of Rights and Responsibilities](#) and the [Terms and Conditions | Campus Housing and Dining Services Agreement](#). Students are expected to engage in responsible and appropriate conduct that reflects the University's mission. This document outlines specific residence hall community expectations.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. Please contact your area Community Director (click [here](#) for the directory) or the Office of Residential Life at 619-260-4777 or housing@sandiego.edu.

Alcohol and Other Drugs Standards

1. In order to promote a healthy and welcoming environment for all community members items pertaining to alcohol/other drugs, including beer cans/bottles/caps displays (full or empty) or alcohol/drug-related items (i.e.: shot glasses, signs, posters, flags, etc.) may not be displayed in any university residence hall..
2. Residents may possess prescription drugs that are prescribed to them by a licensed health professional, and are prohibited from distribution and/or sale of any drugs to others.
3. Alcohol cannot be consumed or stored in first-year residence halls. The standard extends to individuals 21 years and older.
4. Residents 21 years of age may consume alcohol in their assigned apartment, but cannot distribute alcohol to individuals under the age of 21. In a room or apartment where alcohol consumption is permitted, no guests (non-residents of the room) under 21 years of age may be present while alcohol is being consumed. When alcohol is being consumed, doors to the hallway or outdoors must be closed.
5. Alcohol and other drug related games ("water pong," "root beer pong," "flip cup," etc.) are not allowed in the residence halls. Simulated binge drinking activities reflect unhealthy habits that are not conducive to a positive learning environment.
6. All USD property is smoking and tobacco-free. The smoke free campus policy (see [here](#)) prohibits the use, either indoor or outdoor, of all liquid nicotine or tobacco-related products, including but not limited to products such as cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco and snuff, e-cigarettes/vape pens (i.e.: a Juul), chewing tobacco, dipping tobacco, or any other preparation of tobacco, whether or not such product is smoke-producing. Individuals may possess and/or store tobacco and like products if obtained lawfully, but no individual can consume in university residence halls or on-campus (even if outside). Due to the exposed heating elements, Hookah water pipes may not be used or stored in any residence hall space.
7. Although the State of California permits people 21 and over to consume cannabis, it is prohibited on the property of the University of San Diego, including within personal vehicles. CBD products, however, as allowed by the Federal Farm Bill are permitted.

General and Emergency Safety Standards

1. Everyone within a building must respond to a fire/emergency alarm by immediately exiting the premises. Reentry to the premises is permitted only on the signal of authorized Residential Life, Public Safety or fire department personnel.

2. Tampering with or misuse of any emergency device (such as emergency exit door, fire rated door, rolling steel fire door, etc.) is strictly prohibited and is a violation of Federal law. Residents should submit a work order to Facilities Maintenance (see link [here](#)) in the event there is a concern with the function of an emergency device (i.e.: periodic beeps, add emergency covers, etc.). Doors that open into exit corridors are fire rated and may not be propped open.
3. Fire hazards, including but not limited to, incense, candles, halogen lamps, exposed heating elements, hookah water pipes, hotplates, personal barbecues, and flammable liquids and solvents (gasoline, kerosene, lighter fluid, propane, butane, etc.) are strictly prohibited in or around any living area.
4. All lights must be UL approved.
5. Residents should complete a Facilities Maintenance work order (see link [here](#)) if the room is unusually cold. Residential Life can supply a temporary, portable heater.
6. Nothing may be hung from sprinkler pipes or any part of the fire sprinkler system.
7. Smoke detectors must not be obstructed or covered.
8. Residential Life prohibits conduct that intentionally or recklessly threatens or endangers the health and safety of any person, including, but not limited to, violating any [health and safety requirements identified by the University](#) or by local and state officials.
9. Storage or use of any materials requiring the use of ventilation hoods, eye wash stations, or safety showers (i.e.: photograph development supplies) is prohibited.
10. Possessions may not be stored or left in any area where they may become a fire hazard or impede access and/or exit (i.e.: plants or furniture in a doorway or hallway).
11. Possession and/or use of explosive materials (i.e. firecrackers of all types, dynamite or any other similar item) are strictly prohibited.
12. In the case of an emergency or other serious incident, the University of San Diego will disclose information from education records to a parent, legal guardian, emergency contact or any other person whose knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health and safety of the student or other individuals. Each situation will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by a university administrator. Some examples of health and safety incidents in which notification will occur include serious injury, an arrest, medical emergency, or any hospital transport.
13. Exterior doors should always be closed properly. Propping exterior doors is a safety concern that could impact you and the community.
14. All floor level windows are provided with a sash lock for the purpose of enhanced security and safety. Residents may request a wooden dowel or additional sash locks from the area office or the Residential Life desk in Mata'yuum Crossroads.

