

RESIDENCE HALL POLICIES

All members of the UMass Amherst community are expected to reflect the values and expectations of behavior outlined in the [Code of Student Conduct](#). Residents living in residence halls are expected to adhere to policies and expectations of behavior outlined in this Guide as well as in the Residence Hall Contract.

Each resident must take an active role in maintaining a living environment to create a positive learning community. Residents and their guests are expected to be mindful of how their behavior affects other members of their community and to avoid behavior that prevents others from participating in a safe and respectful community living experience.

ACCESS TO YOUR RESIDENCE HALL

Residence halls are not public buildings. Residence halls are private dwellings wherein access is restricted to residents and their guests. Nonresidents may be granted access for academic purposes, or other approved legitimate purposes.

Each resident is assigned a key for accessing their room. Only the student assigned to that room is permitted to use and possess the room key. Lending or duplicating keys issued by the University of Massachusetts Amherst is prohibited. Residents are encouraged to keep their room doors closed and locked whenever they are not present in the room.

Residents and guests are expected to enter and exit residence halls through the main entrance door. Exterior doors should never be propped open or disabled for any reason. Emergency doors should only be used in the event of an emergency.

A total of 10 individuals (including residents of the room) are permitted to be present at the same time in a residence hall room, which includes single, double, triple, quad, and expanded housing rooms. A total of 14 individuals (including residents of the room) are permitted to be present at the same time in suites and apartments, which include suites and apartments in the Commonwealth Honors College, Residential Community (CHCRC), Sylvan Residential Area,

and North Apartments.

ALCOHOL IN THE RESIDENCE HALLS

Residential Life encourages residents to make responsible and informed choices related to alcohol and its consumption. Residents and their guests must adhere to the alcohol policies outlined in the [Code of Student Conduct](#). In addition to the alcohol policies listed in the Code of Student Conduct, the following applies within the residence halls and apartment complexes:

- Residents 21 years or older may possess, store, and consume alcohol only within their shared room, suite, or apartment if their roommate(s) is 21 years of age or older.
- Each resident 21 years of age or older may possess a maximum of twelve (12 oz.) bottles/cans of beer, or two (750ml) bottles of wine, or one (750ml) bottle of hard liquor in their room if they live in a residence hall where alcohol is permitted.
 - Example: in a double room (where both residents are 21 years of age or older), the maximum quantity of alcohol allowed is 24 cans/bottles of beer, or four 750 milliliter bottles of wine, or two 750 milliliter bottles of liquor at one time.
- Alcohol is not permitted in alcohol-free residence halls or floors.
- Guests are prohibited from transporting alcohol into any residence hall, or apartment complex regardless of their age.
- Open containers of alcohol are not permitted in common areas such as lounges, hallways, stairwells, or bathrooms.
- Playing or simulating drinking games (e.g., water pong or flip cup) or participating in other activities that involve the rapid and/or excessive consumption of alcohol is not permitted.
- Possession of alcoholic containers for decorative purposes is not permitted (including by residents 21 years of age or older).

ANIMALS AND PETS

Residents and guests are not permitted to have pets in the residence halls. Residents are allowed to have fish if they remain in a 10 gallon or smaller tank.

Service Animals, Service Animals in Training, and Assistance Animals are permitted in residence halls in accordance with the University's [Animals in Residence Policy](#).

DIRECTIVES OF RESIDENCE HALL AND/OR UNIVERSITY STAFF

As outlined in the [Code of Student Conduct](#), residents and their guests are expected to comply and cooperate with the directives of Residential Life staff (e.g., Resident Assistants, Peer Mentors, Assistant Residence Directors, Residence Directors, Apartment Communities Coordinator) and other University officials (e.g., Residence Hall Security staff, University police officers, Environment Health & Safety staff, Residential Life Facilities Operation staff, Residential Service Desk staff, and fire and medical emergency personnel) acting in the performance of their duties.

ELEVATORS

Misuse, vandalism, or removal of any component of the elevators is not permitted.

