

University of Wisconsin–River Falls



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Student Rights & Responsibility  
Conduct Guide

# Alcohol Beverage Policy

## Introduction

The University of Wisconsin - River Falls is committed to providing a residence hall environment which promotes personal as well as community development. We are concerned with the safety and welfare of all members of the University community and desire to support responsible choices involving the consumption of alcohol and non-alcohol beverages. The possession and/or consumption of alcohol beverages in moderation is a privilege for residents of legal drinking age in private living quarters. Resident rights to privacy, sleep, and study within their own rooms will be honored. Loud and/or disruptive behavior, interference with the cleanliness of the residence halls, or drinking habits which are injurious to the health or welfare of an individual or to those within the community will result in disciplinary action or referral. The unlawful use, manufacture, sale, distribution or possession of alcohol and controlled substances by all students is prohibited. Fines for underage drinking, for underage possession of alcohol, and for providing alcohol to persons under the legal drinking age are severe.

## State Law Governing the Possession or Consumption of Alcohol Beverages

The legal drinking age in Wisconsin is 21.

## Alcohol Beverages in Student Rooms

Alcohol may be possessed or consumed in student rooms by those residents and their invited guests who are 21 years of age or older. Residence hall students of legal drinking age, or guests of legal drinking age, who consume alcohol in residence hall rooms must abide by other rules and regulations, including federal and state laws regarding procuring, selling, or distributing alcohol to persons under the age of 21 that prevail and must also be considerate of others. Residents are responsible for the actions of their guests.

The following are considered violations of the Residence Hall Alcohol Policy:

1. **Possession or consumption of alcohol beverages by persons under 21.** Persons under the legal drinking age are not permitted to possess or consume alcohol beverages of any kind. Those found to be in violation of the alcohol statutes may be cited. If all residents in a room or in extended housing are UNDER the legal drinking age (double room) or if a resident of a single room is under legal drinking age, NO alcohol will be permitted in the room (this is considered a "dry" room). No guest, regardless of age, may possess or consume alcohol in rooms where both residents are under the age of 21. If a person of legal age and a person underage are roommates, alcohol may be present in the room, but only in the possession of the legal age person.

2. **In the presence of alcohol by persons under 21.** Students under the legal drinking age found to be in the presence of alcohol in the Residence Halls will be considered in violations of the alcohol policy and referred to the student conduct process.
3. **Manufacturing/Distribution/Sales of Alcoholic Beverages.** Distribution of alcoholic beverages to person underage is prohibited. No person is permitted to manufacture or sell alcoholic beverages in residence halls.
4. **Transporting Alcoholic Beverages.** Alcohol must be transported to and from student rooms in sealed containers by persons of legal drinking age. Open containers of alcohol are not permitted outside of student rooms. Possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages in floor lounges, basements, stairwells, or other common areas is prohibited.
5. **Alcohol Containers/Paraphernalia.** Large amounts of alcohol and common source alcohol containers (e.g. kegs, party balls, half-kegs) are prohibited in all residence halls. Paraphernalia to deliver large quantities of alcohol or rapid intake of alcohol (e.g funnels, beer bongs, etc.) are not permitted in the residence halls. Students under legal drinking age are prohibited from possessing or displaying empty alcohol containers.
6. **Inappropriate behavior while under the influence of alcohol.** Causing a disturbance, endangering the safety of self or others, incapacitation, and/or the need for medical attention as a result of alcohol or other drug use, regardless of age, is considered a violation of policy.

## Assault

**Physical Abuse** is prohibited and includes the use of physical force, violence, or intoxicants or other substances to restrict the freedom of action or movement of another person or to endanger the health or safety of another person.

**Physical Assault** is prohibited and is an unlawful physical touching by one person upon another where neither the offender displays a weapon, nor the victim suffers obvious or aggravated bodily injury involving apparent broken bones, loss of teeth, possible internal injury, severe laceration, or loss of consciousness.

**Sexual Assault** is prohibited and defined as sexual contact with a person without the consent of that person.

Students living in the Residence Halls who wish to make a complaint about assault may do so through the Public Safety Department or Residence Life.

## Bicycles

Students are prohibited from riding or storing bicycles in residence hall buildings. Damage incurred from riding or storing bicycles will be the responsibility of the student.

## Computing

All residence hall students must conform to Technology Services policies regarding acceptable use of University networks. See Technology Services Acceptable Use Policy at <http://www.uwrf.edu/dots/info-news/policies/aup.php> for appropriate use of computers and campus networks.

