

**HOUSING AND RESIDENCE LIFE
RESIDENT STUDENT HANDBOOK
2023-2024**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome to the community

- Mission
- Roommate & Community Rights
- Staff

Community Standards of Living

- Abandoned Property
- Alcohol
- Appliances & Equipment
- Assignments
- Bathroom and Showers
- Bicycles
- Chalking
- Chronic Misbehavior
- Cleaning Communication
- Compliance Disruptive behavior
- Drugs/Prescription Medication/Illegal Substances
- Cooking Safety
- Failure to ComplyFire
- Safety Gambling
- Guests Immunizations
- Intimidation/BullyingKeys and Access CardsMeal Plan
- Misuse of space
- Noise
- Painting
- Pets and Animals Posting and DistributionProjectiles
- Public Health and Safety
- Recording Devices
- Roommate Agreement
- Room furnishings
- Sexual Harassment & Misconduct
- Smoking

Solicitation
Technology Usage
Theft
Threatening behavior
Trash Removal
Trespassing
Unauthorized Entry
University right of entry
Vandalism
Weapons
Windows & Balconies

Community Standards Procedures Housing and Residence Life Procedures

Services and Amenities
Assignments

Wellness

Immunizations
Bias Incident
Freedom of Expression

Safety

Shared Responsibility
Building Access/Security
Emergency Notification
Emergency contacts

Campus Resources

Counseling & Psychological Services
Student Health Services
George Mason University Police Department

WELCOME TO THE COMMUNITY

Our Mission

Housing and Residence Life at George Mason University provides a safe inclusive community-oriented environment that supports academic excellence, fosters personal growth and champions the well-being of residents, through collaboration and intentional programming, to ensure their success at Mason and beyond.

Roommate Bill of Rights

Being a roommate and having a roommate can be one of the most important experiences for a residential student. How residents approach this new experience, what they put into it, what they expect from it, and what they learn from it are equally important steps in determining the success of any roommate relationship.

The “Roommate Bill of Rights,” reveals what room/apartment/suitemates can reasonably expect from one another. Residence Life staff are available to assist.

- YOU HAVE THE RIGHT to a safe and secure residence hall living environment;
- YOU HAVE THE RIGHT to a reasonably peaceful and quiet space in which you can sleep and study.
- YOU HAVE THE RIGHT to privacy and to the proportionate use of your room, both in terms of space and time, and the right to be free of unwanted guests in your room;
- YOU HAVE THE RIGHT to confront another person's behavior when it infringes on your rights;
- YOU HAVE THE RIGHT to the assistance of a student staff member, your Community Director, an Assistant Director, or other Housing & Residence Life staff members when you need help with a problem;
- YOU HAVE THE RIGHT to know what is appropriate and inappropriate behavior in your living environment;

Housing and Residence Life Resources

Housing and Residence Life (HRL) is committed to ongoing support of our residents and the University's mission. Within HRL there are multiple resources in place to address questions and concerns.

For questions, please utilize the Housing and Residence Life staff, such as the resident's Resident Assistant or Community Director as a resource. Residents can also contact HRL at housing@gmu.edu, call us at 703-993-2720, or visit one of our 24/7 desks in Piedmont or Eisenhower Hall.

Community Assistants (CAs)

These student staff members live in the halls and focus their time and energy on providing support and resources to residential students and their guests. Community Assistants are responsible for staffing the HRL desks, providing evening, weekend, and holiday "on-call" assistance in the residential areas, and conducting residence hall health & safety inspections and processes.

Resident Assistants (RAs)

These student staff members live in the halls and focus their time and energy on developing individual and community-based relationships in the residence halls. RAs are responsible for assisting students with their transition to Mason through a variety of social and educational engagement events within the residence halls and across campus. RAs are present in both first-year and upper-division residence halls. Each Learning Community also has one or more dedicated LCRA's who provide residents with a variety of opportunities to further explore the respective academic, interest, or identity focus of the Learning Community.

Community Directors (CDs)

These full-time professional staff members live on campus and are responsible for the day-to-day operations of their assigned residential area(s). Community Directors provide direct supervision to the CAs and RAs working in their respective area and interacting with residential students through a variety of engagement opportunities. Community Directors serve in a 24/7 "on-call" rotation to assist residential students with concerns and emergencies that arise during evenings, weekends, and holidays.

COMMUNITY STANDARDS

Housing and Residence Life is committed to fostering the best environment possible for the pursuit of academic goals, personal growth, and community development within the residence halls. As a public institution of higher education, Mason's primary mission is to develop students into productive citizens and critical thinkers who contribute to the well-being of society. It is the purpose of the University's conduct system to promote a climate that facilitates behaviors supportive of learning and protects the university community from conduct that is destructive to the learning environment.

The Housing and Residence Life Standards are set forth to provide notice to students of prohibited conduct in the residence halls as described in the *Resident Student Handbook*. All Mason residents are responsible for abiding by the *University Code of Conduct*, Housing Agreement, as well as the following Housing and Residence Life Standards. Violation of these requirements by residents, their guest(s), or a resident having knowledge of illicit activities are not allowed and may result in disciplinary action.

Abandoned Property

HRL assumes no liability for damage or loss of any abandoned property. Any personal property not removed after a check-out, published hall closing deadline, housing suspension, relocation, or room change deadline, termination of the housing contract, withdrawal, or separation from the university is considered abandoned. A storage and room-cleaning charge will be assessed against any student who fails to remove their items or personal property, in accordance with housing damage billing. Personal property left in hallways, stairwells, lounges and other common areas will be considered abandoned property. Abandoned property shall be handled according to [University Policy 1136](#).

Alcohol

In accordance with state law, Housing and Residence Life prohibits the illegal or otherwise irresponsible use of alcohol.

- Of-Age Resident:
 - This prohibition includes providing alcohol to a student under the legal drinking age of 21. Residents of the legal drinking age found intentionally or inadvertently providing alcohol to underage students may be removed from the residence halls. Students of legal drinking age are responsible for accurately verifying that those in their presence are also of legal drinking age.
 - If a resident is an of-age student, or their over-21 years old guest's possession, use, or consumption of alcohol shall not infringe upon the privacy, peace, or enjoyment of other students or guests in the residence hall.
- Underage residents:
 - If residents choose to engage in the use of alcohol while under the age of 21, the resident will be held accountable for possession, use, or impairment as well as the consequences of any behavior that results from this choice. This includes if residents choose to drink off campus and return to campus as well if they engage in behaviors that are disruptive to the community.

Designated Dry Areas (Alcohol Free)

Alcohol possession or consumption is prohibited in any room or suite where all residents assigned to the space by Housing are under the age of 21. This includes the consumption of alcohol by guests over the age of 21.

No open containers of alcoholic beverages are permitted outside of residential rooms, suites, apartments, and townhouses regardless of age. Alcohol is not to be consumed in residential common areas or exterior areas including but not limited to porches, balconies, landings, corridors, study lounges, parking lots, or courtyards. If residents are found with an open container, they will be asked to dispose of the alcohol under the supervision of HRL staff and may face disciplinary actions.

Of Age & Underage Roommates

In the instance in which one resident is 21 years of age or older and one is under the age of 21, the resident of age 21 may possess alcohol for individual reasonable consumption (according to the quantity limits detailed on the next page). At no time should residents of 21 years of age or older provide alcohol to underage residents/roommates. Under these circumstances, the resident 21 years of age may store alcohol for individual reasonable consumption in the shared refrigerator of the assigned space.

Containers & Paraphernalia

Binge drinking paraphernalia is also prohibited. This includes but is not limited to the presence of alcohol in and the consumption of alcohol from kegs, beer balls, beer bongs, trashcans, gallon jugs, or alcoholic punch. General drinkware that is not bulk or binge drinking paraphernalia and can be purchased by anyone regardless of age is permitted.

- Underage Residents: While we encourage students to decorate their spaces, please note that residents under the age of 21, are not allowed to possess empty alcohol containers (including cans, bottles, boxes, etc.). This prohibition applies to items used for decorative purposes, hobbies, and projects.
- Of Age Residents: Collection of containers that contain and/or previously contained alcohol, beyond the permitted amount of alcohol detailed under 'quantity limits' is prohibited."

Games

Drinking games, common source containers and/or containers designed for rapid consumption of alcohol including but not limited to punches, "beer pong" tables, beer bongs, funnels, tubing, beer balls (commercially sold gallon kegs), gallon jugs, drinking games, etc.) are prohibited in or around the residential communities. Kegs containing alcohol are prohibited in residence

halls. Possession of excessive amounts of alcohol, and/or common source containers, regardless of age, may result in housing suspension.