Furniture, Appliances, and Amenities Standards

1. Some residential units contain ceiling fans. Residents and their visitors must use caution when operating ceiling fans, as ceiling fan blades can cause injury to people and property if body parts or objects are placed on or near the blades during operation.
2. The university strongly recommends against using bed risers in units that contain ceiling fans. Using bed risers at an unsafe height in any unit is strongly prohibited.
3. Theft, damage, or defacing of university property is prohibited.
4. Other than in case of an emergency evacuation due to fire, window screens shall not be removed (minimum fine of \$100 being assessed per violation). Damaged screens in the residence halls are removed and either replaced or repaired at the expense of the residents of the assigned space.. This is based on the discretion of Residential Life. Window screens are in place to limit the number of pests in a space and provide for security. A resident should proactively complete a Facilities Maintenance work order (see link [here](#)) if a window screen is faulty. University personnel continually assess the window screens in the residence hall for.

5. Waterbeds, personal lofts (not provided by the university), or similar furnishings are not permitted in housing areas.
6. Residents are not allowed to disassemble any furniture in the room (including beds, desks, dressers, etc.).
7. Residents may request a bed to be bunked or un-bunked by submitting a work order to Residential Life (see link [here](#)). Beds are to be properly bunked by Residential Life. A bed rail and ladder must be used for bunk beds and university lofts. A bed cannot be bunked on desks, dressers, or any other surface.
8. USD furniture should not be moved to balconies, lounges, walkways, bridges, outdoor areas, or to a storage location (on- or off-campus).
9. Removal and/or relocation of any university furniture from a residence hall room, suite, or apartment is prohibited. A \$25 fine will be assessed for each piece of furniture outside of the residence hall room per 24-hour period, plus any additional charges for lost or damaged furniture
10. A resident may request that furniture is removed to Residential Life (see link [here](#)). The removal of furniture is based on Residential Life approval and a resident should not move furniture themselves.
11. Furniture that has been anchored to the structure may not be altered or moved. The safety feature varies by hall due to dates of construction and renovation. Please consult your RA or CD if you have any questions.
12. All upholstered non-university furniture must have a label attached to it stating it meets flammability requirements. The requirement is in place for the safety of the resident who owns the furniture and the community around them. Click [here](#) for descriptions and images of the labels that meet standard.
13. No personal furniture of any type is permitted to be outside a residential unit or building unless approved by Residential Life staff.
14. Removal/unhinging of doors (bathroom doors, closet doors etc.) is prohibited.
15. Personal (including rented) refrigerators are restricted to 5 cubic feet or smaller due to power usage and sustainability.
16. Consistent with the university's [Signs and Postings Policy](#), no personal items may be displayed or attached in such a manner that they are being displayed outside a resident's room or unit (i.e.: door exterior, facing outward through a window, etc.).
 1. Some of the prohibited items include, but not limited to, television antennas or dishes, clothing, towels, flags, wet suits, signs, posters, and string lights due to potential damage to university property.
 2. To promote an inclusive environment, residence hall outdoor and communal spaces do not permit for political or community-based signage or posts. However, residents may decorate their interior space as desired and in consultation with their roommate(s) and those using shared spaces (i.e.: apartment living rooms, suite common rooms, bathrooms, etc.).

*Residents seeking an exemption to the [Sign and Posting Policy](#) under special circumstances should contact the [Office of the Dean of Students](#).
13. Trampolines, hot tubs, personal air-conditioners, personal clothing washers and dryers, or other items deemed as inappropriate by the Residential Life staff are prohibited in the residence halls.
14. [No air conditioners](#) of any kind are allowed to be stored or operated in the residence halls. The use of a personal fan is encouraged when needed.
15. Use of power strips and extension cords:
 - a. All extension cords and power strips must be UL approved.
 - b. Only power strips with surge protection are approved for use.
 - c. Use only one power strip with surge protection per wall outlet.