Electronic Harassment: Anyone using University networks to harass others will be subject to disciplinary action and termination of connection as well as any other sanction deemed necessary by the University and Residence Life

## Cooking/Food Storage

Fire safety and sanitation requirements prohibit cooking within the residence hall rooms. Limited kitchenette space is specifically designed for light snacks. Residents must clean kitchenettes. All food must be kept in closed containers.

The washing of dishes is not permitted in washroom sinks. Dishes must be washed in kitchen sinks. Excess food should be disposed of in the garbage, not the sinks.

## Drugs and Other Controlled Substances

The unlawful use, possession, distribution, manufacture or dispensing of illicit drugs ("controlled substances" as defined in ch. 161, Wis. Stats.) is prohibited on University property. Students suspected of violating the drug policy will be referred to the Residence Life conduct system where reasonable suspicion may result in disciplinary action. Repeated violations of suspected use that is a violation of Residence Life policy will not be tolerated.

Possession or prescription medication other than your own is also a violation of this policy.

Violations of this statute will be referred to Public Safety and River Falls Police Department. Fines associated with illegal use of controlled substances can be severe.

## Equipment and Electrical Appliances

Students may have one compact refrigerator no larger than 3.6 cu. ft. capacity in addition to the one provided by Residence Life and one compact microwave no larger than 1.1 cu. ft. capacity per room. For fire safety reasons, space heaters, halogen lamps/lights, toasters, toaster ovens, George Foreman type grills, and pizza ovens are not permitted in the residence halls. Residence Life reserves the right to remove any unauthorized or dangerous electrical appliances.

South Fork Suites residents may bring other small kitchen appliances with the exception of pizza ovens and toaster ovens. It is strongly encouraged that you purchase appliances with auto-shut off functions for safety.

Personally-owned air conditions are not allowed. Window units may be requested at additional cost only for verified extreme medical conditions. Approved window units must be installed by Residence Life and are the property of the University.

## Failure to Comply with University Officials

Residents and guests of the residence halls are expected to comply with the reasonable request(s), written or verbal, of a University official (i.e. Residence Life staff, faculty/staff, Public Safety), acting in accordance with his/her job duties (this may include opening your door when it is requested by University staff.) Such acts may include but are not limited to intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly obstructing or delaying any University proceedings, failing to cooperate with an investigation, fleeing an incident and/or failing to comply with assigned University behavior sanctions.

Furthermore, any verbal or physical abuse of staff members will be immediately referred to the Student Conduct system and may result in contract termination and referral to the University Conduct System.

## Flammable Materials/Explosives

The possession or use of fireworks, gasoline, lighter fluid, and explosives is strictly prohibited in the residence halls.

## Fire Safety

It is against state law and University regulations to tamper with or misuse any fire equipment. Persons placing false fire alarms, interfering with a fire alarm system, interfering with firemen, tampering with or removing firefighting equipment are subject to prosecution under Wisconsin Statutes and University disciplinary action.

Residents and guests must leave the building by the designated exit whenever the fire alarm sounds. Fire alarm tests are announced and residents may remain in their residence halls only during announced fire alarm tests.

No person may light, build or use, or cause another to light, build or use, any fires, including but not limited to burning candles, incense, gasoline or charcoal cooking appliances' on

University land or in University facilities. Items which require an open or smoldering flame to operate are not allowed in resident rooms or anywhere else in the residence halls.

#### GRILLING

Grilling is permitted in designated areas in accordance with the following policies:

- Residents may check out equipment, including charcoal, at residence hall front desks.
- Residents must properly dispose of ashes in provided ash cans located near grills.
- Residents are responsible for cleaning the grilling area and disposing of all trash appropriately.
- Due to close proximity to the residence halls, residents should be considerate of others and keep noise to a minimum, especially during quiet hours.

### Furniture Misuse/Possession

University owned furniture must be left in rooms and common areas to which it has been allocated. Lobby, lounge, study room or basement furniture or other University owned property is not allowed in student rooms. Students may be held responsible for damage incurred and possible daily charges for possession of university property.

### Gambling

Gambling, including on-line gambling, betting on athletic events or the possession of gambling devices in residence halls is prohibited by state law and University policy.

### Guest Policy

Residence Hall students may have guests in their rooms according to the Residence Hall Guest Policy. "Guest" is defined as any person who is not assigned by the Department of Residence Life to live in the room, even if that person lives on campus.

Guests are expected to abide by all residence hall policies. The hosting resident is responsible for providing guests with policy information and is responsible for the actions of guests. **Guests must be escorted by a resident of that particular residence hall (preferably the host) at all times.** University personnel reserve the right to direct guests to leave the premises if necessary.