Guests

It is a resident's responsibility to ensure that their guest is aware of and remains in compliance with the alcohol policy, including not consuming in dry areas regardless of age. If a resident's guest is of legal drinking age but the resident is not, then the resident's guest cannot possess or consume alcohol in their living space unless their of-age roommate is present, but please note that it is the resident's responsibility to ensure that their guest of legal drinking age is in compliance with this policy (as well as any other policy that residents and guests are expected to abide by).

If the resident is of legal drinking age, their guest who is of age may bring alcoholic beverages of the permitted amount to their living space while the resident is present.

This section is an abbreviated version of our guest policy that directly relates to our Alcohol Policy. For more information regarding the guest policy please visit the Guest Policy section noted in the table of contents.

In the presence of alcohol

Since alcohol abuse poses a significant risk to all residents of the residence halls (drinkers as well as non-drinkers), community members must assume responsibility for the compliance and enforcement of the alcohol policy

Please know that if residents are knowingly in a location containing alcohol, then the resident may be considered to be in possession of or in the presence of alcohol.

When in the presence of a potential violation of policy and/or procedure, we expect our residents to do one or more of the following:

- a) Personally confront and stop the violation, except in cases of violence or threat of violence.
- b) Bring the violation to the awareness of a staff member, and/or University Police.
- c) Leave the scene of the violation, if not assigned to the unit in which the violation is occurring.

Public Intoxication

Regardless of age, students walking through public spaces (including the Mason campus) while intoxicated (from alcohol or another drug) risk being charged with public intoxication and can receive a criminal summons and/or be transported to the county detoxification center. A person is "intoxicated" under Virginia law when they have drunk enough alcoholic beverages to observably affect their manner, disposition, speech, muscular movement, general appearance, or behavior.

Quantity Limits

If residents are of legal drinking age, they may possess and store in their assigned living space no **more than ONE** of the following:

- Twelve 12 oz. beers
- One 1500 ml bottle of wine or two 750 ml bottles of wine
- One 750 ml bottle of distilled liquor

Containers of alcohol larger than the above quantities will be considered not in compliance with the alcohol policy. That includes, but not limited to, 1.75L bottles of liquor, 1.75L bottles of wine, and kegs, among other things.

Residents may only consume alcohol in living spaces assigned to residents 21 years of age or older when those residents are present.

Collections of containers that contain or previously contained alcohol beyond the permitted amount designated above are not permitted. Empty containers should be discarded in the trash or recycling upon consumption.

Appliances and Equipment

Below is a list of items that are most commonly questioned as to whether they are permitted or prohibited from residence halls. Residents found in possession of prohibited items will be required to remove the item from the residence halls and will face disciplinary action. In addition, residents may be responsible for any cost related to the removal and/or storage of the item. Residents are responsible for all damages from permitted and/or prohibited items.

Permitted	Prohibited
<p>Appliances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computers (laptop or desktop) • Curling/Hair Irons (required auto-off feature) • Electric Razors • Electrical Appliances w/ Exposed Heating Elements (e.g., toasters, coffee makers) permitted in kitchen areas only • Energy Star Certified Mini or Compact Refrigerators up to 4.3 Cubic Feet or Non-Energy Star Certified Mini Or Compact Refrigerators Limited to 3.3 Cubic Feet Or Smaller (operate at 118 volts, 60 Hz or less and draw no more than 1.5 amps or 180 watts of power) • Sealed Unit Coffee Makers (e.g., Keurig™, Coffee Makers without exposed heating elements) 	<p>Flammable Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incense Cones or Sticks, Candles, Oil Lamps • Lighter Fluid for Refillable Lighters • Propane Tanks • Plug-In Air Fresheners (lit or unlit) <p>Appliances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resident-Owned Air Conditioners • Electrical Appliances with Exposed Heating Elements, such as a waffle maker (unless in full kitchen) • Pressure Cookers • Wall-Mounted Televisions • Antennas (e.g., television, satellite, radio) • Waterbeds <p>Combustibles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cut Trees or Dead Plants • Resident Owned Furniture- that do not meet requirements of Bedroom Furniture Policy

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sealed Unit Electric Water Kettle • Rice cookers (800 watts max) • Microwave (800 watts max) • Air Fryers (800 watts max) • Crockpots (800 watts max) • Portable Hair Dryers • UL-Approved Fans <p>Electrical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power Strip (with on/off switch and internal overcurrent protection)- UL 1363 Approved • UL-Approved Indoor Holiday Lights (1 strand per electrical outlet – light strands cannot be connected or strung from bedframes) <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bicycles • Fish Tanks (10 gallons or smaller) • Kitchen Utensils • Live potted plants • Non-Electrical Bed Risers less than 8 inches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curtains (e.g., window, room dividers, or bed privacy)- Non-NFPA 701 Retardant • Charcoal for Grilling • Wall Decorations that Exceed Designated Area per Decorations Policy • Hookahs <p>Electrical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halogen Lamps and Bulbs • Black Lights and Black Light Bulbs • Spider Lamps (i.e., lamps with more than one bulb for one electrical outlet) • Extension Cords and Multi-Plug Adapters (without on/off switch and internal overcurrent protection) • Motorized Vehicles • Hoverboards • Electric Skateboards and Scooters • Wax Melters • Lava Lamps • 3D Printers <p>Loft Equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-University Supplied Loft Equipment (e.g., cinderblocks, wooden supports, and any manufactured loft equipment higher than 8 inches) <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pets (except fish) • Projectiles or Projectile Propelling Devices • Weapons (View Code of Conduct & University Policy 1120) • Drones (University Policy 1414) • Vaporizers and E-Cigarettes
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Assignments

Housing and Residence Life may need to assign students to temporary housing or permanent relocation. All residents must adhere to the relocation timeline allotted by staff. All relocations or room changes must be approved by staff prior to the move.

Bathrooms and Showers

As a member of the community, we ask that residents help in maintaining a clean, sanitary, and non-hazardous living environment. It is a resident's responsibility as a member of our community to keep bathrooms, showers, and restrooms clean, sanitary, and non-hazardous.

Residents living in suite and apartment style communities are responsible for cleaning the bathroom(s) within their living space.

Bathroom and shower stalls are designed for individual use and are only to be used by one person at a time. Residents and guests should use the bathroom that most closely corresponds with their gender identity or utilize the gender inclusive restrooms.

Bicycles

The university is not responsible for theft or damage to bicycles. If residents choose to bring a bicycle to campus, residents are responsible for securing and storing it properly. Residential students are expected to register their personal bicycle with Parking Services immediately upon their arrival to campus. Bike racks are available outside most academic buildings and residence halls. Bikes may be stored in the provided bike racks and in individual rooms in the residential areas. Bike placement must meet applicable regulations and not be stored in a manner that blocks entrances/exits, pathways, or safety equipment. Bikes stored anywhere else will be considered abandoned and will be removed.

Chalking Policy

The use of chalk to advertise or decorate is limited to students and recognized student groups at Mason. Students, or recognized student groups, who use chalk to advertise on sidewalks are responsible for removing the chalk advertising or decoration within 7 days after the event is concluded that is being advertised. Housing reserves the right to remove any chalk advertising or decoration and may bill the student and/or registered student organization for the cost of removal. Chalking is **only permitted** in areas where it may be washed away by rain (i.e., sidewalks). Chalking is not permitted on buildings.

Chronic Misbehavior

Is defined as an individual who establishes an unacceptable pattern of misconduct when the resident is involved in/or around multiple policy violations and community disruption, even though individual offenses might be minor. A pattern of irresponsible conduct may result in the behavior being addressed through our student conduct process as well as a discussion about that student's previous behaviors and whether or not the resident should remain in the residence halls.

Cleaning

As a member of the community, we ask that residents help in maintaining a clean, sanitary, and non-hazardous living environment. It is each resident's responsibility as a member of our community to keep their assigned space and common areas (lounges, bathrooms, kitchenettes, etc.) clean, sanitary

and non-hazardous. Personal property may not be stored for any period of time in common areas including lounges, balconies, and hallways.

Students are responsible for removing trash and recycling from their rooms in a timely manner. Students are required to clean all pots, pans, and dishes used and return them to their proper place. All sinks, showers, counters, and floors should be cleaned. Students who fail to practice good housekeeping could be responsible for associated charges. Fees and/or other sanctions will be assessed for excessive cleaning.

Communication

The university utilizes Mason e-mail systems for communicating relevant and important information to its residents. Residents are responsible for setting up and checking their official George Mason University e-mail account regularly and will be held accountable for all information communicated by Mason e-mail.

Compliance

Residential students are expected to comply with and respond truthfully to reasonable requests of any HRL or University officials when acting in the performance of their duties, including administrative instructions and deadlines. Examples of noncompliance include but are not limited to the following.