- d. Extension cords and power strips must be plugged directly into a wall outlet; a power strip may not be plugged into an extension cord or vice versa.
 - e. Plug all devices that create heat (i.e.: a blowdryer, coffeemaker, a temporary portable heater provided by USD, etc.) must be plugged directly into a wall outlet, not a power strip or extension cord..
 - f. Multiple outlet octopus plugs are not permitted.
 - g. Utilization of electrical appliances is subject to the evaluation and discretion of the Residential Life staff, including toasters and other appliances.
16. UL approved kitchen devices are permissible in university apartments only.
 17. Residents are expected to clean community outdoor grills after using them.. Residential Life desks have some grilling tools and cleaning supplies for this purpose.
 18. All residents are expected to complete and sign the electronic Room Condition Form (eRCF) as directed at move-in. The eRCF is a tab in your [Housing Portal](#). Please review the form and provide feedback if you believe there is a discrepancy. Residential Life saves the form electronically seven days after move-in. Residential Life assumes the resident agrees with the status of the space and the information noted in the eRCF at that point.

Guests Standards

“**Guest(s)**” in a USD residence hall includes A.) non-students, B.) non-resident students, and C.) residential students from a different space or hall who are visiting a unit (room, suite, or apartment) in which they do not live.

1. The university wishes to maintain a safe and respectful environment for the entire community. The university housing regulations allow for guests in units only during the scheduled hours noted below. The nature of a guest is expected to be platonic.
 - University housing guest hours for a short visit are as follows:
 - Sunday – Thursday: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 midnight
 - Friday and Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 a.m.
 - A resident may have one platonic guest stay overnight ***IF***:
 - Roommate(s) affirmatively agrees to the visit in-advance, and
 - The guest visits for no more than 2 nights within an eight night period
2. Cohabitation in university student housing with a non-resident or non-student is prohibited. Individuals with questions about housing for married students should contact Residential Life (619-260-4777 | housing@sandiego.edu).
3. All guests are to be accompanied by their host at all times. The host is responsible for the behaviors and actions of their guests.
4. It is the responsibility of a host to inform their guests of applicable policies and procedures listed in the Residential Community Standards, the Student Code of Rights and Responsibilities, current [health and safety measures](#), and guidelines in place to address the unique needs of a residential area.
5. Guests who allegedly violate university policies and procedures or infringe upon the rights of other community members may be escorted out of a residence hall under the discretion of a university official. Guests who are non-students may also be escorted off-campus by a university official.
6. For safety purposes and pursuant with state law, guests are expected to have a picture ID on their person at all times.
7. Guests are welcome to use the community bathroom that aligns with their gender identity.
8. Please clarify question(s) about guests in a proactive manner. Your RA, Community Director (click [here](#) for the directory), and Residential Life (619-260-4777 | housing@sandiego.edu)

are resources.

Quiet Hours and Courtesy Hours Standards

1. Quiet hours are designated for study and sleep time from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m., (Sunday – Thursday) and 10:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. (Friday and Saturday).
2. Residents should show courtesy for one another at all times. A student's right to sleep and study takes precedence over someone else's desire to generate noise heard in another unit. Residents and their guests are expected to be courteous of others at all times by monitoring their noise level and by responding politely when asked to be quiet. Courtesy hours are in effect 24 hours a day.
3. At any time, no television set, radio, stereo (including the bass), air horn or other noise-producing instrument should operate at an unreasonably loud volume. This includes shouting or screaming in a residence hall room, out a window, hallway, building or courtyard. The Residential Life staff use their restorative skill sets to address the concern.
4. Electric and percussion musical instruments may be stored in the residence areas. Use of such instruments must be confined to a university provided practice facility with approval of Residential Life staff.
5. A \$25 fee may be assessed to residents creating noise during university reading/study days and university scheduled final exam periods as listed on the University Calendar. The fee is assessed based on the discretion of Residential Life.

