



Housing & Residence Life Community Standards, Policies, & Procedures

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Statement of Purpose

Housing & Residence Life has established, in accordance with its mission, vision, and values, the Community Standards, which include the following expectations for Students:

- Accept responsibility when their choices or actions have negatively impacted themselves, others, or the community at large.
- Engage in constant learning, practice self-reflection, and develop resilience to maintain academic, personal, and professional integrity.
- Ensure the health, wellness, and safety of themselves and their communities.
- Foster positive relationships with others.

The goal of the Community Standards is to foster personal learning and growth, while also holding students accountable for unacceptable behavior. In short, these standards exist to help everyone live safely, respectfully, and responsibly in our residential community.

Definition of Terms

- **“Adjudication”** refers to the process of resolving a community standards case, deciding responsibility, and implementing outcomes. An “Adjudicator” is a person granted the authority to make decisions regarding community standards cases, which is synonymous with Case Administrators.
- **“Administrative Case Resolution”** refers to a documents-only resolution process in which a trained Case Administrator determines if a Student is responsible for violating policy.
- **“Case Administrator”** refers to a University staff member granted the responsibility of interpreting the Community Standards, investigating, hearing and resolving cases involving alleged violations of the Standards, and representing Housing & Residence Life throughout the community standards process.
- **“Case Investigation”** refers to the process in which Housing & Residence Life engages students and relevant parties in information-gathering interviews and communication. If the results of a Case Investigation provide substantial findings, the responding Student will receive notice of allegations of the relevant Community Standards policies allegedly violated.
- **“Community Standards”** and **“the Standards”** refer to the policies and standards of behavior set forth in this document.
- **“Community Standards Meeting”** refers to the initial meeting in which a Student meets with a Case Administrator to discuss the case, any alleged violations of the Community Standards, and the case resolution process.
- **“Community Standards Process”** refers to the sequence of events that occurs starting when Housing & Residence Life receives a report of alleged misconduct through the case resolution process.

- **“Educational Intervention”** refers to an Outcome intended to promote a Student's learning, reflection, and growth in response to a violation of the Community Standards. Educational Interventions include, but are not limited to, reflection or research papers, workshops, programs or lectures, online education modules, and referrals to Student Wellness such as the BASICS or CASICS course.
- **“Informal Case Resolution”** refers to a resolution process in which the Student and a trained staff member come to agreement that the Student is responsible for violating the Community Standards.
- **“Interim Measure”** refers to any action deemed necessary to protect the safety and well-being of members of the University community until a formal investigation or resolution is concluded.
- **“Policy”** refers to any written rule, regulation, or standard of behavior in the Community Standards or otherwise authorized and enforced by The University of Chicago.
- **“Preponderance of the Evidence Standard”** refers to the evidentiary standard used in the community standards case resolution process. Preponderance of the Evidence means that it is more likely than not, or that the evidence is greater than 50%, that the alleged violation occurred. Preponderance of the Evidence is different from the “Beyond a Reasonable Doubt” standard that is commonly used in criminal proceedings.
- **“Resident”** refers to any Student that has signed a University of Chicago Housing Agreement to reside in a Residential Facility.
- **“Residential Facilities”** refers to any property owned, operated, or under the control of The University of Chicago in which Students reside.
- **“Outcome”** refers to any assignment given, action taken, fine or financial charge imposed, and/or status placed on a Student found responsible for a violation of the Community Standards.
- **“Status Provision”** refers to an Outcome that establishes or modifies a Student's standing within Housing & Residence Life for a defined period and may place conditions on that standing. Status Provisions include a Verbal Warning, Written Warning, Probation, and Deferred Loss of Housing.
- **“Student”** refers to all persons taking or scheduled to take courses at The University of Chicago, both full-time and part-time, pursuing undergraduate, graduate, postgraduate, professional, certificate, or language studies.
- **“University of Chicago Campus”** refers to all land, buildings, facilities, and other property owned, used, or controlled by the University.
- **“University Official”** refers to any person employed by The University of Chicago performing assigned administrative or professional duties. This includes paraprofessional workers including, but not limited to, Resident Assistants and Resident Heads.

Authority and Jurisdiction

Housing & Residence Life (HRL) has the authority and jurisdiction to resolve cases of alleged violations of Community Standards policies. HRL's jurisdiction through the Community Standards process applies to the following individuals, groups, and circumstances:

- Any person who has signed a Housing Agreement with Housing & Residence Life at the University of Chicago (the University) is held accountable for all the policies listed in the Community Standards.
- Residential students (Residents) are responsible for the actions of their invited guests. If the guest of a Resident is reported to have violated the Community Standards, the Resident may receive notification of alleged violations on behalf of their guest.
 - If the Resident's guest is also a University of Chicago student, they may also be held accountable for all policies listed in the Community Standards.

The University expects that all Students abide by laws enforced by the federal government, the State of Illinois, and local municipalities. The University subscribes to the view that, when applicable, it shall deal with matters of student misconduct internally. However, when a Student's misconduct implicates federal, state, or local laws, the appropriate law enforcement officials may be contacted. Upon request, the community standards process may be delayed pending the resolution of a criminal process. Legal proceedings and the community standards process are otherwise separate processes.

Reporting

Housing & Residence Life receives reports when incidents occur in the residential community. Any member of the University community or person with knowledge of an incident of alleged misconduct involving a UChicago residential student can make a report or file a formal complaint with any professional HRL staff member (Resident Head, Community Director, etc.).

Reports of alleged student misconduct can be submitted by completing an online report using the [Incident Reporting Form](#).

The report should include the following information, if available:

- Name(s) of the student alleged to have violated the Community Standards.
- A description of the incident.
- Names and contact information of witnesses (if applicable).
- Names and contact information of the person(s) filing the report.

All reports are private, but not confidential. Housing & Residence Life does not guarantee anonymity of reporting parties and generally may not be able to act upon anonymous reports.

Non-Retaliation

Housing & Residence Life prohibits retaliation against any person who, in good faith, reports a possible violation of the Community Standards, files a complaint, serves as a witness, or otherwise participates in the Community Standards Process. Retaliation includes intimidation, threats, coercion, harassment, or any adverse action taken against a person because of that good-faith participation.