- Being verbally abusive or argumentative with an HRL staff member or University official.
- Failure to leave premises when asked by an HRL staff member or University official in the performance of their duties.
- Attempts to bribe university representatives.
- Giving false, misleading, or partially truthful information
- Interference or disruption to processes which include but are not limited to attempts to influence the thoughts and actions of others, intimidate, or threaten anyone

Cooking Safety

Cooking is not permitted in residence hall rooms with the exception of food that can be prepared in a microwave. Basic room convenience appliances are permitted in residence hall rooms as long as they follow the guidelines provided in the Permitted and Prohibited Property section. Basic convenience appliances include refrigerators, microwaves, hot-air poppers, sealed-unit coffee makers (i.e., Keurigs) and sealed-unit electric water kettles. All appliances with the exclusion of basic convenience appliances must be stored and used in kitchen areas accessible to students.

Residents living in residence hall suites with full kitchens are provided with University kitchen appliances (refrigerator, stove, oven, and microwave). Students may bring additional appliances to their kitchen area as desired. Any residents who use kitchen appliances utilizing oil or grease or resulting in greasy residue should use appropriate disposal methods (cool and throw away, do not pour down drain). Residents should make sure they are paying attention and present during the duration of cooking. Residents will be held responsible for damages resulting from negligent cooking practices.

The following cooking techniques are recommended by Housing and Residence Life:

- Read and follow food product preparation instructions prior to beginning to cook. (e.g.,

- microwave popcorn or microwave macaroni and cheese)
- Never leave oven, stove, or microwave unattended while in-use.
- Clean appliances and cookware frequently to prevent the build-up of grease and grease by products.
- Turn on overhead exhaust fan prior to cooking to reduce the potential for smoke.
- Prepare food to designated safe temperatures prior to eating. Visit www.foodsafety.gov for more information.

Disruptive Behavior

Disruptive Behavior is defined as behavior that infringes upon academic pursuits or is disruptive to orderly community living, including the privacy and privileges of residential community members.

Actions such as throwing items in the hallways, bicycle riding, wrestling, or bouncing balls inside the residence halls are prohibited. Sports/recreational equipment should not be utilized in the residence halls, as they can lead to injury, activation of sprinkler system, or damage to person or property. Skateboarding is prohibited in/around the residence halls or in parking lots.

No athletic activity of any kind is allowed in the halls. This includes, but is not limited to, skating, kicking or tossing a Hacky Sack™ or Frisbee, playing basketball or football, wrestling or jumping rope, etc. Additionally, all athletic equipment must be stored in residents' rooms.

Drugs/Prescription Medication Abuse/Illegal Substances

Since the use or possession of a controlled substance poses a significant threat to all residents of the residence halls, community members must assume responsibility for the compliance and enforcement of the University Drug Abuse policy. Therefore, any student in a location containing a controlled substance (and/or paraphernalia) may be considered in possession of the controlled substance (and/or paraphernalia).

No student shall use or possess an illegal drug as defined by the Drug Control Act of the Commonwealth of Virginia (http://www.dhp.virginia.gov/Pharmacy/pharmacy_laws_regs.htm).

Residents are responsible for the conduct of their guests and visitors while in the residence halls. Therefore, the host will be held responsible if a guest or visitor is found in the possession of, consuming, manufacturing, or distributing controlled substances and may be removed from the residence halls.

Misuse of over-the-counter drugs or prescriptions, and inhaling dangerous substances (i.e. huffing) is illegal as well as prohibited in the residence halls. Not using an over-the-counter drug or prescription as directed is prohibited. Providing over-the-counter drugs or prescription to another individual is also prohibited.

Any object or device (homemade or otherwise) that reasonably can be assumed for use as a consumption or concealing device for controlled substances are not permitted in the residence halls. This includes but is not limited to roach clips, bong, pipes, blow tubes, bowls and/or any type of water pipe or any object filled with water through which smoke is drawn as well as needles, scales, and syringes (unless there is a documented medical need). While hookahs or other smoking devices are not illegal, a hookah found with drug residue will be considered drug paraphernalia.

For more information about the drug policy and potential sanctions associated with it please refer to the [Student Code of Conduct](#) and the [University Drug Policy](#).

Failure to Comply

Violating any policy, rule, regulation or guidance published online or disseminated via university communication including but not limited to the HRL Contract, this document, and Student Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action or removal from housing.

Failing to comply with the directive of university officials acting in the scope of their employment including but not limited to failure to identify oneself, leaving a scene of an incident, refusal to dispose or turn in prohibited items, violation of a no contract, violation of a trespass order, failure to relocate, as well as failure to adhere to safety or medical requirements established by Student Health Services may result in disciplinary action, or removal from housing.

Fire Safety - Equipment

For the safety of all residents, the university regularly inspects all fire safety equipment in campus living spaces, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, suppression system sprinkler heads, heat detectors in accordance with the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code. University policy and the Code of Virginia prohibit tampering with smoke detectors or any other fire safety equipment. Do not attempt to disconnect, reset, or repair a smoke detector.

Residents of the University Townhouses have independent, battery-operated smoke detectors. Although these devices are bi-annually inspected by university staff members, residents should be conducting weekly tests to ensure they are functioning correctly.

Any concerns noted by a resident upon inspection of a device should be immediately reported through a phone call to their area desk or a work order.

Fire Safety – General

Each resident is ultimately responsible for personal safety. A fire hazard is any situation in which there is a greater than normal risk of harm to people or property due to fire. Fire hazards can take the form of, but are not limited to: the obstruction of an exit in a residence hall compromising adequate exit (path of egress), overloading electrical systems, possessing materials that produce toxic fumes when heated, propping of trash room, corridor and/or stairwell doors, etc.

Tampering with any fire safety equipment including but not limited to fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, suppression system sprinkler heads, heat detectors, or fire doors is grounds for disciplinary action, including removal from housing areas, and criminal prosecution.

Tampering, removing, or discharging fire suppression equipment, failure to correct upon notice a violation of the fire code, falsely activating fire alarm, or any other emergency equipment except when responding to a fire is a violation of the Code of Virginia and is prohibited. Misuse of such equipment is considered a Class 1 Misdemeanor that is punishable by law with one year in prison, a \$2,500 fine, or both as defined by the Code of Virginia and in addition to University disciplinary action.

Arson is defined as maliciously burning anything, or aiding, counseling or procuring the setting of fire to anything. Arson is considered by the Code of Virginia a felony. This is a crime punishable by significant fines and/or significant jail time. The likely minimum sanctioning for arson under University disciplinary action is suspension.

All means of egress, including doorways, windows & stairs, are intended to provide a safe and adequate means by which occupants may exit a facility, and emergency personnel may access a building during an emergency. Items in stairwells, blocking or restricting door opening or window opening or closure, restricting corridor width, or blocking emergency equipment are a violation. All means of egress must be free of obstructions.

Window coverings, room dividers, partitions, and bed privacy tents used in residence halls must be in compliance with Housing standards, the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code and University Policies. All products used for these purposes must be in compliance with National Fire Prevention Association Standard 701 or noncombustible. Store-bought products that are in compliance with NFPA 701 are marked appropriately by the manufacturer. *For more information, please see the decorations policy.*

While Housing and Residence Life tries to cover most living circumstances in this handbook, be advised that as a state property, all student housing is subject to inspection(s) from the Virginia State Fire Marshal's office, the Environmental Health and Safety Office and Housing and Residence Life. Residents must comply with all Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Codes and University policies. Violations that don't require immediate confiscation must be corrected promptly and rooms are subject to re-inspection. Students who fail to correct violations may be subject to fines, confiscation of property, conduct procedures, housing suspension, and/or criminal prosecution.

Alarms and Evacuation – Alarms and Reporting

When a fire alarm sounds, residents must immediately evacuate the building, report to their designated assembly point, attempt to report to a staff member, and follow the instructions of emergency personnel and staff. It is against the law to remain in a building during a fire alarm activation. Residents who do not evacuate in a timely manner or fail to adhere to instructions given by emergency personnel and Housing staff, will be subject to disciplinary action and criminal prosecution.

Alarms and Evacuation – Students with Disabilities

To aid in the safety of residents with disabilities, either permanent or temporary, residents should report special accommodation or support needs to their Community Director (this may include residents with physical impairments and psychological conditions) and Disability Services. A list of rooms occupied by residents with disabilities is provided to the Environmental Health & Safety Office for the sole purpose of notifying University Police and Fire & Rescue personnel. Residents consent to this release of information through Disability Services during the intake process.

