

RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

The Office of Rights and Responsibilities administers rules and adjudicative processes that serve three necessary goals: (1) maintain the safety and necessary order for an academic residence community, (2) determine accountability for prohibited behavior, and (3) to foster among students an understanding of their accountability as community members.

THE IMPACT OF YOUR BEHAVIOR IN AN ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

The residence hall community at the University of Maryland is made up of talented, active, and engaged students who have come to the University to pursue their degrees, to benefit from living with fellow scholars, and to enjoy their experiences. The behavior of each individual does not occur in a vacuum, and has an impact on others, for better, or for worse.

A large number of students live in close proximity to each other, and all share the need for their home on campus to afford them the abilities to rest and to study. These shared needs place limits on individual behavior. You will need to consider how your behavior remains within those limits that are necessary for the success of an academic community.

The Department of Resident Life suggests that you give thought to the impact of your behavior before you have to answer for violating one of the *Residence Hall Rules*. In order to prompt your thinking about the impact of your behavior, your RA will speak with you about the Community Living Principles: Be Safe, Be Civil, Be Cooperative, and Be Involved. We use the principles to describe behaviors that have a positive impact on the community. Failure to act in accordance with the Community Living Principles will likely constitute a violation of one or more of the *Residence Hall Rules*. Consider each of the following principles as it applies to living in close proximity with others:

Be Safe...

Any act that creates an immediate danger to oneself or others is the strongest possible threat to the community and the most serious violation one can commit. Violations of rules that create immediate danger are those for which the most serious sanctions are applied. ***Any student who commits such violations can expect to be removed from the community.***

Be Civil...

The University is committed to creating and maintaining an educational living and learning environment that respects the right of all individuals to participate fully in the community. Conduct that threatens others' sense of their rightful place in their homes on campus is damaging to the campus community. Discrimination, harassment, intimidation, assault, and verbal or written threats will be addressed immediately, and dealt with seriously, including possible removal from the community.