Room Cleanliness and Damage Standards

1. Room cleanliness is defined in the annual [Terms and Conditions | Campus Housing and Dining Services Agreement](#).
2. All food items should be stored in sealed packaging or containers when not being consumed. Restitution for costs accrued due to cleanliness challenges may be assessed to residents.
3. Decorative stickers may not be applied to the walls, doors, windows, furniture or ceiling of any residence hall room. Restitution for the cost of removing the items may be assessed to residents.
4. Nails, screws, tacks, staples and hooks may be utilized sparingly. Holes left in the wall may be subject to repair charges. 3M Command strips or similar adhesives with safe release technology and gummy adhesives are permitted, but any residue left behind may be subject to cleaning charges. Restitution for painting and repair costs may be assessed. All room repairs (including spackling of holes) must be completed by University Maintenance staff.
5. Residents are responsible for all burns, stains, or any other physical damage to floors, floor covering, furniture, window coverings or any other surfaces or fixtures in the housing area.
6. If belongings are left behind after a resident vacates a space, Residential Life may hire a moving company to pack and store the items, and the costs associated with such a move will be billed to the resident. The university cannot store items on-campus due to space limitations. Residential Life follows local and state guidelines in regard to items left behind once a resident vacates their space.
7. It is expected that residents maintain their rooms in a clean and orderly fashion, agreeable to a reasonable expectation and standard. Residents are expected to quickly adhere to any and all directions provided by University staff during Health and Safety Inspections or at any other time.
8. The use of a bug bomb is prohibited in the residential halls. Residents should inform their Resident Assistant and/or Residential Life if there are pests in the residence hall unit. A work order for pest control can only be submitted by a staff member.
9. In consideration of others living in the residential community, a resident is expected to maintain a reasonable high standard of personal care and cleanliness.
10. It is expected that residents submit a work order (click [here](#)) for damages in a timely fashion. Residents will be held responsible for damage due to lack of notification of problems.

11. Heat vents should be accessible at all times and cannot be covered. Heat vents that are covered can cause damage to items and prevent the heating unit from working correctly.
12. Steam generating products (i.e.: a rice cooker, instapot, veggie steamer, clothing steamer, humidifier, etc.) are only allowed in areas with appropriate exhaust systems. Residential Life recommends that steam generating products be used in a bathroom only and should not be used in a bedroom.

IDs and Locks Standards

1. Students should not loan out, use, or borrow any student ID card. All students are responsible for the use of their ID card by any person. Possession/creation/use of an unapproved duplicated residence hall key/card is prohibited. Students found misusing their ID card may be subject to the Student Conduct process.
2. After 3 lockouts per semester, residents may be required to meet with a staff member in the Residential Life team to discuss the impact of lost key cards on workload and campus safety. Failure to return a temporary card within a 24-hour period and/or the timeline provided by Residential Life may result in a \$10 charge. This charge will be billed directly to student accounts. The purpose of this community standard is to encourage students to responsibly carry their USD ID card at all times.
3. Installation of an unauthorized personal lock on any door or window is prohibited.
4. Residents are expected to maintain sash locks on all ground windows for the purpose of enhanced security and safety. Damage to or loss of sash locks may result in charges to replace locks. Additional sash locks are available at all residence halls front desks.

Room Conduct Standards

1. Unauthorized entry/exit through windows or emergency exits is strictly prohibited.
2. Climbing, throwing items, or other activity on the facade, roofs, windows, balconies, ledges or adjacent building extensions is strictly prohibited.
3. It is prohibited for any student to sell, purchase, print, view or display obscene, offensive, or erotic material in a common/public area of a USD residence hall area including doors and windows. This is subject to but not limited to material obtained via the Internet, pornographic pictures, jokes, written material or the use of live entertainment.
4. Respect for roommates, potential roommates, suitemates, other residents, and University officials is expected at all times. Residents are expected to always engage one another in a respectful manner despite any differences.
5. If a space is available in a room or apartment, residents are expected to keep the area move-in ready and provide a welcoming environment for potential new roommates. Please see the [Open Space Protocol](#). Any open bed space(s) (which includes the desk, dresser, and bed) must remain clear of any belongings. Failure to abide by the protocol impacts other members of the community negatively and may result in a fine or having any personal items removed under the discretion of a university administrator.
6. UTA residents only: Use of a terrace/sundeck is not permissible. The terrace is not accessible for safety reasons. Restitution to repair locks or window screens may be assessed to the resident. Items may not be stored on a terrace. However, balconies are permitted for use on the "A" level apartments only.

Room and Roommate Changes Standards

1. All residents with roommates are required to complete an electronic Roommate Agreement. The Roommate Agreements will be kept on file with their Community Director.