Retaliation is itself a violation of the Community Standards and may be addressed through the Community Standards Process, up to and including the full range of outcomes, regardless of whether the underlying report is ultimately substantiated. Protection from retaliation does not extend to a person who knowingly makes a false report or knowingly provides false information.

A person who believes they have experienced or witnessed retaliation should report it to any professional Housing & Residence Life staff member or through the [Incident Reporting Form](#). Where alleged retaliation involves conduct covered by the University's [Policy on Harassment, Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct](#), it may also be addressed under that policy.

Community Standards Policies

General Policies

Housing & Residence Life seeks to serve the University's educational objectives by offering facilities that provide a setting in which individual education is supported. The community standards, policies, and procedures of Housing & Residence Life (The Standards) aim to discourage behavior that creates excessive noise, endangers, or disturbs other residents, or invites the intrusion of public authorities into the House system. The Standards promote an environment within which residents can work effectively and live amicably.

The Student is responsible for compliance with all federal, state, and local laws and ordinances, and University policies, procedures, and regulations, including those set forth in the Housing and Residence Life Community Standards, Policies, and Procedures.

Violations of The Standards will be addressed by Housing & Residence Life staff and may result in disciplinary action, up to and including removal from housing, referral to other University disciplinary systems and processes and liability for damages.

Alcohol, Illegal Drugs, and Smoking

Alcohol

The State of Illinois prohibits the consumption or possession of alcohol by any person under the age of 21 or the supplying of alcohol to any person under the age of 21.

- Use or possession of alcohol, or containers that previously contained alcohol, by individuals under the age of 21, is prohibited in all residential spaces.

- The use or storage of alcohol in residence hall common or public areas is prohibited, regardless of a person's age. Common or public areas include but are not limited to lobbies, hallways, elevators, lounges, stairwells, bathrooms, laundry rooms, and outdoor areas immediately adjacent to the residence hall.
- Kegs and other binge drinking paraphernalia, drinking games, games of chance, contests or other activities that induce, encourage or result in the rapid consumption of alcohol are prohibited in all residential spaces.
- Severe intoxication resulting in disruptive behaviors or concern for the student's well-being, regardless of age, is prohibited.
- The provision of alcohol to any student under the age of 21 is prohibited.

Illegal Drugs

Various federal and state laws prohibit the possession, distribution, and use of controlled substances, unless in compliance with licensing requirements or a doctor's prescription. Possession or use of illegal drugs and drug-related paraphernalia is prohibited. Please note that regardless of Illinois law, federal law prohibits the possession, distribution, and use of cannabis in any form on the University's campus. For more detailed information about the University's drug and alcohol policies, federal and state statutes with respect to illicit drug trafficking and possession, and state statutes regarding marijuana use and alcohol use by minors, consult the [University's Annual Security and Fire Safety Report](#).

Smoking

In accordance with regulations promulgated by the City of Chicago, and the State of Illinois, the University of Chicago is a smoke-free environment. Therefore, smoking is prohibited in all buildings owned and operated by the University of Chicago. This includes the use of pipes, vapes, e-cigarettes and their variants. Smoking is also prohibited in exterior residence hall courtyards. Smoking is permitted outside a building but not within fifteen feet of an entrance.

Amnesty / Good Samaritan

The University's foremost concern in any situation involving alcohol or other drugs is the health and safety of its Students. Housing & Residence Life follows the College's policies and procedures related to medical amnesty. Amnesty determinations are applied within the residential community standards process. Consistent with the State of Illinois' Emergency Medical Services Access Law (the "911 Good Samaritan" law), this provision is intended to remove barriers to seeking help so that Students act quickly in a medical emergency.

Candles and Incense

Candles and incense are not permitted in the residence halls. The only exception to this policy is when a candle is used for religious purposes and must be used only in the designated community space(s) identified in each residence hall. The Student or staff member must remain until the candles have burned out to ensure the safety of the community and the building. The following designated

community spaces are the only spaces in which candles may be used for religious observance purposes:

Residence Hall	Designated Community Space
Burton Judson Courts	Judson Library
Campus North Residential Commons	Recreation Room 233
International House	Home Room
Max Palevsky Residential Commons	Max Palevsky Central Commons
Renee Granville-Grossman Residential Commons	Resident Dean East & West Common Rooms
Snell-Hitchcock	Green Room
Woodlawn Residential Commons	Resident Dean East & West Common Rooms

Civility

- The Student is expected to foster an environment of respect, openness and understanding.
- The Student is expected to respect their fellow students' access to peace, quiet, and overall adequate conditions for study and sleep.
- This expectation of civility is extended to interactions via online platforms, such as social media sites.
- The Student has a responsibility to respect the rights of their fellow students and working to constructively address violations of these rights.
- The Student is responsible for complying with a reasonable request from a University official (such as Resident Assistants or Resident Heads) regarding appropriate behavior.

Communications

The student is responsible for checking their UChicago email account regularly. This is the method by which the University and Housing & Residence Life will contact students. Failure to check university email account does not exempt the Student from compliance with the information communicated.

Community Developed Policies

Upon the formal approval of Housing & Residence Life, residents living within a defined area such as a residence hall, House or floor may create policies ("House Rules") that further the quality of the living experience for all community members within the defined area. Each resident can participate in and provide feedback on the creation of House Rules, which must be followed. House Rules must:

- Be congruent with current University and HRL policies and procedures
- Be agreed upon by all community members

Dangerous Acts

Behavior that threatens the safety of individuals or community members is prohibited. Examples include, but are not limited to the following:

- Climbing on scaffolding, construction equipment, or any other structures associated with a building improvement or construction project
- Going onto any window ledge, or staircase railing, or any portion of any residence hall or dining commons
- Going on to, accessing any roof, or roofing structure of any residence hall, dining commons or fire escape (if fire alarm is not actively sounding)
- Obstructing the use of any residence hall door by tampering with locks, blocking doorways (even temporarily) or otherwise preventing free access or egress.
- Playing with fire or incendiary materials in any manner, regardless of whether any damage or injury occurs to person or property
- Physically attacking or threatening physical attack of any person including residents or visitors to the residence halls
- Possessing or using fireworks, tasers, firearms, explosives, or weapons. For additional information regarding weapons, see the University's Policy on Firearms, Other Lethal Weapons, Fireworks and Dangerous Objects and Materials
- Setting off false fire alarms, tampering with fire extinguishers, fire sprinklers, or other life safety equipment
- Tampering with elevators
- Throwing objects from the windows or internal/external stairs of the residence halls, regardless of size, weight, shape of such objects and their potential for harm

Decorations

Residents shall not place or permit any sign, poster or other materials to be placed upon or in the windows of their assigned space.

