

Community Commitment

Each on-campus student has the right to live in an atmosphere of positive encouragement and mutual respect. You are entitled to:

- Sleep, study and socialize in your room without disturbance;
- Live in a secure, healthy clean environment;
- Be an active member within a supportive and stimulating community; and
- Gain access to a variety of programs and services.

Your individual responsibilities are to:

- Comply with the policies and procedures as outlined in the residence hall contract and these community guidelines;
- Consider the needs of other residents and balance them with your own needs;
- Provide open communication with other community members and the residence life staff;
- Become involved in the community through participation in activities and student organizations;
- Take care of the residence hall and the environment in which you live;
- Promote individual and community safety;
- Demonstrate dignity and respect for all individuals; and
- Respect the opinions of others.

** Adapted from In Search of Community, Ernest Boyer, Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and Texas Tech Housing and Dining Handbook.*

The residence life staff is available to assist students in creating this type of environment. They organize floor meetings, educational programs, and individual opportunities to create successful students.

The opportunity to find your place on campus awaits you. The responsibility is yours, but you are not alone. Each community has staff members to help and support you as you find your place in the community. The Residence Life Department strongly encourages you to spend time getting to know the other residents around you and making the most of the opportunities for involvement on campus. Please do not hesitate to ask for assistance.

Resident Consideration Policy

The members of your community are unique individuals with different perceptions and values, which may lead to conflicting interpretations of resident's rights and responsibilities. When a conflict occurs, it is important to

address the conflict rather than let it escalate. While resolving conflict is often not easy, it can lead to understanding and respect among community members and help build a positive living environment.

To encourage resolution of conflict by the individuals involved, the Resident Consideration Policy will be utilized. This policy recognizes that every member of the community would want others to be up front and honest with them if they felt their rights were being violated. A resident is expected to be the first person to initiate a resolution when he or she feels his or her rights are being violated.

Residents are encouraged to take initiative on resolving their problems by talking to fellow students about issues. If the resident has talked to his or her neighbor about the violation and no action is taken to correct the problem, then he or she should consult with a staff member to work out alternatives.

Bullying, harassing, humiliating, demeaning, and other such actions will not be tolerated. This includes but is not limited to inappropriate material about a student in writing or by e-mail, Facebook, and etc.; verbally accosting another student; coercing, intimidating, and/or degrading another student; or any other action that creates a hostile living environment.

No person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity sponsored or conducted by The University of Texas System or any of its component institutions on any basis prohibited by applicable law, including, but not limited to, race, color, age, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or disability.

Each Person Has Worth and Dignity

It is imperative students learn to recognize, understand and celebrate human differences. Universities can, and must, help students become open to the differences that surround them. These matters often are best learned in collegiate settings that are rich in diversity. Human differences must be learned and appreciated if the ideals of human worth and dignity are to be advanced. Any expression of hatred or prejudice is inconsistent with the purpose of higher education in a free society. As long as prejudice exists in any form in the larger society, it can be an issue on the college campus. There must be a commitment by the institution to create conditions where prejudice is forthrightly confronted.

Students Are Responsible for Their Own Lives

Students learn responsibility when they bear the consequences of their actions, and inactions, in an environment marked by caring and support. The Residence