2. Residents are encouraged to talk to their roommate(s) first to resolve conflicts. In cases where the residents cannot reach resolution on their own, they should consult with their Resident Assistant(s). The Resident Assistant(s) will provide options to resolve the situation. If the residents and Resident Assistant(s) cannot resolve the situation, the students will be referred to the Community Director. The Community Director will mediate and resolve the situation.
3. A room change will be the last option in cases of roommate conflict.
4. No room or roommate changes will be made during the first two weeks of each semester, and for first-year students, approved room changes will be made within LLC areas.
5. If residents wish to change rooms, they should complete the [Room Change Request](#) through the Residential Life portal. Failure to follow the procedures may result in disciplinary action.
6. First year students are only permitted to change rooms (if approved) within their Living Learning Community during the fall semester.
7. A request to change rooms for the spring semester must be submitted online before December 1 in order to be considered. The room change must be completed prior to departure for Christmas/Winter break if logistically possible.
8. The University reserves the right to designate room assignments among residents in situations where a dispute about rights to living space occurs. A room reassignment offer is based on availability and the timeliness will vary. Residential Life uses its discretion to determine whether to inform former roommate(s) of another student's room reassignment.

Sales, Soliciting and Advertising Standards

1. All student advertising must be approved and posted in designated areas and comply with established guidelines for display of such materials.
2. Only the Assistant Vice President for Auxiliary Services or the Assistant Vice President/Dean of Students, and a designee, may approve sales and solicitations. Please call 619-260-4588 to inquire further.
3. No commercial or private organization may post, exhibit or distribute materials unless approved by the Dean of Students or designee.
4. Pursuit of personal activities on University premises for purposes of personal income is prohibited unless authorized by the Office of Student Affairs.

Animal Standards

1. Fish in a bowl/aquarium of 10 gallons or less are permitted. Aquariums of larger dimensions are not allowed. All types of domestic or wild animals are prohibited in housing areas. All other pets may result in a minimum fine of \$100 plus \$25 for each day the pet remains in university housing. These fees will be used to offset the cost of pest remediation associated with an animal in a residence hall space.
2. In compliance with Federal law, service dogs outlined by the [ADA](#) are approved to be in the residence hall.
3. After successfully completing the process outlined in the *Policy on Emotional Support Animals in University Housing*, an emotional support animal (ESA) may be approved to be in the residence hall. Please click [here](#) to review the policy. A resident should not bring an ESA to a residence hall until approved by Residential Life.
4. An animal from off-campus or one approved for another resident cannot visit a resident for a short time period of time or overnight.

Resident Parking Standards

1. Residents approved to have a parking pass are subject to the policies outlined by [USD Parking Services](#). Compliance with directions for events on-campus or projects is expected. Failure to abide by a policy or direction may result in a citation and fine.
2. Parking passes are available to second-year, junior, senior, and graduate students status and all commuter students to purchase. A valid parking pass is required Monday through Friday, 7AM - 7PM, Monday - Friday.
3. Residents should not park in residential 24/7 reserved or unauthorized spots at any time. A vehicle parked in a reserved parking spot, even for a short period of time, may be ticketed and/or towed at the owner's expense.
 - a. Please note, the 24/7 reserved spots are assigned to professional staff required to live in residence. The professional staff in these roles are regularly on-duty or on-call, they are expected to respond in-person and support students in a timely manner, and they respond to situations in various locations across campus, including weeknight hours and over the weekend.

Miscellaneous

1. Bicycles, skateboards, hoverboards, pedal scooters, electric scooters or rollerblades may not be ridden in any building. Violations of such policies will result in items being confiscated.
2. Riding, parking, or storing of a motorized vehicle on a sidewalk, pedestrian pathway (e.g. Camino/Founders courtyard), or in any University building is prohibited. This includes hoverboards and electronic scooters.
3. Bicycles are to be stored inside student rooms/apartments or secured using the bicycle racks provided. It is prohibited to lock a bicycle to any railings.
4. Surfboards, paddle boards and boogie boards may only be stored in rooms/apartments.
5. Unpaid community standards fines will be added to a student's account and must be paid to complete registration for the semester following the fine.
6. Any act of forgery, alteration, or other misuse of institutional documents, identification, or a record related to a factor required to live on-campus is prohibited.
7. Possession of any weapons as defined in The Student Code of Rights and Responsibilities is strictly prohibited. Additionally, water guns or any other items resembling actual weapons are prohibited in and around residence halls.