



Bellevue College Housing Community Standards

I. Resident Rights and Responsibilities

1. **Rights:** All eligible residents have the right to the following:
 - a. Live, study, and socialize within the Bellevue College Residence Hall with limited impact from unreasonable distraction or nuisance caused by the behaviors of others.
 - b. Access and equal use of all Bellevue College Residence Hall common spaces.
 - c. Report incidents and concerns to appropriate Bellevue College Housing staff members without fear of retaliation.
 - d. Due process in the investigation and adjudication of alleged policy violations, as outlined in the Student Conduct Code of Bellevue College (WAC 132H-126) and in section III below.
 - e. Receive advance notice of room entry for the purposes of inspection, when feasible, and no immediate threats to health or safety exist.
 - f. A learning environment that is free from racism, discrimination, inappropriate and disrespectful conduct, and any and all harassment, including sexual harassment.
 1. Bellevue College publishes an Annual Notice of Non-Discrimination, which can be found online <https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/equal/nondiscrimination/>.
2. **Responsibilities:** All residents and their guests maintain the responsibility to do the following:
 - a. Help maintain an environment conducive to academic pursuit.
 - b. Self-regulate their use of and behavior in and around the Bellevue College Residence Hall, with the intent to cause no harm to others or facilities.
 - c. Abide by all federal, state, and local laws and ordinances.
 - d. Understand and comply with all Bellevue College policies including the [Student Conduct Code of Bellevue College](#) (WAC 132H-126), the standards listed in section II below, and all stipulations outlined in the Bellevue College Housing Contract.
 - e. Proactively report concerns to appropriate staff.

II. Standards of Conduct

1. **Alcohol (Housing):** The legal drinking age in Washington is 21. Residents and guests may not possess, purchase, or consume any alcoholic beverages unless they are 21 years of age or older. Residents and guests 21 years of age or older may not purchase or provide alcohol to underage persons. Residents and guests of age are not to consume or possess alcohol in any room in the presence of any students under the age of 21. Residents and guests of age may not consume or possess alcohol in any public area or common spaces. The Student Conduct Code prohibits public intoxication on college premises or at college-sponsored events, which include Residence Hall common spaces and Residence Life sponsored events.

Bellevue College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, language, ethnicity, religion, veteran status, sex, sexual orientation, including gender identity or expression, disability, or age in its programs and activities. Please see policy 4150 at www.bellevuecollege.edu/policies/. The following people have been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies: Title IX Coordinator, [425-564-2641](tel:425-564-2641), Office C227, and EEOC/504 Compliance Officer, [425-564-2178](tel:425-564-2178), Office B126.

2. **Apartment and Suite Furnishings:** Residents may not move furniture from the public areas or common areas to their apartment, room, or suite or remove furniture out of their apartment, room, or suite. Room painting and wallpapering are not permitted. Resident room or suite furnishings, including room doors and windows, may not be removed or altered. Beds may not be lofted beyond their existing maximum. Water beds, swimming pools, and hot tubs are not permitted. Wall hangings may not be posted using nails, screws, or double-stick adhesives that can damage drywall and paint, such as Command Strips/hooks, heavy-duty foam tape, self-adhesive lighting, etc. Housing recommends sparse use of thumb tacks, painter's tape, and wall safe tape to hang light-weight wall décor.
3. **Cleaning:** All residents must share equally in the cleaning and upkeep of their shared living spaces, including kitchens and bathrooms. Personal dishes must be washed at least once per day. Food, seasonings, spices, and toiletries must be stored appropriately. Students should use eco-friendly, appropriate cleaning products that adequately remove all dirt and grease.
4. **Damages and Alterations:** Residents and their guests may not alter or damage, intentionally or unintentionally, any property provided by Bellevue College Housing, including all facilities, appliances, fixtures, and furniture.
5. **Drugs and Drug Paraphernalia:** In compliance with federal law, the use, possession, growing, delivery, sale, or being visibly under the influence of illegal drugs, regardless of form, or the possession of paraphernalia for use of consumption or processing of illegal drugs on college premises or at college-sponsored events is prohibited. Prescription medications should be labeled with the resident's name and medication type. Residents should never share their prescription medications with anyone else.
 - a. **Cannabis:** While state law permits the recreational use of cannabis products for individuals over the age of 21, federal law prohibits such use or possession on college premises or in connection with college activities. The use, possession, growing, delivery, sale, or being visibly under the influence of cannabis or possession of cannabis consumption/processing/distribution paraphernalia is not permitted in the Residence Hall or elsewhere on Bellevue College property.
6. **Fire Safety:**
 - a. *Prohibited Items:* Residents and their guests may not possess candles, incense, electric skillets, hot plates/pads, space heaters, halogen lights, neon lights, personal refrigerators in excess of 4.5 cubic feet, barbeque grills of any kind, flammable gas or oils, or motorized vehicles inside the Bellevue College Residence Hall.
 1. Residents may request religious/faith-based and/or culturally necessary exceptions by contacting housing@bellevuecollege.edu. Approvals will be made on a case-by-case basis with consideration of community safety.
 - b. *Misuse of Equipment:* Tampering with, disarming, damaging, or falsely discharging any provided fire safety equipment, including smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, sprinklers, exit signs, or alarms, is strictly prohibited.
 - c. *Failure to Evacuate:* Failure to evacuate in case of a fire alarm or other mandated evacuation in a prompt and orderly manner is strictly prohibited. Residents and guests may not block, barricade, or dissuade others from using or accessing any route of evacuation, including doors and windows.