If an individual with a disability is unable to safely evacuate when a fire alarm is activated:

- If the student is in a room when the alarm sounds, the student may remain there. The resident should close the door and windows and dial 911 from a landline or (703) 993-2810 from a cell phone. Inform the dispatcher that a student with a disability is calling, that there is a fire alarm sounding in the building, give a name and room number, and request assistance in evacuating the building. The dispatcher will inform the responding fire department of the resident's location.
- If the student is in a communal area bathroom when the resident hears the alarm sound, the resident should return to the room or to the nearest available room, and follow the steps outlined in the first bullet. In some cases, stairwells have been constructed to be safer alternatives, as well.
- If safe to do so, resident is to remain in self-determined location until help arrives.

Combustible Material and Fireworks

The possession and/or use of fireworks, explosives, pyrotechnic devices, flame-producing materials or other highly combustible materials (e.g., gasoline, lighter fluid) inside a residence hall, on residence hall property, or at a residence hall-sponsored event or activity are prohibited unless otherwise approved by the State Fire Marshall's Office. This includes lighter fluid for refillable lighters. Residents found possessing or using fireworks in or around the residence halls may be immediately removed from the residence halls. The host will be held responsible if a guest is found using or possessing fireworks.

Health and Safety Inspections

For the health and safety of each resident, Housing staff members in collaboration with the Environmental Health & Safety Office will inspect rooms for safety hazards, damages, cleanliness and other policy violations, minimally twice an academic year. When a violation is present, there may be a reinspection of the space to ensure it has been corrected. Items found to be in violation of policy, may be confiscated. Students may retrieve confiscated items to remove them from campus.

Periodic inspections by the State Fire Marshal Inspector may also be done. Residents are not required to be present for these inspections. Failure to immediately resolve or correct violations resulting from a Virginia State Fire Marshal or Health and Safety Inspections will result in disciplinary action, confiscation, or fines. Inspections done by the State Fire Marshall may be unannounced.

Neighborhood Grills

Housing and Residence Life has installed permanent mounted park style grills for use of all residential students. Grills can be used on a first-come, first-serve basis and are not able to be reserved through the neighborhood desk. If residents decide to use the grill, they are expected to behave responsibly. Charcoal cannot be stored in residence hall rooms. Residents should only purchase the amount of charcoal needed for one use at a time. In order to appropriately use the grill within their neighborhood we ask that residents follow the rules for use:

- Self-lighting charcoal not requiring lighter fluid is the only approved fuel source to be used with the grills but is not permitted to be stored in the residence halls.
- Residents must be present at grill until charcoal is appropriately disposed of
- Use or storage of propane gas is prohibited

Gambling

Gambling is defined as engaging in any activity or game for profit whether or not money or goods are visibly being exchanged. Gambling is not permitted within the residence halls.

Guests

Residents are responsible for informing visitors of the residence hall policies. Guests are required to adhere to all of University and HRL policies and as host Residents are responsible for their guests' behavior. A guest is defined as any person who is not assigned by HRL to live in the room, even if that person is a Mason student. No more than two guests per resident of that space are allowed at any one time. Residents assume full responsibility for their guest while they are visiting whether the hosting Resident are present at the time of an incident or not. If Residents cannot come to an agreement with the other students in their living unit, the right of the student who does not want guests takes priority.

HRL may restrict all guest privileges at any time for the benefit of the community. Should guest privileges be restricted HRL will notify residents in writing.

Non-Resident Guests

All guests must adhere to the guidelines set up in the Roommate(s) Contract. All guests must be escorted at all times and carry a valid photo I.D. Housing and Residence Life staff may ask guests to leave at any time, requests to which guests are required to comply.

Overnight Guests (resident and non-resident)

An overnight guest is defined as a guest who stays after 2:00 a.m. Residents are allowed to have overnight guests in their living space provided they acquire advance permission from their room/apartment/suitemates.

Guests stay may not exceed three nights in a ten-day period. If residents need a guest to stay longer they must get approval from the Community Director of their community. Residents may not give their room key or access card to their guest. Residents are responsible for escorting their guests during their stay in the community. Cohabitation, loan, subletting, or rental of residence hall

space are prohibited at Mason even if no money has changed hands. This includes allowing guests to stay for an extended period of time in a room/apartment/suite regardless of whether or not the resident assigned to the space is present or the roommate agrees to the arrangement.

Guests Under the Age of 18

Resident students who host non-resident minors as visitors or overnight guests take on an extra responsibility. Minors require greater supervision and guidance. Therefore, all guests or visitors under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

Visitation at SMSC

SMSC students are permitted to have visitors Friday at 5pm through Monday at 7am. Visitors during the week will not be allowed on site.

Immunizations

All newly admitted students and re-admitted students must complete the Immunization Record Form and submit the form to the Immunization Office by the deadline listed at shs.gmu.edu. A late fee will be charged and a hold will be placed on the student's Patriot Web account if records or documentation are late or incomplete after the deadline. In order to live on campus, we require students to be in compliance with this policy prior to moving in. Students will not be permitted to stay in the residence hall without completing the Immunization Record Form.

Intimidation/Bullying

Housing and Residence Life will not tolerate a hostile environment created by conduct so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively bars the victim's access to educational opportunity or benefit. Residents living in the residence halls are expected to treat others with respect and dignity. Harassment, intimidation, and bullying in any form will not be tolerated

Use of social media platforms, cameras, camera phones, digital recording devices, and/or video equipment to record or distribute images of another person may be considered harassment and a violation if utilized without the specific consent of the persons(s) being photographed, recorded, and/or videoed.

Keys/Card Access

Residents will either be issued hard keys and/or have their Mason ID cards programmed to grant access to their assigned residential space. The keys issued upon move-in are the property of Mason. They may not be duplicated or loaned. Keys assigned by HRL and Mason ID cards should be kept with residents at all times. Students using another resident's key or Mason ID card may face disciplinary action. Residents who are found to have given a key or Mason ID to another individual or provided another person guidance with the intent to retrieve a key or temporary access card from an HRL staff member may face disciplinary action. Residents should keep their key or access card with them when they leave their room. Lost keys or access cards should be

reported to their neighborhood desk. Loss of keys or access cards beyond five times within a semester may result in disciplinary action. Residents can check out a temporary key or card from the neighborhood desk, however, misuse of this service may result in disciplinary action.

Residents will receive two (2) lock-out services at no charge per semester. All additional lock-outs will result in a \$25.00 charge to the student's account. Lockouts not resulting from a student's actions (i.e. a dead door battery) will not apply to this policy.

Meal Plan

Students living in the residence halls may be required to purchase a meal plan for the academic year per their assigned contract and Mason Dining requirements. Students who live in a space without a full kitchen (defined as including a stove, oven, sink, and refrigerator) are required to have a meal plan.

Misuse of Space

Unauthorized camping, defined as erecting a tent/shelter or sleeping in the lounges, is prohibited in residence hall areas except during states of emergency and as authorized by the State Fire Marshal's Office or University Environmental Health and Safety Office.

Should there be a vacant space in a room, a resident's belongings must remain on the assigned side of the room and on/within furnishings designated for that specific person. A new resident may be assigned to the vacant space at any point and the space needs to be ready for occupancy. Students found to have occupied unassigned space in their room may be subject to disciplinary action.

Noise and Volume

Courtesy Hours

Courtesy hours are observed 24-hours a day throughout residence halls. When asked by another resident or staff member to reduce noise to a reasonable level, residents are expected to comply as a courtesy to fellow community members.

Quiet Hours

A violation of the quiet hours policy is defined as any time noise from a room/apartment/suite is audible outside the door past quiet hours. Failure to comply with a request to reduce noise levels by a resident may result in disciplinary action. Quiet hours will be observed during the following times: 10:00 p.m.-8:00 a.m. Sunday-Thursday and 12:00 a.m. (midnight)-10:00 a.m. Friday-Saturday.

24-Hour Quiet Hours

Twenty-four hour quiet hours begin at 10:00 p.m. on the last Friday of classes before each semester's final examination period. Twenty-four hour quiet hours are observed throughout the duration of final exams. Residents violating the 24-hour quiet hours may be asked to leave immediately from the residence halls, in addition to standard disciplinary procedures.

Painting

Residents and/or guest are not permitted to paint any objects inside or outside residence hall buildings including but not limited to rooms, suites, apartments, lounges, and stairwells. Personal painting projects must be completed in grassy areas with a tarp

and residents are subject to disciplinary action and restitution if found damaging university property as the result of said project. Painting of university property, including walls and furniture, is solely done by university staff. If needed, residents may submit a work request.

Pets and Animals

Animals are prohibited within residential spaces except for fish in a properly maintained aquarium of 10 gallons or less.