Gambling

Gambling is not permitted in the residence halls.

Guests

Definition: A guest is anyone without a housing agreement for the assigned space. An individual with a valid University of Chicago ID is a "UChicago-affiliated guest"; an individual without a valid University of Chicago ID is a "non-UChicago" or "unaffiliated" guest.

Building Entry

- All guests must be escorted into a residence hall by an occupant who is actively assigned to that building and must tap their ID at the front desk.
- An individual may not enter a residence hall unaccompanied unless they are entering their own assigned building.
- Residents should tap in only individuals they know and are prepared to be responsible for during the visit. Residents should not tap individuals into a residence hall at the request of someone they do not know or as a matter of convenience.

Guest Limit and Length of Stay

- Residents may host no more than two (2) guests at a time, regardless of guest affiliation. To request an exception, the host is responsible for ensuring the Guest Exception Request Form is completed at least forty-eight (48) hours before the visitation period.
- A guest's stay may not exceed three (3) consecutive nights within a 7-day period. Requests to extend a stay beyond this limit follow the Extension Requests process below.
- The number of individuals present in a room may not exceed the maximum permanent occupancy plus the maximum number of guests per resident. Example: the maximum number of individuals in a standard double is six — the two assigned residents plus a maximum of two guests each.
- Overnight guests may not sleep in any space other than their host's housing assignment, including other student rooms or community spaces.
- Guests are permitted during academic break periods.
- Hosts in multiple-occupancy assignments are expected to communicate with their room and/or suitemate(s) in advance of a guest visiting.

UChicago-Affiliated Guests

- A guest with a valid University of Chicago ID is not required to register through the guest registration portal.
- UChicago-affiliated guests must be escorted into the residence hall by a resident of that building, must have their UChicago ID present, and must tap their ID at the front desk.
- UChicago-affiliated guests must remain with their resident host for the duration of the visit.

Non-UChicago / Unaffiliated Guests

- A guest without a valid University of Chicago ID must be registered through the guest registration portal ([myHousing portal](#)) before they can be checked in. Front desk staff cannot register guests for residents.
- Non-UChicago guests must check in at the residence hall front desk upon arrival.
- Non-UChicago guests must be escorted into the building by a resident host and remain with that host for the duration of the visit.

Host Responsibilities

- Hosts must meet their guests at the residence hall and be present throughout the visitation period, including when a guest checks in and out.
- Hosts are responsible for their guests' presence, behavior, and adherence to the Community Standards, and for advising guests of residence hall policies and ensuring compliance.
- Guests may not be left unattended in residence halls or common spaces.
- Guests who violate policies may be required to leave the residence hall, and a host may face disciplinary action, including limitation or suspension of hosting privileges, a Verbal or Written Warning (housing probation), or removal from on-campus housing.

Guest Responsibilities

- Guests are required to carry and present photo identification when requested by UChicago Housing & Residence Life staff. Acceptable identification includes: *government-issued driver's license or identification card, UChicago Card, passport, or non-college school identification (e.g., a middle or high school identification card).*
- Digital government-issued driver's licenses or identification cards are accepted only if displayed through the issuing agency's official mobile application. Photos or paper copies of identification are not accepted.
- Guests are responsible for abiding by residence hall policies and may be required to leave if they do not comply. Student guests who violate residence hall and/or University policies may be referred for disciplinary action.

Community Awareness and Safety

- Residential communities rely on shared responsibility. Residents are expected to be attentive to who is entering and moving through their residence hall and should not allow entry to individuals they do not know or are not hosting. Being thoughtful and vigilant helps keep residence halls safe and supportive for all community members.

Minor Guests

- Guests who are 16 or 17 years of age may not visit, including overnight, without their parent or guardian present. To request an exception, the host is responsible for ensuring the Minor Visitation Approval Form is completed at least seventy-two (72) hours before the visitation period.
- Guests 15 years of age and younger are permitted only when accompanied by their parent or guardian and may not stay overnight.
- All other guest policies apply to minor guests, including photo identification requirements.

Parent/Guardian Guests

- Parents and guardians may visit but may not stay overnight.
- All other guest policies apply to parent/guardian guests, including photo identification requirements.

Sabbath Observant Hosts and Guests

- Any host or guest who communicates that they are observing the Sabbath and for that reason are unable to physically provide identification will be permitted to verify their personal details verbally with front desk staff. All other procedures, including guest registration and front-desk check-in and check-out, still apply.

Extension Requests

- Residents may request permission to extend a guest's stay beyond three consecutive nights within a seven-day period. Requests must be submitted to the Assistant Director of Residence Life or Community Director of the host's specific residence hall via email at least three (3) business days before the requested visitation period begins.

Hazing

Housing & Residence Life prohibits hazing in all Residential Facilities and in connection with residential life. Hazing is also prohibited by University policy, is a crime under Illinois law, and is prohibited under the federal Stop Campus Hazing Act. Consistent with University policy, a person's willingness to participate in an act of hazing does not justify or excuse the act or place it outside this prohibition.

Because hazing most often involves student organizations, teams, or groups and is resolved through the University's student disciplinary processes, the full definition of hazing, illustrative examples, and the applicable disciplinary process are set out in the University-wide [Hazing Policy](#). Where a report involves a Resident, a residential space, or residential life, Housing & Residence Life will address the matter under these Community Standards and/or refer it to the appropriate University office.

Reporting

Any person with knowledge of hazing may report it to any professional HRL staff member or through the [Incident Reporting Form](#). Consistent with University policy, reports may also be made to the area Dean of Students, the Office of the Dean of Students in the University, the Office of the Provost, the University of Chicago Police Department, or University Human Resources, or through the University's Concerning Behavior Reporting Form or the University's whistleblower hotline (800-971-4317).

Data on reported hazing incidents is disclosed in the University's [Annual Security and Fire Safety Report](#), and organizations found responsible are listed in the University's Campus Hazing Transparency Report, as required by the Stop Campus Hazing Act.