FIRE SAFETY

All residence halls and apartment complexes are equipped with fire safety equipment, which includes smoke detectors, heat detectors, manual fire alarm pull stations, fire alarm control panels, sprinklers, and pipes. Residents are responsible for complying with the fire safety policies outlined in the [Code of Student Conduct](#) and are prohibited from covering, obstructing, or hanging items on any fire safety device or component. Tampering with the fire alarm system or failing to evacuate when a fire alarm has sounded is prohibited.

Candles and incense, lit or unlit, are not permitted in any residence halls or apartment complex. Smudging, referring to the burning of herbs, is also not permitted in the residence halls. Residential Life does permit smudging and/or the use of candles or incense in the residence halls for religious or spiritual purposes with prior approval of your

Residence Director or Apartment Communities

Coordinator. Natural trees, wreaths, corn stalks, hay, or other live decorations are fire hazards and are not permitted on doors or in rooms, suites, or apartments.

GUESTS

A guest is any individual who does not live in the specified residence hall and has been invited, signed in, or allowed access to the residence hall. The hosts, referring to the resident who admitted the guest(s) into the residence hall, must accompany their guests at all times while in the residence hall and are responsible for their guest's behavior. Residents are reminded to only provide access to people they know. At certain times during the year, the University may restrict guest access to residence halls. Residents will be notified of any restrictions in advance.

Residents are permitted to admit up to four (4) guests into their residence hall. Hosts should check with their roommates before inviting guests and are encouraged to engage in conversations about guests when completing a roommate agreement. Roommates have the right to refuse their roommate's guest(s) or to ask the guest(s) to leave if the guest is being disruptive or their presence is in violation of an established roommate agreement.

If a guest engages in behavior that does not meet University behavioral expectations, both the host and guest (if a student of the University) may be held accountable under the [Code of Student Conduct](#). If an admitted guest engages in concerning behavior or refuses to leave, contact residence hall staff or UMass Police.

Guests must be at least 16 years of age and possess a valid ID. Permission for guests under the age of 16 can only be obtained from Residence Hall Security staff. Residential Life and Residence Hall Security staff have the right to refuse entry to guests and/or ask guests to leave.

Overnight guests are limited to two (2) guests per individual room. Guests may stay no longer than two consecutive nights. Guests must then wait at least 14 days before returning to the same room as an

overnight guest. Guests must be accommodated in the host's room.

Residents are expected to present their UCard to Residence Hall Security and sign in any guests with Residence Hall Security during their hours of operation:

- **Sunday through Wednesday: 8 PM – 12 AM**
- **Thursday: 8 PM – 2 AM**
- **Friday and Saturday: 8 PM – 3 AM**

Security hours are subject to change at the discretion of Residential Life and/or Residence Hall Security.

NOISE

Individual voices, social gatherings, and other noise-inducing activities should be maintained at low volumes. Devices such as stereos, radios, televisions, computers, amplifiers, or musical instruments should be maintained at a volume that does not impact others. Residents are expected to address noise concerns with their peers and to respond positively to requests to reduce or minimize noise. Noise concerns should be reported to the Resident Assistant or Resident Assistant on Duty. Residents are not permitted to direct any amplified sound out of residence hall windows.

Quiet hours are times when noise must be kept at a low level and not be audible beyond residents' rooms, suite, apartments, or common spaces (such as lounges, recreational areas, or bathrooms). Quiet Hours are designated as:

Sunday – Thursday: 10:00 PM – 9:00 AM

Friday – Saturday: 12:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Final Exam Periods: 24 hours/day

PROHIBITED ITEMS

To maintain the safety of the residence halls, certain items are not permitted in the residence halls. Prohibited items include, but are not limited to:

- 3D printers
- Air conditioners (window or standing units)
- Candles and/or incense (lit or unlit)
- Deep fryers, open-flame appliances, elements, toaster ovens, grills, and hot plates
- Explosive materials, gas-powered equipment, noxious chemicals, gasoline, and other flammable liquids
- Halogen lamps, lava lamps, octopus/spider lamps (i.e., lamps with multiple plastic shades/covers)
- Hover Boards, self-balancing scooters, battery-operated scooters, and hands-free Segway vehicles
- Humidifiers units that connect to windows
- Laser pointers
- Lighted smoking materials
- Pyrotechnic devices and smoke or fog machines
- Space heaters (unless issued by Residential Life)
- Water sport items (such as water slides), pools (including inflatable and/or plastic pools), water beds
- Weapons (as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct)

At certain times during the year, the University may prohibit additional items from the residence halls. Residents will be notified of any prohibited items in advance. For a comprehensive list of items prohibited in the residence halls as well as a list of permitted electronic appliances, refer to the Living at UMass website.

ROOFS, BALCONIES, AND LEDGES

Students are prohibited from accessing residence hall roofs, balconies, and ledges.



ROOM DECORATING

Residents may decorate and personalize their rooms but are responsible for adhering to the following:

- Tapestries, pictures, posters, and other decorations may be hung on the walls and doors with rubber cement, commercial-hanging putty, and/or mounting strips. Avoid using nails, tacks, screws, and tape (e.g., scotch, masking, or duct) as they may damage walls.
- Students in Southwest residence hall rooms may use metal tracks on the wall for hanging lightweight items (such as small bulletin boards). Students in the Commonwealth Honors College Residential Community and North Apartments should only use push pins to hang items on the walls (using rubber cement, hanging putty, and/or mounting strips will damage the walls).
- Decorations must not cover more than 50% of the area on each wall and room door.
- Items must not be suspended from the ceiling, light fixtures, pipes, sprinkler head, or fire equipment.
- Applying wallpaper, borders, stickers, and/or painting or drawing on walls, doors, windows, shades, or furnishings is not permitted.
- Personal belongings must not be stored outside of the room, suite, or apartment.

- Furnishings and personal items must not block entry to and from the room, suite, or apartment.
- Lights should be used for decoration if they are UL-approved. Lights should remain unplugged when not in use and during break periods.
- Decorations must be fire/flame-proof or fire-resistant.
- Beds can be lofted using University-provided lofting kits
- Standard-issue room furnishings must remain in the room, suite, or apartment.
- Residents are required to pay for any repair costs associated with damage to walls, doors, and/or furnishings.
- Residents are expected to remove any trash and/or recyclables from rooms, common areas, suites, or apartments and put in designated areas

For more information regarding decorating your room refer to the Living at UMass website.

SOLICITING OF INFORMATION

Solicitation refers to planned and in-person sharing of information with, and/or requesting information from students living in residence halls. Commercial solicitation refers to requests for payment or pledges of payment for goods, services, charities, or other financial contributions. Examples include advertising or operating businesses. Commercial solicitation by individuals or organizations (other than by approved University-affiliated student businesses) for personal or commercial gain is not permitted.

Residents are permitted to solicit information in their halls. Students may share information door to door as well as table or post information in authorized spaces within the residence halls. Guests signed into a residence hall by a resident of that hall are also permitted to solicit in that hall (as long as the host remains with their guests and the solicitation is within the approved categories). Student groups and student businesses are permitted to solicit in the residence halls. For more information on soliciting in the residence halls (including how to obtain approval), refer to the [Living at UMass website](#).

SPORTS IN THE RESIDENCE HALLS

Sporting activities including, but not limited to, hockey, football, soccer, handball, racquetball, frisbee, hacky sack, lacrosse, skateboarding are not permitted in students' rooms, suites, apartments, hallways, lobbies, bathrooms, or common areas of the residence halls.

WINDOWS AND WINDOW SCREENS

Windows, screens, and window locks must remain in place at all times. The removal of screens from resident rooms or residence hall public areas is prohibited. Residents are prohibited from placing or suspending items out of windows (such as banners, clothing, or signs). If a window or window screen is missing, loose, or damaged, residents are expected to submit an [i-Service Request](#).