Due to fire safety regulations the number of guests visiting in a double room should not exceed 8 (including the occupants). In SFS the number of guests should not exceed 10 (including occupants). For extending housing study lounges, the number of guests in the room at one time should not exceed 10 (including occupants).

Roommate approval is required before any visitation occurs. In cases where roommates cannot agree, the right of the person not to have overnight guests in the room will take precedence over the right of the roommate to host guests overnight.

Each guest may stay a maximum of three (3) nights in a row, and no more than eight (8) nights per month in traditional double rooms. The total number of guests and residents staying overnight in one student room may not exceed four (4). The total number of guests and residents staying overnight in South Fork Suites may not exceed eight (8).

Children are not allowed to live in the residence halls.

All non-residents in the building must have a valid photo ID.

## Harassment

The Department of Residence Life is committed to providing a climate which fosters respect for students, staff and faculty as well as others who participate in programs and activities at the University. As part of that commitment, harassment based on gender, race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or protected activity is prohibited. All methods of harassment including but not limited to; telephone, computer, written, verbal, etc.) are inappropriate.

Sexual harassment is defined as: "Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when

- a) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment or academic achievement,
- b) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions or academic decisions affecting such individual, or
- c) such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

## Housekeeping

Leaving garbage in bathrooms or other containers other than dumpsters located near the residence halls is prohibited. Hallways should be kept free of furniture, garbage, or other personal items. Failure to properly dispose of garbage in designated areas is prohibited and may result in labor and material costs associated with clean up by University Staff. Students neglecting to clean their living environments on a regular basis, and resulting in damage to the facility, may be responsible for any charges that may accrue for cleaning or repairs.

## Identification

Failure to produce either a University identification card or a driver's license upon request by any University official, in the performance of their duties is prohibited. Impersonating a University staff member, including student staff members is not permitted.

## Inappropriate Behavior

Behavior that would reasonably be considered inappropriate conduct for a residence hall community and not addressed in other specific policies is prohibited.

- Horseplay, pranks, the making of messes, or any other action which damages property or disturbs others will be considered inappropriate for the residence hall environment and surrounding area.
- Lewd, indecent or obscene behavior that flagrantly flaunts community standards with respect to sexuality is prohibited.
- Making unauthorized video or photographic images of a person in a location in which that person has a reasonable expectation of privacy, including, but not limited to, shower/locker rooms, residence hall rooms, and restrooms, is prohibited.
- Verbal abuse that involves an expressed or implied threat to interfere with an individual's personal safety, safety of property, academic efforts, employment, or participation in the University sponsored extracurricular activities is prohibited.

## Keys/Locks/Electronic Access

Under no circumstances is any student permitted to have duplicate keys made for any University lock. Furthermore, keys assigned to students should not be loaned to other students or non-students. Students should not be in possession of University keys that do not belong to them. Tampering with locks or being in the possession of lock tampering equipment is not permitted.

**Card Access:** Students must have a valid campus ID card to enter the buildings. Students are required to comply with safety and security procedures and may not tamper with locked doors or admit unauthorized people into residence halls.

## Mail

Tampering with official mailboxes and the intentional possession or disposal of mail other than a student's own is prohibited.

## Mandatory Arrest/Domestic Abuse

State Statute 968.075, as amended by 1989 Wisconsin Act 293, concerning domestic abuse includes mandatory arrest provisions. These apply to roommates in residence halls

or individuals who have ever shared the same residential address. Domestic abuse, as defined in the amended section of the state statute, means any of the following engaged in by an adult person against an adult with whom the person resides: Intentional infliction of physical pain, physical injury or illness; intentional impairment of physical condition; a physical act that may cause the other person reasonably to fear imminent physical harm as described above.

This state statute requires that the responding officer place the person under custodial arrest when the following criteria are met:

1. The officer has probable cause to believe that person is committing or has committed domestic abuse, and
2. The officer has probable cause to believe that those acts constitute the commission of a crime, and
3. The officer has a reasonable basis to believe continued domestic abuse against the alleged victim is likely, or
4. There is evidence of physical injury to the alleged victim. (This does not require that the injury be visible.)

The responding officer must determine whether all three of the above criteria are met. If the answer is yes, the officer must place the person under arrest and take that person into custody.

## Noise Policy/Quiet Hours

The following hours have been designated as Quiet Hours in all Residence Halls:

Sunday-Thursday: 10:00pm-8:00am

Friday and Saturday: 1:00am-8:00am

During these hours noise must be kept to a minimum to allow study and sleep. Students creating excessive noise may be asked to remove stereos or musical instruments from their rooms and guests may be asked to exit the building. Playing music out of residence hall windows is prohibited. Musical instruments may not be played in student rooms except for electronic instruments with headphones.