- No pets are allowed in the residence halls for visits.
- Since pets are prohibited from the residence halls, residents should not be in possession of related items such as litter boxes, leashes, and pet food.
- For residents sanctioned with removal of pet, HRL staff will determine an appropriate timeframe.
- Residents found violating this policy will be required to remove the animal(s) and have their spaces cleaned at their expense and be responsible for any other charges resulting from possession of a non-approved pet. A follow-up inspection may occur to verify the removal.
- Students with service animals are not required to register with Disability Services, though it is recommended as Disability Services provides accommodations related to accessibility for other needs (e.g., testing, classroom). Service animals are subject to the same local licensing and vaccination rules that are applied to all dogs. The handler is responsible for caring for and supervising the service animal (e.g., toileting, feeding, grooming, veterinary care). Housing and Residence Life are not obligated to supervise or otherwise care for a service animal.
- Students who wish to have an emotional support animal must submit that as a special housing accommodation request through Disability Services. Visit the Disability Services office or website for additional information — ds.gmu.edu.

Posting and Distribution

Please also review the chalking policy and decorations policy for additional information.

Posting Policy

Posting items in residence halls is limited to recognized George Mason University offices, departments, and recognized student organizations and must be approved by HRL staff prior to posting. Unauthorized posting may be removed. Clubs, bars, and non-Mason related vendors are prohibited from posting or distributing items in the residence halls.

- Residents found distributing such prohibited items will face disciplinary action and be held responsible for the cost of removing items.
- Non-resident students found posting or distributing prohibited items may be trespassed from the hall and referred to police
- Non-students found posting or distributing prohibited items may be referred to the University Police.

No prohibited materials may be posted on the exterior surface of any university building, or interior or exterior pillars, breezeways or walkways, trees, light and lamp posts/poles, traffic control signs, or other existing permanent signs on posts. In addition, unapproved/prohibited

postings shall not be affixed to any walls, windows, doors, doorframes, glass panels, or painted surfaces either inside or outside.

Posting Procedures in/around the residence halls

Postings should not be posted outside of designated posting locations. Materials which meet the following criteria may be posted in the residence halls:

- The sign does not exceed 11 inches by 17 inches.
- The sign must be related to a campus/student organization or a university sponsored event.
- The sign must not include events which involve alcoholic beverages or occur at off-campus bars.

The sign may not include content so severe and pervasive and objectionably offensive that it effectively creates a hostile environment. For more information about posting procedures and how to go about getting their item disseminated, residents should contact Housing and Residence Life at 703-993-2720.

Projectiles

Projectiles and projectile propelling devices are not permitted. No student shall throw or cause to be projected any object, substance, or person, which has potential for:

- Damaging or defacing university or private property
- Causing personal injury or disruption

This includes but is not limited to:

- Throwing objects or athletic equipment in or directed at the residence halls
- Throwing snowballs in or near halls
- Use of water balloons and other water containing or propelling devices (e.g. squirt guns, water balloon launchers, slip & slides)
- Use of sling shots or nerf guns
- Dropping or throwing items from windows

Residents may be held responsible for damage to interior and exterior windows, walls, floors, ceilings, and doors of rooms or suites even if the source of damage is unknown.

Public Health & Safety

In events including but not limited to natural disasters, acts of government, pandemic, contagion, and other events for which HRL has no reasonable control or ability to account for HRL reserves the right to modify or change its policies, instructions, directions, or guidance and all residential students are required to comply with any of these changes. All residential students are required to comply with any additional oral or written instructions, directions or guidance given by the University or Housing & Residence Life.

Changes may include but are not limited to additional medical provisions determined by Student Health Services such as vaccinations, testing, health checks, mask requirements or quarantine requirements. Additionally, HRL may implement a relocation or removal in addition to restriction of guests within the residential community to support and ensure the safe living environment.

Public Nudity

Any act of public nudity, including but not limited to, streaking, mooning, presence in common areas wearing only underwear, and public urination is prohibited.

Recording Devices

- The following behavior is prohibited:
 - Making, attempting to make, transmitting, or attempting to transmit audio or video of any person(s) on University premises in bathrooms, showers, bedrooms, or other premises where there is an explicit expectation of privacy with respect to nudity and/or sexual activity, without the knowledge and consent of all participants subject to such recordings.
 - The use and/or possession of personal security cameras/ camera doorbells in the residence hall.

Roommate Agreement

Roommate agreements are expected to be completed by the deadline outlined by HRL. Students must abide by the guidelines they have outlined within their residential living agreement. Failure to follow the agreement may result in disciplinary action.

Room Furnishings

Bedroom Furniture

In addition to university-provided bedroom furniture, acceptable furniture items include butterfly or tailgate chairs that can be folded up, and/or new wooden, metal, or plastic shelves or storage organizers that can fit under the bed or inside the closet/ wardrobe.

Housing and Residence Life reserves the right to modify or add to this list at any time. HRL reserves the right to remove all items from the room and bill the student for the cost of removal. Residents responsible for the items are subject to disciplinary action and restitution.

Common Area and Lounge Furniture

The furniture is intended for the sole use of residents assigned to the floor/community and may not be removed from the lounge area for any reason. Residents found with lounge area furniture in their room/apartment/suite may face disciplinary action. Further, residents are financially responsible for lounge area furniture and any damage or theft of lounge area furniture may be billed to the floor/community, if the individual(s) responsible cannot be identified. Residents of apartment style residence halls who share common area furniture are financially responsible for the common area furniture. Any damages to the furniture will be billed to the residents of the apartment.

Decorations/Furniture

When a student moves out of a room, the room must be returned to its original state or the student will incur charges. Residents are not permitted to paint, alter the physical structure of the room, or remove any of the rooms' original furnishings. Furthermore, each piece of furniture in the bedroom is assigned to a specific resident furniture is not assigned to a specific roommate (i.e., roommate space is vacant).

Residents in buildings with dry wall should utilize hangers/hooks that do not require hammering or screwing into the wall, as a means to prevent damage and damage billing upon move out. Residents should leave these hangers/hooks in place upon their departure.

Window coverings, room dividers, partitions, and bed privacy tents used in residence halls must be fire treated, in compliance with Housing standards, the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code, and University Policies. All items are subject to inspection by the State Fire Marshal's Office, Housing, and the Environmental Health and Safety Office. Students are encouraged to retain proof of fire resistance for health and safety inspection purposes.

All products used for these purposes must comply with National Fire Prevention Association Standard 701. Store-bought products that comply with NFPA 701 are marked appropriately by the manufacturer, with proof of compliance clearly affixed to the product itself.

Entrance doors, room doors, walls, and windows may be decorated in a manner that does not deface or damage property or create a fire hazard. No decoration or object shall be placed to obstruct access to, visibility of exits, or the optimal operation of life safety equipment.

- Furniture and objects must be at least 18 inches below suppression system sprinkler heads
- Decorations and furniture must be at least 18 inches away from life safety equipment such as fire extinguishers or fire alarm pull stations
- No more than 20% of the side of a door may be covered at any time
- Residents must keep the top 24", the bottom 24", and the side 12" of all walls clear of decorations of any kind.
- Do not hang materials from ceiling, smoke detector(s), sprinkler heads, or other life safety equipment

Residents are prohibited from hanging anything out of windows or balconies. Posters, flags, or other decorations are prohibited from facing out of any window.

Any structures or decorations that do not meet the standards set by Housing and Residence Life, the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code, or University policies will be asked to be taken down immediately. If the required changes are not made, HRL reserves the right to remove all items from the room and bill the student for the cost of removal.

Bunk/Raised Beds

HRL provides furniture that has the ability to be bunked. If residents would like their bed bunked or raised, residents should submit a maintenance request. Please note that lofting a bed with non-University supplied equipment is prohibited. The exclusion to the non-university supplied equipment are bed risers commonly sold at retailers that raise the bed no more than 8 inches in height and do not have an electrical component.

Sexual and Gender Based Misconduct and Other Forms of Interpersonal Violence

Title IX covers a broad set of unwanted acts. If students feel they have been a victim of gender discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, interpersonal/relationship violence,

sexual exploitation, retaliation, or complicity, students may file a Title IX complaint with the Office of Compliance, Diversity, and Ethics. For more information please visit, <http://diversity.gmu.edu/>, call (703) 993-8730, or email cde@gmu.edu.