- d. *Space Utilization:* Residents are required to leave 12 inches or more of space between provided baseboard heaters and any flammable items. Additionally, residents may not “daisy chain” surge protectors, store plastic or flammable items inside ovens, or otherwise engage in high-risk behaviors that pose a danger to community safety. All rooms and common areas must be clear of clutter and furniture that blocks quick and easy access to/from doors and windows at all times.
7. **Guests:**
- a. *Accompaniment:* Residents will escort their guests at all times while in the Bellevue College Residence Hall, including entry into and exiting the building, movement through corridors, and occupying private rooms, suites, and common areas.
 - b. *Transfer of Responsibility:* All behavior demonstrated by a guest in the Bellevue College Residence Hall is the responsibility of the resident host.
 - c. *Overstay:* An overnight guest is considered a non-resident who is inside a resident’s suite/apartment one hour or more past quiet hours. Guests may not stay with a resident more than three (3) consecutive nights in a row and/or seven (7) non-consecutive nights in a quarter. Residents must obtain roommate permission to have an overnight guest in a shared bedroom and must give advance notice to suitemates/apartment mates.
 - 1. Reasonable, one-time exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis by contacting housing@bellevuecollege.edu in consideration of community impact.
8. **Pets:** Residents and their guests may not have pets for any length of time inside the Bellevue College Residence Hall. Only fish in a 10-gallon or less tank are permitted. Service and emotional support animals are not pets and must be approved/registered by the [Disability Resource Center \(DRC\)](#) before the animal enters the Residence Hall. Service and emotional support animal accommodations requests approved after a resident is moved-in could impact room assignments and may require a last-minute room change on the part of the student requesting the accommodation.
- a. All animals in the community must be leashed, caged, or otherwise contained unless inside of the resident’s unit to whom the animal belongs.
 - b. Animals not registered/approved by the DRC may not visit or enter the community for any length of time for any reason.
9. **Public View and Display:** Décor and displays that can be seen from common spaces and public areas, including interior walkways and exterior paths and roadways, may not include logos or images that fail to align with the [Bellevue College Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation Policy \(1440\)](#) and/or display alcohol/drug/tobacco containers or consumption. No personal items may be stored in hallways, corridors, or other public/common areas. Hallway-facing sides of suite/apartment doors may contain no more than 25% coverage by paper or other decorative items for fire safety reasons.
10. **Noise and Quiet Hours:**
- a. *Quiet Hours:* Posted quiet hours run Sunday through Thursday night, 10:00 PM to 8:00 AM the next morning and Friday and Saturday nights starting at midnight until 8:00 AM the next morning. Quiet hours are extended to 24-hours beginning the night before the first day of final exams and end at 5:00 PM on the last day of final exams. During quiet

hours, no unreasonable or excessive noise should be heard outside of a resident's suite or apartment.