Noise

It is expected that residents will always maintain conditions that reasonably permit other residents to study and sleep. Residents will not permit noise to emanate from their assigned space in such a way that unreasonably disturbs other residents, including those sharing a room/suite/apartment.

Residents may not use musical instruments in their assigned space, rather they must use a designated music practice room for this activity.

Quiet Hours

During designated quiet hours, residents are expected to limit noise in rooms, community and public areas to levels that will not prevent other residents from sleeping

- Monday-Friday: 11 PM – 8 AM
- Saturday-Sunday: 1 AM – 8 AM
- Final Exam Weeks: 24 Hours

Exceptions to quiet hours may be made for UChicago Housing & Residence Life sponsored events.

Pets

Pets are prohibited, apart from fish in a 10 gallon or less aquarium, approved assistance animals and service animals. Additional information about assistance and service animals on campus can be found online at: <https://voices.uchicago.edu/disabilities-nov4/animal-policy>

Posting

The only postings permitted in residence halls are those on behalf of registered student organizations (RSO), campus departments and UChicago Housing & Residence Life announcements, activities and events. All postings must include the organization or department and be approved by UChicago Housing & Residence Life before they are posted.

- Postings must be brought to the UChicago Housing & Residence Life office (Campus North Residential Commons, Suite 110) between Monday-Thursday for review.
- Organizations and departments should provide only 48 postings (one for each House).
- Postings may not advertise or refer to alcohol availability.
- Postings that violate laws, defame specific individuals, organizations or departments, constitute a threat or harassment, invade the privacy or confidentiality of others or are otherwise incompatible with the functioning of the University are prohibited.
- Approved postings will be distributed to individual Houses by UChicago Housing & Residence Life each Friday. Unapproved postings, postings for past events and activities or postings found in non-approved areas, including stairwells, elevators, doors or exterior portions of residence halls will be removed and discarded by UChicago Housing & Residence Life.

Prohibited Items

The following items are not permitted in residence halls due to existing laws or University policies. Items from this list that are shipped to campus will be returned to sender.

- Candles, candle warmers, incense, fireworks and fire pits

- Weapons, including but not limited to guns (including air, pellet, BB, water or paintball), swords, tasers and athletic weapons
- Drones
- Lithium powered vehicles, including but not limited to e-scooters, e-bikes and hoverboards *Exception:* Mobility devices for individuals who have a medical condition or disability requiring use of such device
- Halogen lights and lamps
- Appliances with exposed heating elements, including but not limited to hot plates, electric skillets, toasters and toaster ovens, air fryers, panini presses, instant cooking appliances, electric, gas, propane or charcoal cooking appliances and stand-alone microwaves
- Air conditioners and space heaters
- Lofting kits
- Upholstered furniture, including desk chairs
- Wireless printers and routers
- Virtual assistants
- Items requiring wall mounting, including but not limited to tacks, nails, putty, or adhesive/foam tape

Note: The above list is not all inclusive and additional items can be added at any time. If you have a question about whether an item is permitted, contact the Housing & Residence Life office before bringing, ordering, or shipping it to campus. Housing & Residence Life can be reached by calling 773.702.7366, emailing housing@uchicago.edu or reach out through the [myHousing portal](#) live chat feature. Non-permissible items shipped to campus will be returned to the sender.

Solicitation and Business

Door-to-door solicitation is prohibited, including but not limited to distribution of information, electioneering and campaigning, fundraising or product/service sales. Activities in support of hall, House or Resident Dean sponsored events, such as trip sign-ups or fundraisers, are permitted if conducted by residents or UChicago Housing & Residence Life staff members. Residents may not use their assigned space or other common or public areas for the purposes of operating a business or for any personal financial gain activities, including those conducted online.

Threats and Harassment

The University is committed to fostering an environment free discrimination, unlawful harassment, sexual misconduct, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. For more detailed information on policies, reporting options, support and prevention education programs, consult the University's [Policy on Harassment, Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct](#).

Vandalism

Residents are expected to take active involvement in reducing and reporting damages within their assigned space and common or public areas of the residence hall. Damages have the potential to

cause injury or inconvenience to residents and repairs required reduce the overall amount of funding available for other improvement projects. Acts of vandalism include but are not limited to damage or destruction of furnishings, walls, ceilings, flooring or doors, graffiti, disposal of trash or other unwanted items in undesignated areas, damage to bulletin boards or other activities that involve deliberate destruction or damage to public or private property.

Interim Measures

In instances where there is a reasonable belief that a serious violation of the Community Standards has occurred, or that the safety and well-being of members of the University community or property is compromised, Housing & Residence Life can impose a range of Interim Measures. Housing & Residence Life, in conjunction with the College, as well as any relevant University departments, will perform a safety assessment based on the specific facts and circumstances known at the time to determine if interim measures are appropriate. Students must comply with the requirements of the interim measure, failure to do so will result in additional disciplinary action being taken.

Interim Ban from Housing

In instances where there is a reasonable belief that a serious violation has occurred, the Executive Director of Housing & Residence Life (EDHRL) and Dean of Students in the University or their designee may require the immediate removal of the individual or individuals involved from University housing.

Interim Administrative Room Change

The EDHRL and Dean of Students in the University or their designee shall have the authority to administratively move an individual or individuals to a new University housing assignment. In deciding whether an administrative room change is appropriate and how to carry it out, Housing & Residence Life considers factors including the nature and seriousness of the alleged conduct or safety concern; the risk to the safety or well-being of the Student, other residents, or the community; the need to separate the parties involved; the availability of suitable alternative housing; and the least disruptive option that adequately addresses the concern.

No Contact or Communication Order

Housing & Residence Life may issue No Contact or Communication Orders to the students involved, whether disciplinary action is taken or not. No Contact or Communication Orders may also be issued as an interim measure while alleged violations of HRL Community Standards are investigated and adjudicated. A No Contact or Communication Order is used to restrict encounters and communications between individuals and is typically issued for all parties involved.

In determining whether to issue a No Contact or Communication Order and for how long, Housing & Residence Life considers factors including the nature of the reported conduct or concern; whether the parties share a residential space, course, or activity; the risk of further contact or harm;

the wishes of the parties; and whether the order should be mutual or one-directional. HRL has the final determination on the issuance and length of a No Contact or Communication Order.