There are several resources in addition to the Title IX Coordinator available to students experiencing sexual harassment or misconduct. Resources can be confidential or non-confidential (but still private). Confidential resources cannot share identifying information about students without their written consent. Non-confidential (but still private) resources have staff who are required to report incidences to Mason's Title IX Coordinator. Below are several additional resources that are available to residents:

- Resident's Community Director/Assistant Director (Mandatory reporter to Title IX Coordinator): To identify them as well as retrieve their direct contact information please visit: <https://housing.gmu.edu/about/housing-staff>. Residents may also access them through a student staff member or area desk.
- Student Support and Advocacy Center (Confidential) located in Sub I, suite 3200 (703)993-3686
- Student Health Services (Confidential) located in Sub I, suite 2300 (703) 993-2831
- Mason Police (Mandatory reporter to Title IX) can be reached at (703) 993-2810
- Counseling and Psychological Services (Confidential) located in Sub I, suite 3129 (703) 993-2380

Please note: Any Mason employee (student, faculty or staff) who is not a confidential resource is required to promptly report all relevant information regarding incidents of sexual violence and misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator (University Policy #1412). Confidential resources include Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC), and Student Health Services.

Additionally, all Mason employees (with the exception of Counseling and Psychological Services staff) are required to report crimes to Mason Police. The report to the Police can be made without disclosing identifying information at the request of the victim/survivor.

Title IX violations can be reported here: <https://diversity.gmu.edu/titleix-webform>. Students can also visit the Title IX office with any questions

Title IX Office Location and Contact Information

Aquia Building

Suite 373

MS 2C2

Phone: (703) 993-8730

E-Mail: titleix@gmu.edu

For comprehensive information regarding the University's sexual harassment policy, please refer to [University Policy 1202](#).

Smoking (including e-cigarettes and vaporizers)

In accordance with state law, students under the age of 21 are not permitted to purchase or possess any tobacco, nicotine vapor, or any other alternative tobacco products.

All residence halls are smoke-free. Smoking is prohibited within all residence halls including stairways, balconies, landings, and entrances. Outdoors, smoking is permitted 25 feet or more beyond a state building, unless it is a hazardous area or if otherwise posted. Cigarette butts must be disposed of in designated cigarette urns. If residents or their guest(s) are found smoking in a prohibited area they will face disciplinary action. The smoking policy extends to the prohibition of smoking devices including but not limited to hookahs, e-cigarettes, vaporizers, and homemade smoking devices. Electronic smoking devices are not allowed to be stored in any residence hall.

Solicitation

Soliciting and selling in the residence halls is strictly forbidden. Students are not permitted to conduct private businesses or to use computer connections for this purpose. Hosting parties where attendees are expected or encouraged to make purchases is prohibited. Offering services such as haircuts or makeup sessions for profit is prohibited. Fund raising activities by recognized student groups may be authorized within specific university guidelines.

Solicitors and salespeople, except on official business with the University, are not permitted on the campus without prior approval from HRL. Please report any unauthorized solicitors or salespeople to a Housing and Residence Life Staff member or to the University Police.

Technology Usage

Housing provides network connection services in the residence halls and other university-owned housing facilities. Use of this service is a privilege, and it is the responsibility of each user to utilize these services appropriately. By connecting a host/computer to the Mason network, users are bound to and required to adhere to all aspects of University Policy on Responsible Use of University Computing Resources, as well as any and all university, city, county, state, and federal regulations. For more information, please visit the IT website at its.gmu.edu, University Policy Number 1301 (Responsible Use of Computing), or University Policy Number 1302 (Wireless Networking).

Theft

Theft is defined as the taking of property without the owner's consent, depriving the rightful owner of the use of their property. Incidents involving theft may be referred to the University Police. If residents believe that a theft has occurred, contact University Police at (703) 993-2810 and notify HRL staff.

Possessing stolen property, including University-owned property, is prohibited. Possessing lounge furniture, street signs, and dining items may be considered possession of stolen property.

Unauthorized use of account/password information, identity information, computers, University services, equipment, and/or Mason ID is prohibited.

These actions may also amount to criminal prosecution.

Threatening Behavior

Behaviors which represent a threat (perceived or actual) to the health and safety of residents and/or guests, including threats of or injury to other residents are prohibited. This includes any hostile, threatening, or intimidating behavior that by its very nature would be interpreted by a reasonable person to threaten or endanger the health, safety or well-being of another.

Active or passive behaviors which may cause physical injury including but not limited to verbal or physical altercations, written or digital communication (including social media and group chat applications), pranks, entrapment, behaviors under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance, and hall sports are prohibited.

If residents suspect that a person is capable of causing harm to themselves or others, or observe a suspicious incident or person, report their observation to Mason Police immediately by dialing 911 or 703-993-2810. Remember, if you see something, say something. For more information, please visit <http://ready.gmu.edu/active-threat-response/>.

Trash Removal and Room Cleanliness

Students residing in the residence halls are required to properly dispose of personal garbage in trash receptacles, located on each floor or within/near each community. Students are expected to maintain a reasonably clean and organized room at all times so as to prevent a health and safety hazard. Additionally, at times (such as during Winter Break) students are expected to entirely clean out their space of trash/recycles so as to not leave any behind during their break. Trash is to be placed in the identified receptacles, not in recycling or cigarette bins. Residents of an individual room or residential community will be assessed the charges for removing excessive garbage or trash that is left in areas other than trash rooms or trash areas. This charge will be determined solely by HRL. It is not a function of housekeepers and staff to remove personal garbage from any space other than designated trash areas.

Trespassing/ Unauthorized Entry

Use of a residence hall is restricted to the assigned residents, university employees, and guests of assigned residents. Attempting to gain access or trespassing in a residence hall is prohibited. Any individual that enters or remains within a residential space after being forbidden to do, as well as any individual who enters a residential space without permission is in violation.

No person shall enter any residence hall area which is not intended for the use of residents or their guests (i.e., attics, storage areas, roofs, equipment rooms) without the permission of the Assistant Dean/Chief Housing Officer Housing and Residence Life or their designee. Nor shall any person assist the unauthorized entry of any person into any restricted area.

Unauthorized entry is defined as entry into a room or property without the necessary approval of the resident or University.

No student shall make unauthorized entry into any residence hall room. No student shall make unauthorized entry into any University facility, building, office, closet, workspace, attic, elevator shaft or other University property including computer labs, or any residence halls closed for break periods. No student shall make unauthorized entry onto any roof of a residence hall or community building. No student shall prop open any doors or disable/alter any locks or use windows to gain access to any community space, including roofs. No student shall be in

possession of an unauthorized room and hall keys/access card(s). Residents who are found to have provided unauthorized access to another person by propping a door or otherwise undermining the security of the residential halls or dorm rooms may face disciplinary action.

University Right of Entry

The University reserves the right to enter the premises for housekeeping, maintenance, inventory purposes, to verify occupancy, and to protect interests related to the University's educational mission. The University further reserves the right to inspect a room and its contents to investigate a possible violation of University or residence hall regulations, including but not limited to possessing illegal substances, or conducting activities that could endanger the life, safety or welfare of members of the University community. The University shall not be liable for loss or damage from such necessary entrances. At the sole discretion of the University, advance notice might be given to the Resident.

Vandalism

Vandalism is defined as the intentional or reckless destruction, defacement, or damage of property.

Residents are responsible for their guests while they are visiting residents in the residence halls. If a resident's guest engages in reckless behavior or is found vandalizing or damaging property, the resident will be held responsible.

Students may be held accountable for damages in their assigned room, apartment, or residential community. This may include extra housekeeping or maintenance services required for the removal of blood-borne pathogens (i.e., vomit, blood, bodily fluids, etc.) and to fix the damages. This charge will be determined solely by HRL.

Weapons

Residents may not possess, keep, use, display, carry or create firearms, airsoft guns, paintball guns, pellet guns, knives (with the exception of multifunction tools), swords, stun guns/tasers, or other items deemed to be dangerous, inflict a wound, or cause injury on University property. A substance, instrument, or object utilized to inflict physical harm may also be considered a weapon. Residents should refer to [University policy 1120](#) for additional information regarding weapons on campus.

Firearms are defined as any gun, rifle, pistol, or handgun designed to fire bullets, BBs, pellets or shots (including paint balls), electrical charges, regardless of the propellant used. Possession of realistic replicas of weapons on campus, including air soft guns, NERF guns, or other toy or prop weapons, is prohibited. Additionally, ammunition that could be used with a prohibited item is not permitted.

Dangerous instruments which are prohibited also includes: any explosive, blades longer than four inches, razors, swords, metal knuckles, blackjacks, hatchets, bows and arrows, and other martial art weapons or blunt instruments.

Please note that a student may be charged with a violation of the weapon policy if an item is used as a weapon.

Window Screens

The removal of screens is prohibited and may result in a charge assessed to one's student account, in addition to the cost of a new screen if required. Residents are prohibited from installing screen doors and other screens that alter the structure of the area. Additionally, residents are prohibited from removing a screen to enter or exit a residential space.

