

University of South Florida, St. Petersburg  
Housing Policy Agreement

*The Housing Policy Agreement is a living document. USFSP Housing and Residence Life reserves the right to change, modify, and/or amend any of the information in this document, notifying residential students of policy or procedural changes as they occur.*

*The latest version of this document is available at [usfsp.edu/housing](http://usfsp.edu/housing)*

Students are responsible for abiding by all housing rules, policies, and regulations. It is the responsibility of all USFSP residents/students to be knowledgeable about the information outlined below:

A. Health and Safety Inspections

1. In order to ensure a clean, healthy, and safe living environment for both current and future residents, health and safety inspections are conducted at least once a semester. All residential students are issued a mandatory 24-hour notice before an inspection so that they can coordinate cleaning and health and safety efforts within their bedrooms and/or suite areas. Housing and Residence Life staff is authorized to enter student rooms even if the resident(s) are not present, given that there was a prior notification. Staff members will only inspect in pairs. Any policy violations will be documented and subject to referral through the conduct process.
2. Prohibited items will be confiscated and held in a secure location on campus. Residents may only retrieve confiscated items (excluding alcohol, drugs, and drug paraphernalia) during the week of fall and spring finals. Residents must visit the Residence Life Office located in RHO 100 to retrieve confiscated items. USFSP Residence Life is not responsible for damaged confiscated items.

B. Quiet/Noise Policy

1. Residents have a responsibility to know and respect the quiet hours, which are Sunday through Thursday from 10:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. and Friday and Saturday from midnight to 12:00 p.m. During final exam periods at the end of the semester, quiet hours are 24 hours a day. When quiet hours are in effect, noise should not be heard outside a room or suite. Non-designated quiet times are considered “courtesy hours.” Courtesy hours are in effect 24 hours a day. During these times, residents are expected to maintain reasonable volume levels including conversation in stairwells, slamming doors, and stereo volume. Students are expected to comply when a request is made by fellow residents or staff members regarding noise.

C. Unauthorized Pets

1. **For reasons of health and sanitation, students are not allowed to have pets in the residence halls.** Exceptions are service animals or emotional support animals when approved by the Housing Operations Coordinator as an ADA or public accommodation. Fish in a proper aquarium facility (1-gallon maximum, one per

resident) are also allowed. To be cared for properly, fish must be removed from the residence halls during extended academic break periods.

#### D. Fire Hazards and Other Prohibited Items

1. Possession/use of candles (lit or unlit), oil lamps, incense, storage of charcoal, flammable liquids such as gasoline, kerosene, "Coleman" fuels, or other items that create fire danger as a result of open flame or smoldering is prohibited.
2. Due to the extreme risk of fire and the danger of electrical overload, the possession or use of certain types of electrical equipment is prohibited including extension cords, halogen lightbulbs, sunlamps, and wax burners.
3. Any and all appliances with exposed coils are prohibited in the residence halls.
4. Students may not install personal locks on any residence hall door.
5. Students may not use fog machines or other special-effects machines in the residence halls.
6. Mercury thermometers, neon signs, lava lamps, and other hazardous material are prohibited.
7. No decorative covering or other flammable items including but not limited to tapestries should cover any doorway or be suspended from lofts, bunks, ceilings, exposed piping, or heating units. Items must be at least six inches below fire sprinklers. Lamps with paper shades are prohibited in the residence halls.
8. Personal Wi-Fi routers are not permitted in the residence halls.
9. Unauthorized mounting devices such as dance or exercise poles, hammocks, etc. are not prohibited in the residence halls.
10. Firecrackers, roman candles, bottle rockets, sparklers and any other type of firework or explosive is prohibited in the residence halls.

#### E. Security Measures and Safety Hazards

1. Students with excessive messiness or trash in rooms that prohibit proper egress will result in a Housing Policy violation and cleaning fine.
2. Students may not engage in sport-type activities in residence halls (hallways, bathroom, lobbies, elevators, etc.) including but not limited to: riding skateboards/longboards/bikes, throwing objects from or at a residence hall building.
3. Propping open or otherwise interfering with the closure of any entrance, exterior, or security door is prohibited.
4. Solicitation by organizations or individuals, for commercial or personal gain, is not permitted in the residence halls.

#### F. Unauthorized Room Changes

1. Unauthorized room changes and/or other moves from an assigned residential space without following proper room change procedures through Housing and Residence Life staff are prohibited. Residents who complete room changes without prior approval may be moved back to the original assigned space and are subject to meeting with residence life staff for disciplinary action. Room changes

are not permitted prior to the halls opening in August or January. Students are required to move into their assigned room and remain there until a room change has been approved by Housing and Residence Life Staff. Students found in violation of this policy will be subject to a fine.

#### G. Guest Policy

1. A guest is defined as either:
  - i. a non-student of the University, or
  - ii. The University of South Florida, St. Petersburg student who either lives elsewhere on campus or has off-campus accommodations (affiliated guest).
2. A guest or affiliated guest may not occupy any space in the residence hall in the absence of the host. A guest or affiliated guest may only remain overnight in a room if the guest has the permission of all assigned occupants of the room. It is the responsibility of the residential host to ask for and obtain permission from all assigned occupants for the guest or affiliated guest to remain overnight. Overnight is defined as any time past 2 a.m. To ensure the rights of all residential students, guest(s) may only stay a maximum of three nights in a 30 day period and only when the residential host has obtained permission from all occupants of the room.

#### H. Residential Parking

1. Residential students are only permitted to possess a residential parking pass and park in residential student parking spaces.