While a No Contact or Communication Order in and of itself does not constitute discipline, and will not appear on a student's disciplinary record, refusal to adhere to the order after written or verbal notification of its terms is prohibited and may result in disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion.

Notice and Review of Interim Measures

Because an Interim Measure takes effect before a case is resolved, Housing & Residence Life provides the affected Student with notice and a prompt opportunity to be heard, consistent with the fundamentally fair process described in these Community Standards. An Interim Measure remains in effect during any review so that Housing & Residence Life can continue to protect the safety and well-being of the community.

Written notice

When an Interim Measure is imposed, Housing & Residence Life will provide the affected Student with a written notice, sent to the Student's assigned University email address, stating:

- The Interim Measure imposed and its effective date;
- The general basis for the measure and the safety or policy concern it addresses;
- The terms the Student must follow while the measure is in effect; and
- How and by when the Student may request review of the measure.

Request for review

A Student may request review of an Interim Measure by submitting a written statement to Housing & Residence Life within three (3) business days of the date of the notice. The statement should explain why the Student believes the measure is unnecessary or should be modified considering the facts and circumstances.

Review

The review will be conducted by the Dean of Students in the University or a designated senior official who was not involved in imposing the Interim Measure. The reviewer will consider whether, based on the facts and circumstances known at the time, there is a reasonable basis for the measure and whether its terms are appropriately tailored to the safety or policy concern. The reviewer may affirm, modify, or lift the Interim Measure and will communicate the outcome to the Student in writing, ordinarily within three (3) business days of receiving the request. This review is limited to the Interim Measure and does not determine responsibility for any alleged violation of the Community Standards.

Rights and Responsibilities

Housing & Residence Life has developed a fundamentally fair process to resolve cases of alleged violations of Community Standards. Students are afforded certain rights and responsibilities in this process.

Student Rights

All Students have the right:

1. To be presumed not responsible until information or statements meet the preponderance of the evidence standard.
2. To receive written notice of the alleged Community Standards violations and have those allegations explained clearly and fully in a conversation with Housing & Residence Life staff.
3. To have the opportunity to review all relevant, redacted materials concerning the alleged violations.
4. To contest oral or written statements, including the complaint or report.
5. To have a person of their choice within the University community to support them throughout the entire community standards process. Parents, lawyers and other third parties are not permitted to be support persons.
6. To present information and witnesses pursuant to the process outlined in this document.
7. To not respond to questions asked by a Case Administrator.
8. To be advised of the appropriate Appeal process.

Student Responsibilities

Students are responsible for:

1. Reading and understanding the Community Standards and the Case Resolution Process.
2. Fully cooperating in all parts of the Community Standards Process.
3. Providing truthful and complete information to any University official to the best of their ability.
4. Completing all outcomes imposed as a result of a case resolution.
5. Checking their University email account for official correspondences from Housing & Residence Life.

Community Standards Procedures

Process Accommodations and Language Access

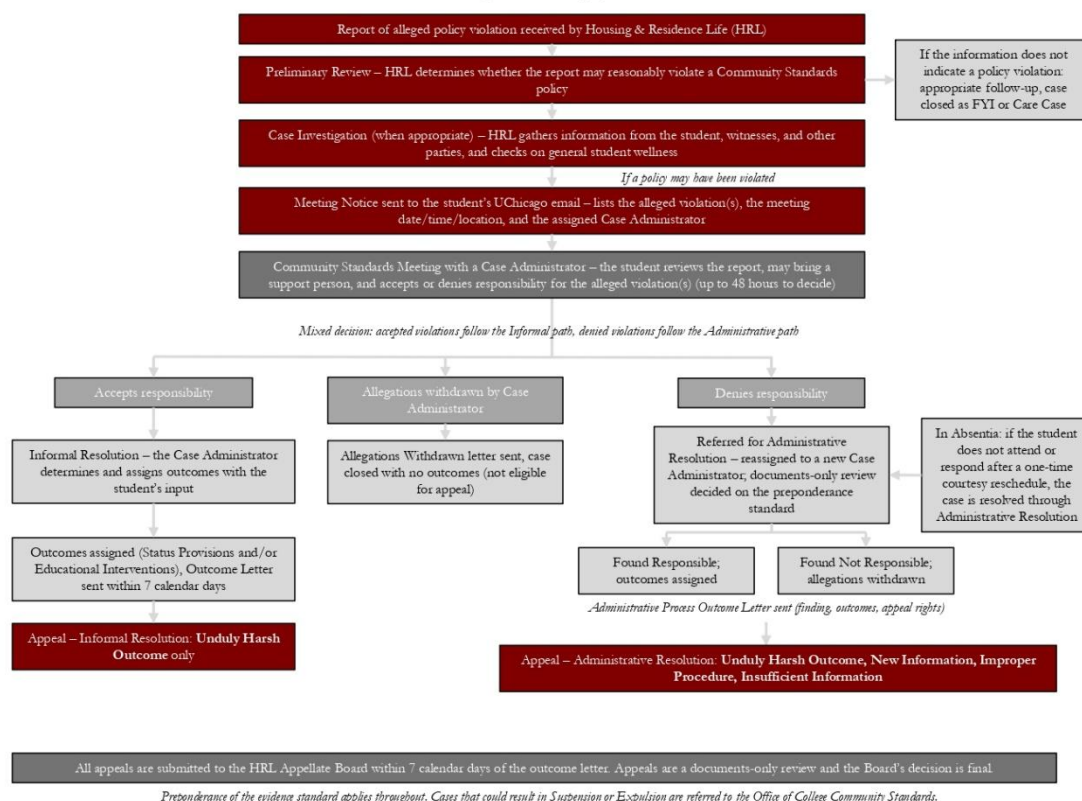
Housing & Residence Life is committed to ensuring that all Students can participate meaningfully in the Community Standards Process. A Student who needs a disability-related accommodation to take part in any stage of the process may request one from Housing & Residence Life or through Student Disability Services (773-702-6000; disabilities@uchicago.edu), which determines reasonable accommodations through an interactive process. Housing & Residence Life will also arrange

language assistance, such as interpretation or translation, for a Student who needs it to understand or participate in the process. Requesting accommodation or language assistance will not be treated as an admission of responsibility or affect the outcome of a case.