Windows and Balconies

Throwing, dropping, or causing the fall of anything, solid or liquid, through or out of a window, or off a balcony, is extremely dangerous and is prohibited.

Entering and/or exiting any residence hall through a window or balcony is prohibited. Residents are prohibited from hanging anything out of windows or balconies. Windows or balconies may not be blocked or obstructed. Climbing onto roofs or balconies not accessible to residents is prohibited. Hanging or swinging from windows or balconies is prohibited.

Community Standards

Student Conduct Procedures

Upon being made aware of an alleged violation(s), Housing & Residence Life Staff are to submit an incident report to the Office of Student Conduct. All students alleged to have violated University policies and/or procedures, including those of housing, are subject to student conduct proceedings. The model for the student conduct process is that of an administrative proceeding, rather than a criminal or civil trial. Hearing options include administrative hearings adjudicated by a staff member or a board made up of students.

To be found responsible for a violation, information must be presented to the Hearing Officer or board that establishes by a preponderance of the information (a "more likely than not" standard) that the respondent is responsible for the misconduct. Students may also refer an incident to the Office of Student Conduct by submitting an incident report at <https://studentconduct.gmu.edu/contact-us/reporting-an-incident/>

The Code of Student Conduct including policies and procedures may be found at: <http://studentconduct.gmu.edu>

Complicity in Prohibited Acts

Complicity is defined as condoning, supporting, or encouraging any violation of the Code of Student Conduct. Students who anticipate or observe any violation of the Code of Student Conduct, and by extension, Housing and Residence Life policies, are expected to remove themselves from association or participation in any such inappropriate behavior. Individuals who fail to do so may be subject to the student conduct process for alleged violations.

Students living in the residence halls and any event sponsors are accountable for the behavior of their guests and may be sanctioned under this provision as if they had committed the violations themselves. When in the presence of a potential violation of policy and/or procedure, residents are expected to do one or more of the following: a) personally confront and stop the violation, except in cases of violence or threat of violence; b) bring the violation to the awareness of a staff member, and/or University Police; c) leave the scene of the violation, if not assigned to the unit

in which the violation is occurring.

Release of Educational Records

Housing and Residence Life adheres to Federal law in relation to the release of educational records, which includes documentation related to student conduct. If residents would like to review their conduct case file, they may submit a written request to Student Conduct or the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Compliance Officer. The FOIA Compliance Officer can assist residents in ensuring they receive all requested information and may be reached at 703-993-5115. If residents would like to review information relating to a current administrative hearing, they should contact their assigned hearing officer directly.

Communication

All electronic communications are sent to a student's official George Mason University email account. The university utilizes Mason e-mail systems for communicating relevant and important information. Students are responsible for setting up and checking their official George Mason University e-mail account regularly and will be held accountable for all information communicated by Mason e-mail and their campus mailbox.

HOUSING AND RESIDENCE LIFE PROCEDURES **Services and Amenities**

Housing & Residence Life Desks

During the academic year, Housing & Residence Life operates multiple resource and information desks in the residential communities to assist residential students and their guests. Students can contact or visit any of the Housing & Residence Life desks during the hours below to ask questions about on-campus living, request lock-out assistance, submit a maintenance request, or check-out recreational equipment. During semester breaks, holidays, or university wide changes these operational hours and locations are subject to change. In the event that there are modified schedules, Housing & Residence Life will notify residents accordingly.

Desk Location	Phone Number	Hours of Operation
Eisenhower	703-993-2750	24 Hours/7 Days
Piedmont/Tidewater	703-993-9880	24 Hours/7 Days
Beacon Hall	703-993	Fall/Spring: Mon-Thurs: 10:00am-8:00pm Friday: 10:00am- 5:00pm Summer: 10:00am- 5:00pm

Cable Television

All residence halls are provided with on-campus cable service through Apogee that are included in the housing rates. If a resident's TV is not digital, they will need a converter box. Visit itservices.gmu.edu or contact ITS Support at 703-993-8870 or support@gmu.edu for the latest recommendation.

The most up-to-date TV channel listing can be found at <https://its.gmu.edu/find-a-service/cable->

[tv-lineup/](#).

Internet Access

All residents are provided high-speed internet service through Apogee. Students experiencing connectivity issues with wired or wireless internet should contact 844-459-7405 or visit www.myresnet.com.

Mason provides and maintains its general computing services to support the education, research, and work of its employees and students. At the same time, Mason desires to protect all users' rights to an open exchange of ideas and information.

- [University Policy Number 1301](#): This policy sets forth the responsibilities of the users of Mason's Computing Resources and defines the roles and responsibilities of the Information Technology Services (ITS) and the network user community with respect to planning, deploying, and managing wireless technologies

Laundry Services

All residential students will have access to their community's laundry room(s). The use of residence hall laundry machines is included in student housing fees and is intended for personal use only. Laundry machines can be utilized through the Speed Queen/Wash Alert mobile application. Residents needing assistance with reserving and activating a laundry machine should contact an HRL desk. Students living in Beacon Hall and University Townhouses will have laundry machines in their respective units.

While using their community's laundry room(s), residents are expected to follow washer/dryer instruction for use. Additionally, residents are expected to monitor their personal belongings and remove their laundry immediately after the wash/dry cycle ends. Housing & Residence Life is not responsible for any personal items that are lost/missing while unattended in the laundry rooms.

Key and Card Access

Students in certain buildings are provided with hard keys to gain access to their rooms. In other residence halls, access to assigned residential spaces will be added to a resident's Mason ID. In order for personnel to reach residents in case of an emergency, residents are not permitted to replace or add locks to their doors. If residents have a concern about their safety or privacy, please contact a Housing & Residence Life staff member. Additionally, residents are not permitted to loan their key or access card to another individual. Students who violate this policy will be processed through Student Conduct.

If residents are issued a hard key, it must be returned when they check out of their room to avoid being charged for a lock replacement. If residents would like additional information or are locked out of their space, residents should visit a Housing & Residence Life desk. Residents should notify Housing & Residence Life immediately if they lose their Mason ID card and/or hard key. Students who do not opt into the mobile ID system will need to get a new card from the Mason Card office in Student Union Building I at the Fairfax Campus or Beacon Hall at the SciTech Campus during normal business hours. Should residents lose their ID over the weekend, they can receive a temporary room access card from a Housing & Residence Life desk until they

can get a new Mason ID on the next business day.

Residence Hall Lock Out Policy

Residential students are expected to be in possession of their Mason ID and residence hall keys (for communities where hard keys are issued) at all times. If a resident becomes locked out of their room, they should visit their respective HRL Desk to be provided a loaner access card or a loaner key. If a student is physically unable to pick up a loaner card or key, they should call their respective HRL Desk to ask for assistance.

Residents will be provided with lock-out assistance for up to two (2) occasions per academic semester at no charge. Each request for lock-out assistance after this will result in a \$25.00 fee being placed on the student's account. This policy will not apply when lock-out assistance is needed due to circumstances beyond the resident's control, such as a dead door battery or a power outage.

Maintenance

Housing & Residence Life staff work hard to ensure our facilities are kept clean and in working order. If residents discover that there is a maintenance issue in their room, please submit a work order through a Housing & Residence Life desk. If there is an emergency such as flooding or another issue that directly impacts the safety and security of the living area, please contact an open Housing & Residence Life desk or the Community Assistant on duty immediately. Include the building, room number, and a complete description of the problem.

Residential Services (Housing Portal)

Housing Selection Process

The Housing Selection Process is the procedure where students may apply for an on-campus room for the next academic year.

Housing Selection: Housing Deposit, Applications, and Room Selection

- Residents should refer to their housing agreement for more information concerning housing deposits and agreement releases. The non-refundable deposit indicates a commitment to reside on campus for the duration of the upcoming academic year.
- Please refer to the Housing website, housing.gmu.edu, for the most current information regarding Housing Selection. Information for the following academic year will be updated no later than November of the current academic year.

Room Adjustments

No adjustment in the charge for room rent will be made because of absence from the University for periods during the academic year. This includes but is not limited to absences due to interruptions in service due to fire, the elements, or other casualties. In the event of mechanical difficulty (air conditioning, heat, hot water, and other equipment) or interruptions of data/cable/telephone availability, electrical power or water service, the University will make reasonable efforts to restore service. However, there shall be no abatement in residence hall charges because of such failure.

Vacancies

The University reserves the right to consolidate students with vacancies in their room/suite/apartment and/or change room assignments. This includes the right to fill vacancies or require students to move to a different assignment when the University deems it necessary. In such a circumstance the resident's account will be credited or charged for any difference in room rate. If residents remain in a room/suite/apartment that has a vacant bed space, Housing and Residence Life requires that the vacant space be available for occupancy at any time. This includes maintaining clean and accommodating common areas and ensuring resident's belongings are not impeding a student's ability to take occupancy. If residents engage in behavior that infringes upon the rights or space usage of their roommate, suitemate, or apartment mate, the resident(s) may face disciplinary action.