- b. *Courtesy Hours*: All hours that fall outside of quiet hours allow for a moderate amount of noise. When requested, residents and guests are expected to lower their volume of noise to an acceptable level to reduce negative impacts on the community.
11. **Sports and Roughhousing**: Residents and guests may not throw items, kick, run, jump, hit, or climb in a way that creates risk of injury or damage to property within and around the exteriors of the Bellevue College Residence Hall. Exceptions include climbing on ladders and bed rails and utilizing the fitness lounge appropriately.
12. **Solicitation and Recruitment**: Residents and guests may not utilize the Bellevue College Residence Hall to solicit, recruit, or proselytize to other residents or guests. Exceptions include Bellevue College Housing staff program promotions, safety and security needs, and other activities as approved by professional Housing staff. Non-resident visitors are not permitted to enter the residential portions of Bellevue College Residence Hall unescorted or the public lounges outside of publicly accessible times.
13. **Tobacco and Vape**: The Bellevue College Residence Hall is a smoke free community. The use of tobacco, electronic cigarettes, and related products is prohibited, including twenty-five (25) feet from entrances, exits, windows that open, and ventilation intakes of any building owned, leased, or operated by the College. Any and all smoking or vaping is prohibited in the Housing rain garden.
14. **Trash, Recycling, and Compost**: All trash, recycling, and compost waste must be deposited into the appropriate receptacles provided in the centralized trash collection site for the Residence Hall, outside of the 2nd floor south entrance. Trash, recycling, and compost waste should be taken out when full, contains perishable food products, contains any bodily fluid, and/or when it creates a disturbance to the community. Trash and recycling must never be left in hallways, walkways, lounges, or other common areas. Medical waste must be disposed of appropriately.
15. **Weapons and Explosives**: Possessing, holding, transporting, displaying, storing, or discharging fireworks, firecrackers, sparklers, combustible fluids and gasses, firearms, decorative and/or combat weaponry, swords, or knives made for functions other than cooking/food preparation are strictly prohibited. Possession and use of toy guns, including pellet and BB guns are also prohibited.

III. Investigations

1. Upon receipt of a report, a housing student conduct officer may review and investigate any complaint to determine whether it appears to state a violation of the Student Conduct Code, these Bellevue College Housing Community Standards, or other Bellevue College policies.
 - a. Most reports of incidents in the Residence Hall or involving Housing residents will be reviewed by professional Housing staff, who will usually serve as the student conduct officer.
 - b. Reports of sexual misconduct shall be referred to the appropriate office as outlined in [Bellevue College Policy 1440P](#).
 - c. Depending on the frequency and/or severity of the report, violations of the Student Conduct Code or Bellevue College Housing Community Standards may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct or other conduct official.

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2. If the student conduct officer determines that a complaint appears to state a violation, the student conduct officer will consider whether the matter might be resolved through alternative dispute resolution options including, but not limited to, educational meetings, mediation, behavior agreements, no-contact directives, or notice to a student to cease the reported behaviors.
3. If the student conduct officer determines that a complaint has merit and if the matter is not resolved through agreement or alternative dispute options, a student conduct officer may initiate disciplinary action against a resident as outlined in the [Student Conduct Code](#).

IV. Sanctions, Housing Consequences, Conditions, and Disciplinary Action

1. Consequences: In addition to all sanctions described in the [Student Conduct Code](#), the following housing-specific consequences may be imposed on residents found to have violated the Student Conduct Code, Bellevue College Housing Community Standards, and/or the Bellevue College Housing Agreement:
 - a. *Housing warning*: A written statement acknowledging that one or more policies have been violated and that future cases could be impacted because of the incident.
 - b. *Housing probation*: A written statement acknowledging that one or more policies have been violated and that future cases could feasibly result in termination of the resident's housing contract.
 - c. *Housing termination*: A formal eviction from the Bellevue College Residence Hall.
2. Conditions: In addition to the aforementioned consequences, incidents that are found to violate the Student Conduct Code, Bellevue College Housing Community Standards, and/or the Bellevue College Housing Agreement could result in any one (or more) of the following housing-specific conditions, which require some action on the part of the reported student:
 - a. *Housing relocation*: A mandated move from one room or unit to another.
 - b. *Housing restriction*: A temporary or long-term limitation of access to certain areas, services, and/or community spaces within the Bellevue College Residence Hall.
3. *Housing non-renewal*: A temporary or long-term restriction of the student resident's ability to return to the Bellevue College Residence Hall after the completion of an existing contract term.

V. Appeals

1. Student residents may appeal disciplinary actions from violations of the [Student Conduct Code](#) as described in the Student Conduct Code. Written warnings and informally resolved cases are not subject to appeal.
2. Residents may appeal disciplinary actions from violations of the Bellevue College Housing Community Standards by contacting the Dean of Student Life within the timeline outlined in their conduct decision notice.
3. Appeals for housing terminations must be submitted prior to the contract termination date. Contracts will not be extended during the appeals process and the student resident will need to vacate their room during the appeals process if not fully resolved prior to the contract termination date.