Case Investigation & Resolution Process

Community Standards Process Flowchart

Housing & Residence Life | 2026-27



Once Housing & Residence Life receives a report or formal complaint of alleged violations of the Community Standards, the formal Community Standards Process will begin. This process may happen virtually or in-person as appropriate. This section of The Standards will detail the case investigation and resolution processes, and relevant policies and procedures.

Preliminary Review of Complaints

Housing & Residence Life reviews all complaints of misconduct to determine if the information provided may reasonably violate any Community Standards policies. It is HRL's sole judgement to proceed with formal notifications of allegations. HRL will take the steps deemed appropriate to gather relevant information pertaining to a particular report or complaint. Where the available information suggests that a policy may have been violated, HRL will initiate the Community Standards Process.

Case Investigations

When deemed appropriate, HRL will conduct an initial inquiry to gather information about reports of student concerns or alleged misconduct. Investigations can involve individuals, groups of Students, or Registered Student Organizations, as well as relevant third parties. The goal of an Investigation is to determine whether a report, if true, may reasonably violate the Community Standards, and to check in on general student wellness as it may pertain to a report received by HRL.

Where the available information suggests that a policy may have been violated, the responding Student will receive notification of the allegations (Meeting Notice) identifying the relevant Community Standards policy. Notification reflects only that the matter warrants review, not a determination that a violation occurred; responsibility is decided at the conclusion of the process under the preponderance-of-the-evidence standard.

The Community Standards Process begins with the Investigation Report serving as the primary complaint. If the investigation does not yield substantial findings, appropriate follow-up with the Student(s) involved may be required.

As with all parts of the Community Standards Process, Case Investigations are not part of a criminal or civil process. Information gathered will only be released as required by a lawful subpoena.

Meeting Notice

The Community Standards Process begins with a formal notification of alleged violations, Meeting Notice, which will be sent to the Student via their assigned University email address. The Notice will include, when available (1) the list of alleged violations of The Standards, (2) the date, time, and location of the Student's Community Standards Meeting, and (3) the name and contact information of the Case Administrator who will be managing the case. It is expected that Students confirm the receipt of this notification and attend the scheduled Community Standards Meeting. An administrative process may be used to resolve a case based on the factors described under the Administrative Case Resolution Process.

Students are responsible for checking their assigned University email account regularly. The University is not responsible for communications not received due to an improper personal email address listed in the University Information System or the notification being filtered as Spam/Junk.

Community Standards Meeting

The Community Standards Meeting is the initial meeting between the Case Administrator and the Student. As detailed in the Meeting Notice, Students have the right to bring a support person from within the University community to the Community Standards Meeting and any additional resolution meetings, as support. The support person may only speak directly to the Student and not to the Case Administrator on behalf of the Student.

If a Student fails to comply with attending a Community Standards Meeting as specified, the case can be resolved by the Case Administrator or appropriate case resolution process in their absence.

The purpose of the Community Standards Meeting is to explain the Community Standards Process, including the alleged violations of the Community Standards, methods of resolution, range of appropriate outcomes, and opportunities to appeal. Students will have the opportunity to speak about the incident from their perspective, review the report or complaint information, present witness information or statements, and respond to the alleged violations. Students have the choice to accept responsibility or deny responsibility for any or all violations.

The resolution of the case depends on the Student's acknowledgement of responsibility decision. In addition, allegations can be withdrawn if the Case Administrator determines that there is not enough information provided to meet the preponderance of the evidence standard that the allegation of misconduct occurred.

Audio or visual recording of the Community Standards Meeting is prohibited. Anyone who violates this directive will be subject to disciplinary action.

Requesting to delay the Case Resolution Process

If a Student is facing or reasonably expects to face concurrent criminal charges for the same incident, they can request to delay the Case Resolution Process by providing documentation of the concurrent charges prior to or during the Community Standards Meeting. Students wanting to delay the process should make their Case Administrator aware of the concurrent charges either at the start of or prior to the Community Standards Meeting. Housing & Residence Life reviews every request on an individual basis and has the authority to determine the length of the delay, if it is granted.

Informal Case Resolution Process

If the Student accepts responsibility for the alleged violations, the case can be resolved through an Informal Case Resolution process with the Case Administrator. This can occur at the same time as the Community Standards Meeting or at a predetermined subsequent meeting.

When a Student accepts responsibility for the alleged violations, the Case Administrator will be responsible for deciding and communicating the outcomes to the Student.

An Outcome Letter will be sent to the Student via their University email within seven (7) calendar days of the Community Standards Meeting, barring extraordinary circumstances. The Outcome Letter will detail the outcomes, relevant deadlines, and methods for appeal.

For Informal Case Resolution decisions, Students can only appeal based on the Unduly Harsh Outcome criteria.

Administrative Case Resolution Process

When a Student chooses to deny responsibility for any or all alleged violations during the Community Standards Meeting, the case can be resolved through an Administrative Case Resolution Process by a separate Case Administrator.

In deciding whether to resolve a case through this process, the Case Administrator considers factors including the nature and severity of the alleged violation; whether the available information is

sufficient to decide responsibility under the preponderance of the evidence standard on a documents-only basis; whether material facts are genuinely in dispute; the Student's prior conduct history; and whether the matter could result in Suspension or Expulsion, in which case it is referred to the Office of College & Community Standards for formal adjudication.

If there is adequate information to move forward with the case through the Adjudication Process, the original Case Administrator will send the case to another Case Administrator for an Administrative Process. The Administrative Process follows a document-only format, and the Student will not be present for the Administrative Process.

The new Case Administrator will decide responsibility for alleged violations based on the preponderance of the evidence standard. The Student will receive an Administrative Process Outcome Letter detailing their responsibility findings (responsible or not responsible), the assigned outcomes and deadlines (if applicable), and appeal process information.

For Administrative Process decisions, Students can appeal based on the Unduly Harsh Outcome, New Information, Insufficient Information, or Improper Procedure appeal criteria.

Formal Disciplinary Actions

The following section includes the range of interventions available to HRL staff when responding to community standards violations.

The goal of HRL is to provide an educational and restorative space for students to learn from their mistakes and develop a sense of accountability to themselves and their community. HRL staff will refer cases to formal disciplinary action only when necessary, and the response will be determined by the nature of the violation.