The remaining hours of the day are designated as Courtesy Hours and reasonable noise levels should be maintained. During final exams quiet hours are extended.

At no time will the Noise Policy enforcement steps preclude the possibility of staff or students contacting Public Safety because of a particularly difficult and/or disruptive situation. A citation such as disorderly conduct may be brought against the student(s) in such cases. Repeat violations may result in contract termination.

## Pets

Students are not permitted to keep any type of pet, except harmless fish, in the residence halls. In order to protect health and safety, fish and tanks must 20 gallons or less and be approved by the Hall Manager. Students are responsible for any damage incurred to the facility. ALL OTHER PETS ARE NOT PERMITTED IN UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS.

Students, who require the use of a Service Animal, should contact the Department of Residence Life and provide proper documentation to the Disability Services Office prior to moving into the residence halls. Residence Life is not responsible for injuries or harm caused by authorized or unauthorized animals.

## Recreational Activities

For safety reasons and to avoid potential damage to facilities, sports are prohibited in the residence halls. No games or equipment designed for outdoor athletic use is permitted to be used in any residence hall facility including but not limited to; bicycle riding, footballs, rollerblading, skating, skateboards, scooters or wheeled shoes will be allowed inside University residence halls. Violators will be responsible for any damages caused by such activities.

## Room Decoration/Remodeling Policy

In order to allow students to create a personalized room environment, students are permitted to decorate their living space (room, room door, and room window) within the following guidelines:

- No items may be hung from the ceiling.
- Barn wood, paneling, enclosed multi-level structures, natural holiday trees or wreaths, and any construction which creates a fire, safety or health hazard will not be permitted.
- Running electrical cords under room doors is prohibited.
- Construction, decoration or arrangement of furniture in a manner which hinders exit from the room is not permitted.
- Waterbeds and foam back carpeting or foam padding underneath carpeting is prohibited.
- Residents posting items that target specific individuals in a harmful, harassing, or intimidating manner will be asked to remove the items.
- Weight lifting equipment or barbells may not be kept or used in student rooms.

## Screens/Windows

Removal of screens or windows is prohibited. Students throwing objects or liquids from open windows will be subject to charges for damage or cleanup. Yelling or playing music from student room windows is not permitted.

## Signage

Possession of illegally obtained road and campus signs is prohibited and will result in a referral to the Residence Life conduct system as well as Public Safety.

## Soliciting

Soliciting in the residence halls is not permitted. Residents should report all violations to the Hall Manager or Public Safety immediately. Commercial activities or door-to-door solicitations are never allowed in residence halls, but designated members of approved campus organizations, service organizations or political campaigns can utilize public lounge or lobby areas on first floors and basements of residence halls to present their viewpoints by discussion or materials following approval of the area, method, and time by the Hall Council (contact the Department of Residence Life for Hall Council contact information). The manner of presentation must not interfere with the flow of traffic, not constitute harassment to residents, and must be done in a responsible fashion so that the information/discussion is conducted on a voluntary basis to student residents. Unauthorized posting of materials on student room doors, including door hangers and slipping materials under doors, are prohibited.

## Smoking Policy

All University building, including all residence halls, are non-smoking areas. Smoking will not be permitted anywhere within the residence halls or 25 ft. from the buildings. Additional restrictions may apply to students living in Substance Free Living Communities.

## Theft

Possession of another person's or the University's property, without prior consent, is prohibited. This includes property from student rooms and all common spaces in the residence halls.

## Vandalism

Damage to any residence hall furniture, fixtures, or facilities or damage to property of students living in the residence halls is prohibited. If a student is proven to be responsible for vandalism in the residence hall, this student is responsible for the cost of the repair/replacement of damaged items. Tampering with vending machines will result in

disciplinary action and charges will be assessed for damage or repairs to individuals and/or community members.

### Unauthorized Access

No person, unless authorized, may be present in residence halls during closed periods (i.e. J-term). Utilizing residence space for any activity other than intended use is prohibited. No person may climb onto or walk upon the roof of a University building; except when emergency access to a fire escape is necessary. Individuals who have been banned from residence hall facilities will be reported to University Police for appropriate action.

### Weapons and Firearms

Dangerous weapons as defined by Wisconsin Statute 939.22(10) or any object that resembles a dangerous weapon (toy guns of any kind, i.e., soft air, pellet, water) are strictly prohibited on University lands or in University buildings or facilities (i.e., guns, rifles, bows and arrows, crossbows, large sporting or hunting knives, switchblades, swords or spears, ammunition, etc.). Weapon storage is not provided on campus. Residents possessing these or other dangerous items on campus may be subject to residence hall removal