Agreement Release

To submit an agreement release request, residents must submit the release form along with supporting documentation, to Housing and Residence Life via the Housing Portal. The supporting documentation depends on the reason(s) for their request. Requests must be submitted by November for the fall and April for the spring semester. Please refer to the Housing website, housing.gmu.edu, for the most current information regarding the housing agreement as well as HRL's cancellation policy.

Special Requests

Students who have specific housing requirements because of a documented disability should register with Disability Services to submit accommodation requests. Each request will be handled on a case-by-case basis and is reviewed by a special housing committee where staff from Disability Services consults with Student Health Services, Counseling and Psychological Services, and Housing and Residence Life. Disability Services will make a determination following a special housing committee review of student requests. Disability Services will contact students directly to communicate that determination. If a student's housing selection window opens up prior to their scheduled intake meeting with Disability Services, students are highly encouraged to accept the given contract and self-select a room. The student will be relocated if special housing accommodations are provided. More information is available at <http://ds.gmu.edu> or by contacting Disability Services (703-993-2474 | ods@gmu.edu).

Wellness

Bias Incident

Mason defines a Bias Incident as an act of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, violence, or criminal offense committed against any person, group, or property that appears to be intentional and motivated by prejudice or bias. Such acts are usually associated with negative feelings and beliefs with respect to others' race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, social class, political affiliation, disability, veteran status, club affiliation, or organization membership.

If students believe they or someone they know has been a target or have witnessed an act

motivated by bias, please tell us what happened using the [Bias Incident Report Form](#). Completing the Bias Incident Report form does not constitute filing a formal complaint of discrimination, hate crime or harassment. In some cases, however, the university may use information from an incident report to establish a formal charge. does not constitute filing a formal complaint of discrimination, hate crime or harassment. In some cases, however, the university may use information from an incident report to establish a formal charge.

Infringing Freedom of Expression

At Mason we include and embrace a multitude of people and ideas in everything we do and protect the freedom of all members of our community to seek truth and express their views. Freedom of expression in an intellectually and culturally diverse environment provides all members of our community the opportunity to learn, grow, and contribute to our shared mission to create a more just, free, and prosperous world. Mason is committed to protecting free speech and free expression on its campus and in its education programs. If residents feel that their freedom of expression has been infringed, they may report an incident at <https://www2.gmu.edu/1stAmendment>

Immunization Policy

Vaccine-preventable diseases continue to occur on US campuses and pose a significant threat to the public health of the campus community. Outbreaks not only impose a significant cost to infected individuals in terms of mortality and morbidity but can also be costly to the University and students by disrupting university activities and preventing students from being able to attend scheduled classes.

The goal of the University is to provide adequate protection to the campus community against vaccine-preventable diseases by requiring students to be vaccinated against and/or screened for certain highly contagious diseases. This goal can best be achieved through a immunization requirement.

All newly admitted students and re-admitted students must complete the Immunization Record Form and submit the form to the Immunization Office by the deadline listed at shs.gmu.edu. A late fee may be charged and a hold may be placed on the student's Patriot Web account if records or documentation are late or incomplete after the deadline. In order to live on campus, the university requires residents to be in compliance with this policy prior to moving in. Students will not be permitted to stay in the residence hall without completing the Immunization Record Form.

Safety

Shared Responsibility

Campus safety and security at Mason is a shared responsibility. No campus or community is free from crime. The best protection against campus crime is an aware, informed, alert campus community of students, faculty and staff who use reason and caution along with a strong law-enforcement presence. Safety depends on each member of the campus community assuming the responsibility to protect themselves and others. Take a few moments to get Mason Ready

(<http://ready.gmu.edu/>) which highlights resources residents need to prepare themselves for emergency situations that may arise on campus.

Be an Empowered Bystander

If students are concerned about someone's behavior, students should trust their gut and tell somebody. More often than not, students are in a better position to identify behavior and activities that are out of the ordinary, concerning, or suspicious. On a college campus, some behaviors of concern go unreported and an incident occurs. Sometimes after the incident people come forward with bits of information which, in retrospect, may have signaled an issue. This information, when viewed collectively, may be helpful in preventing incidents and providing assistance to an individual. Therefore, as a member of the community, if students observe any behavior which is concerning, please provide detailed information specifically regarding what was observed (who, what, when, where, how, and why). For all emergencies, please call 911 or 703-993-2810 (GMUPD). To supply anonymous information regarding a crime or suspicious activity call Crime Solvers Tips.

Emergency Contacts

Housing and Residence Life collects emergency contact information at the time of application or through completion of a student's registration card. Residents may update their information or via PatriotWeb or in the Housing Portal. Any individual who is concerned about the behavior of a Mason student is encouraged to contact the [Student Support and Advocacy Center](#) (703-993-3686) and [Counseling and Psychological Services](#) (703-993-2380).

Building Access/Security

It is extremely important to prevent non-residents from following residents when entering their building. If residents do not recognize someone attempting to follow them in when opening a door to a residence hall, residents should not automatically let the person in. Residents can help deter this by asking, "May I help you?" or "Do you live here?" If residents live in a residence hall and are asked these questions, please do not be offended and know these questions are being asked the questions as part of a community effort to keep the residential living areas safe. If a resident is behind someone who is entering a residence hall and would like the convenience of following them into the building, residents should say hello, and identify themselves by showing their student ID. If someone does follow residents into a residence hall and there is concern about their presence, please do not hesitate to call the GMUPD at 703-993-2810. Please describe what was specifically observed: who or what was heard, when it was seen or heard, what occurred, and why it is suspicious.

Emergency Notification

George Mason University maintains an emergency notification system (Mason Alert). Mason Alert allows the University to contact students during an emergency by sending text messages to their cell phone and email. Delays or campus closures are also announced via Mason Alert. Residents are encouraged to keep their information up to date and accurate on Mason Alert by visiting <http://alert.gmu.edu>.

The university offers a free public safety app that features a virtual safety escort function, allows users to submit tips to university police anonymously, and has the ability to relay a student's information and location. The RAVE Guardian application is free through the [iTunes store](#) and the [Google Play store](#).

Campus Resources

Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS)

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at George Mason University prioritizes access to effective mental health care and learning services. Services are provided by a multidisciplinary team of mental health providers and learning specialists who assess concerns, discuss treatment options, and connect students with appropriate services both on and off campus. CAPS consistently strives to integrate multicultural awareness and sensitivity into the everyday functioning and structure of our Center. The office serves as an entry point for students to work with experts in college mental health who assess concerns and connect students with appropriate services on and off campus. Services available include crisis intervention, group therapy, time-limited individual therapy, case management support, coping skills workshops, and academic coaching. Time-limited, psychiatric services are available as appropriate. Providers also consult with faculty and staff to offer support and education to the University. For more information, please call (703) 993-2380 or visit their website at <https://caps.gmu.edu/>

Student Health Services

SHS services summary: Student Health Services clinics at the Fairfax, Arlington and Science and Technology campuses are staffed by dedicated doctors, nurse practitioners, and nurses who provide easily accessible and affordable health care to all currently enrolled students. From diagnosis and treatment of illness and injury, to immunizations and prescriptions, and health and wellness counseling, we offer a wide variety of services in a caring and confidential environment to keep students healthy. If Student Health is closed, students can access a free after-hours nurse advice phone service provided by Optum for medical concerns. For more information, please contact 703-993-2831 (Fairfax & nurse advice service) or visit <https://shs.gmu.edu>.

All newly admitted students and re-admitted students must complete the Immunization Record Form and submit the form to the Immunization Office by the deadline listed at shs.gmu.edu. A late fee will be charged and a hold will be placed on the student's Patriot Web account if records or documentation are late or incomplete after the deadline.

George Mason Department of Police and Public Safety

The mission of the George Mason Department of Police and Public Safety is to provide a safe and secure environment for all university employees, students and guests. Embracing the principles of community policing, the department works collaboratively with academic and administrative units, individuals and organizations in furtherance of the mission of the university.

The Department of Police and Public Safety operates 24/7 on all three campuses. Should residents need an officer dispatched to their location, please call (703) 993-2810. If in an emergency, residents should dial 911 and let dispatch know they're on George Mason University property. Dialing 911 from a cell phone gets routed to Fairfax County dispatch and then rerouted to Mason Police. For

general information, please visit <http://police.gmu.edu>. For Arlington campus contact 703-993-8070 and Prince William contact 703-993-8370.