Outcomes

Students found to have violated the Community Standards will be subject to a range of disciplinary outcomes as imposed by Housing & Residence Life. This section details (1) outcomes for students, and (2) guidelines for determining outcomes utilized by Community Standards Case Administrators for policy violations.

Verbal Warning

- The Student is required to meet with a Case Administrator to discuss why a particular behavior is a violation and what can be done to restore the harm caused.

Written Warning

- This is a formal written warning that a student's behavior is unacceptable and must change.

Probation

- Probation is a specific period during which HRL provides the Student with the opportunity to prove that they will contribute in a positive manner to the residential community. Should

a Student violate Community Standards policies while on Probation, more severe outcomes will be imposed.

Educational Intervention

- A Student is required to complete a task that benefits the individual, campus, or community. Examples include, but are not limited to, writing reflection or research papers, attending programs or lectures, completing online education modules, or other educational interventions deemed appropriate by the Case Administrator.

Notification of Parent or Legal Guardian

- Notification may be sent to parents or guardians of a Student who is under 18 years of age, depending on the circumstances surrounding the incident. Parents or guardians may also be notified of severe policy violations for Students under 21 years of age, regardless of financial dependency or resulting outcome.

Restitution

- Monetary reimbursement for repair or replacement of property or service rendered to the University.

Revocation of Guest Privileges

- The residence hall guest privileges of the Student are revoked for a designated period.

Administrative Relocation of Housing

- A Student is involuntarily reassigned from one campus housing location to another campus housing location.

Deferred Loss of Housing

- Deferred Loss of Housing serves as a final warning that any further violation(s) of Community Standards policy obligates HRL to consider Loss of Housing privileges as a primary response. This includes Residence Halls, or spaces master-leased by the University for students.

Loss of Housing

- Loss of Housing is an involuntary removal from University housing for a designated period. Removal from University housing means that the Student must properly check out of their room in accordance with existing University procedures within the time constraints established by HRL. As indicated in the housing agreement, the resident Student will be liable for the full room charge specified, and any damages that may have occurred in the room, if a replacement assignment cannot be made by HRL. This includes Residence Halls, or spaces master-leased by the University for students.

Ban from University Housing

- A student is prohibited from entering all or specific residential buildings, including master-leased properties, for a designated period.

Referral to Area or University-wide Discipline

- HRL can recommend to the area Dean of Students in a particular academic area or to the Associate Dean of Students in the University for Disciplinary Affairs that a student from that academic area be brought before the College, division, or school disciplinary committee in that area or the University-wide Disciplinary Committee, respectively. The student will be required to appear before the appropriate disciplinary committee, which has the authority to suspend or expel a student from the University.

Outcome Guidelines

Housing & Residence Life considers the outcomes listed below to be guidelines for violations of the Standards. Each incident is reviewed on an individual basis and the specifics of the incident will determine the severity of the outcomes that may be imposed. Final decisions regarding determining outcomes lies with the EDHRL and Dean of Students in the University or their designee. This section is not comprehensive of all policy violations or potential outcomes.

Alcohol

Typical outcomes include the following:

- First Violation: Verbal Warning; Educational Intervention
- Second Violation: Written Warning; Referral to Student Wellness to complete BASICS course
- Third and Subsequent Violation(s): outcomes range from Probation to Loss of Housing (at least one term); Referral to the Office of College Community Standards for adjudication

Candles and Incense

- First Violation: outcomes range from Verbal Warning to Probation (at least one term); additionally, Deferred Loss of Housing or Loss of Housing (at least one term) outcomes may be applicable; an Educational Intervention may also be applied; Restitution for damages
- Second and Subsequent Violation(s): outcomes range from Written Warning to Probation (at least 2 terms); additionally, Deferred Loss of Housing or Loss of Housing (at least 2 terms) outcomes may be applicable; an Educational Intervention may also be applied; Restitution for damages

Cannabis

- First Violation: Verbal Warning; Educational Intervention
- Second Violation: Written Warning; Referral to Student Wellness to complete CASICS course
- Third and Subsequent Violation(s): outcomes range from Probation (at least one

term) to Loss of Housing (at least one term); Referral to the Office of College Community Standards for adjudication

Civility

- First Violation: outcomes range from Verbal Warning to Probation (at least one term); an Educational Intervention may also be applied
- Second and Subsequent Violation(s): outcomes range from Written Warning to Loss of Housing; an Educational Intervention may also be applied

Dangerous Acts

- First Violation: outcomes range from Written Warning to Loss of Housing (at least one term); Referral to the Office of College Community Standards for adjudication
- Second and Subsequent Violation(s): Referral to Area or University-wide Discipline

Guests

- First Violation: Verbal Warning; Educational Intervention
- Second Violation: range from Written Warning to Revocation of Guest Privileges (at least one week); Educational Intervention
- Third and Subsequent Violation(s): Written Warning to Probation (at least one term); Revocation of Guest Privileges (at least one week); Educational Intervention

Illegal Drugs

- First Violation: outcomes range from Written Warning to Loss of Housing (at least one term); Referral to the Office of College Community Standards for adjudication
- Second and Subsequent Violation(s): Referral to Area or University-wide Discipline for adjudication

Prohibited Items

- First Violation: Written Warning; Removal of Item(s) from University Property
- Second Violation: outcomes range from Written Warning to Loss of Housing (at least one term); Removal of Item(s) from University Property
- Third and Subsequent Violation(s): outcomes range from Administrative Relocation of Housing to Loss of Housing; Referral to the Office of College Community Standards for adjudication

Threats and Harassment

- First Violation: outcomes range from Written Warning to Loss of Housing; Referral to Office of College Community Standards for adjudication
- Second and Subsequent Violation(s): Referral to Area or University-wide Discipline for adjudication

Vandalism

- First Violation: outcomes range from Verbal Warning to Probation (at least one term); additionally, Deferred Loss of Housing or Loss of Housing (at least one term) outcomes may be applicable; an Educational Intervention may also be applied; Restitution for damages
- Second and Subsequent Violations: outcomes range from Written Warning to Probation (at least 2 terms); additionally, Deferred Loss of Housing or Loss of Housing (at least 2 terms) sanctions may be applicable; an Educational Intervention may also be applied; Restitution for damages

Appeal Process

All Students have the right to appeal their case resolution decision or outcome to the Housing & Residence Life Appellate Board. Appeals must meet certain criteria, include an appropriate rationale, and be submitted by the outlined deadline in an Outcome Letter to be considered.

