

GUIDE TO RESIDENCE HALL LIVING

II. Community Standards, Expectations, & Rules

A part of MSUM's mission statement reads that its community "supports intellectual development that welcomes diversity and develops the skills and talents of its students so that they have the capacity to live usefully, act responsibly and [be] learners all their lives". Our departmental mission is meant to complement the institution's by providing a supportive residential community that is conducive to learning, whose environment is clean, secure, comfortable and stimulating, and that facilitates the academic success and personal growth of its members. Our mission also represents the challenges we all face in creating such a community.

Our residential program is based on several beliefs. One is that education is not limited to the classroom; education and support of your academic success are primary goals of ours. Another is that a residence hall is more than a place to sleep; it is a laboratory for personal growth and interaction, for community development and democratic principles of governance in an environment incorporating today's diverse societal challenges. Your life outside the classroom is a meaningful, important part of your collegiate experience; living on campus should enhance your educational opportunities and challenge your personal growth. The residence halls are meant to be an integral part of your education. They're also meant to be places that help you meet new people, develop networking skills, and have fun. A residence hall community is a dynamic place, composed of varied people with different values, culture, lifestyles and attitudes. As community members, we must strive to understand the individuality and life choices of those among us. We can best learn from one another in an atmosphere of positive encouragement and mutual respect. We must possess a genuine desire to learn from those around us as well as to give others the respect and tolerance we desire. By responding to surveys and participating in floor meetings, you indicate your needs and interests in the types of personal growth, career exploration and cultural programs you'd like to enjoy as well as the recreational and social activities you prefer. You can suggest, plan and implement as many activities as your hall funds and your energy

and creativity allow. It is really your involvement that helps your hall become your home; and like everything else in life, this experience will be as meaningful as you're willing to make it.

We also believe that you are now part of an adult community in which every member has inherent worth and potential. As a resident you have both a set of personal rights which must be respected and a set of responsibilities to yourself and the greater community. Your room is your own unique, personal space, but the surrounding public areas (hallways, lounges, bathrooms, etc.) are shared community space and must be respected as such. We rely on reasonable community standards and expectations of behavior and MSUM's student code of conduct, all of which are based largely on courtesy and mutual respect. These community standards create very clear parameters within which people are expected to conduct their daily lives. *Behaviors motivated by hate or that demean, threaten, harm or denigrate another person or another's right of property will not be accepted within our community. People who demonstrate these types of abusive behaviors and choose to inflict them on others will not be continued as members of our residential community and could jeopardize their student status as well.* In order for this community to function in every person's best interest, adult freedoms and rights must be accompanied by responsibility and personal accountability for choices and behavior. Paying for room and board does not give you license to ignore others' needs or rights, to damage university property or facilities, or to be protected from the consequences of choosing to violate campus rules or state law. We consider these residence halls to be your home and we will seek to include your input and participation in how they are managed. In return we expect you to respect them as home to both yourself and your neighbors, to honor the terms of your contract, and to afford both the facilities and your neighbors the same respect and courteous treatment that you expect to receive. In many ways, this community relies heavily on your integrity and your assuming the responsibility for maintaining a positive environment.

Community Member Rights:

- To live in a supportive & stimulating community;
- To sleep & study without disturbance;
- To live in a safe, secure, healthy & clean environment;
- To socialize in your room and hall;
- To enjoy a variety of quality foods;
- To involve yourself & others in promoting an educational, open, respectful, responsible, caring, involving & celebrative community.

Community Member Responsibilities:

- To consider others' needs & balance them with your own;
- To promote care of the physical facilities and equipment & services;
- To communicate with other residents & staff members;
- To let others know when they are disturbing you;
- To demonstrate commitment to the community by getting involved;
- To promote campus & individual safety;
- To demonstrate concern & respect for other individuals.