All appeals must be submitted electronically to Housing & Residence Life, via the submission process outlined in all outcome letters. Appeals must be submitted within seven (7) calendar days from the date of the outcome letter. If Housing & Residence Life does not receive the appeal submission within seven (7) calendar days, the Student waives the right to appeal, and all outcome(s) will be final.

When an appeal is requested, a “postponement of the outcome” may be granted when appropriate. A postponement of the outcome is defined as the period between the date of the outcome letter and the date of the appeal outcome letter where the imposition of the outcome is postponed. The postponement will last until the appeal decision is finalized and communicated with the Student.

Requests for postponement should be submitted to Housing & Residence Life at **housing@uchicago.edu**. Decisions regarding postponement requests will be determined by the Associate Director of Residential Care & Community or their designee. In deciding whether to grant or deny a postponement, Housing & Residence Life considers factors including the nature and severity of the outcomes imposed; any risk to the safety or well-being of the community; the grounds and apparent merit of the appeal; the impact of postponement on the Student and others; and administrative feasibility. Housing & Residence Life reserves the right to deny a request for a postponement of the outcome.

Appeals follow a documents-only format, and students are not present for the appeal. Appeals are heard by the members of the Housing & Residence Life Appellate Board. The outcome of the appeal will be emailed to the Student within fourteen (14) calendar days after the appeal submission. The appeal decision will be final.

Rationale for Appeal

The following are the established rationales for a Student to appeal their case resolution decision or outcome.

Unduly Harsh Outcome

The outcome given is unduly harsh if it is inconsistent with the outcomes typically imposed for the same or similar violations

New Information

Information that was not available at the time of the Community Standards Meeting is now available and could reasonably be expected to have altered the outcome of the case.

Improper Procedure

A procedural error occurred at any stage of the Community Standards Process — including the investigation, notice, Community Standards Meeting, or case resolution — that did not follow the protocol outlined in the Community Standards, and that could reasonably be expected to have affected the outcome of the case.

Insufficient Information

Whether a reasonable person could find that the facts in the case were sufficient to establish that it is “more likely than not” that a violation of the Community Standards occurred, and that the Student was responsible for the violation.

Appeal Criteria

All appeals for Students must be written by the Student and not by a third party. Any appeals that are written by a third party will be rejected and will not be reviewed. If an appeal is rejected, the Student will not be given an extension on the appeal deadline.

Informal Resolution

In Informal Resolution cases, the Student accepts responsibility for violating the Community Standards and the Case Administrator determines sanctions to be implemented. Students have the right to appeal the outcomes decision based solely on the **Unduly Harsh Outcome** rationale.

Administrative Resolution

In these types of cases, a Student can appeal based on the four rationales previously mentioned (**Unduly Harsh Outcome, New Information, Improper Procedure, or Insufficient Information**).

Appellate Board

This section outlines the structure of the Appellate Board, the process for hearing appeals, and the criteria for approving or denying appeals.

Appellate Board Composition:

- **Membership:** The Appellate Board is convened by the Associate Director of Residential Care & Community (ADRCC) or their designee. It is composed of at least three trained University officials who were not involved in the original case.

- Chairperson: The ADRCC (or designee) serves as Chair, ensuring the process follows Housing & Residence Life (HRL) standards.
- Training: All members of the Appellate Board receive annual training on the HRL Community Standards, appeal criteria, and equitable resolution processes.

Appellate Board Process:

- Preparation
 - a. The Board receives the case file, appeal form, and all supporting documentation.
 - b. The student is notified of next steps in writing.
- Review
 - a. The Appellate Board reviews all case materials.
 - b. At the Board's discretion, the student and/or Case Administrator may be asked to provide clarifications in writing.
 - c. The process is documents-focused and not a re-hearing of the case.
- Decision-Making
 - a. The Board may:
 - i. Uphold the original decision;
 - ii. Modify outcomes;
 - iii. Overturn the finding.
 - b. Decisions are made by majority vote.

Student Notification

- The ADRCC (or designee) communicates the final appeal decision to the student in writing within **five (5) business days** of the Board's decision.
- All appeal decisions are final.

Student Conduct Records, FERPA, and Retention

As part of the Community Standards Process, Housing & Residence Life creates and maintains records such as reports, notices of allegations, findings, outcomes, interim measures, and related correspondence. These are education records under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Students' rights to inspect, review, and request amendment of their education records, to consent to disclosure, and to file a FERPA complaint, along with the circumstances under which records may be disclosed without consent, are governed by the University's [Student Education Records and Directory Information](#) policy. The retention and disposition of these records are governed by the University record retention policy, set out in the [Record Maintenance](#) section of that policy — under which discipline records are retained for five years from the last incident, and permanently where the matter involved suspension or expulsion, and housing records are retained for five years after graduation or last attendance. A Student's medical or wellness records maintained by UChicago Student Wellness are not part of the Community Standards record or the Student's FERPA education record.

Notification of Parent or Legal Guardian

Consistent with FERPA and University policy, Housing & Residence Life may notify a Student's parent or legal guardian:

- Where the Student is under 18 years of age, depending on the circumstances of the incident;
- In connection with a severe policy violation by a Student under 21 years of age, regardless of financial dependency or resulting outcome; and
- In other circumstances permitted under FERPA, including where the Student is a dependent for federal income-tax purposes, in connection with an alcohol or controlled-substance violation by a Student under 21, or where necessary to protect the health or safety of the Student or others.

Notification of a parent or legal guardian is not itself a disciplinary outcome. Additional details on disclosure to parents and guardians appear in the University's [Student Education Records and Directory Information](#) policy.

Community Standards Review Process

Housing & Residence Life will review the Community Standards on an on-going basis in consultation with the appropriate stakeholders and decision-makers. Updates to the Standards will be released at the start of every autumn term. Students are expected to review the Community Standards when they are updated and on an on-going basis to understand any revisions of the policies or the Community Standards Process. Housing & Residence Life reserves the right to make necessary changes to the Standards at any time for legal compliance purposes. Such updates will be communicated to the University community via official UChicago email.