Residence Life Policies 2015-2016

COMMUNITY STANDARDS
Students living on campus are part of a community with certain rights and expectations. With increased freedom comes responsibility. Community standards are practiced in all residences and are shared agreements, separate from the student code of conduct, that define mutual expectations for how a community will function on an interpersonal level. They define how community members will treat each other and their environment, celebrate successes and address behavioral issues. Individual theme communities will also develop their own mission and purpose statements. Students learn and develop through this process and create a healthy community for all.

VISITATION IN RESIDENCE HALLS
The university recognizes that relationships are an essential element of life and all must learn how to establish, maintain and expand healthy, mature friendships. Visitation, however, may not interfere with the rights of other residents. The right of a student to live in reasonable privacy takes precedence over the privilege of his/her roommate to entertain a guest in the room. In the practical application of determining when guests should be invited to the room, common sense and mutual respect should prevail. While visiting, individuals must understand that they are invited guests and are expected to conduct themselves in an adult fashion. Residents will be held responsible for the actions of their guests. Any visitor not in compliance with NU policies or requests made by university personnel may be asked to leave campus. Violations of these policies and procedures are subject for disciplinary review.

Visitation Policy
Open hours are those during which visitation between opposite genders is permitted:
Sunday–Thursday . . . . . . . . . . . . . Noon–midnight
Friday & Saturday . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Noontime–2 a.m.
Privacy hours are all times outside of those designated for open visitation.
Visitation hours do not apply to apartments. Same gender visitation in the residence halls is permitted 24 hours a day.

ENTRANCE AND GUEST PROCEDURES
Resident Students: Students living in a residence hall must show and swipe their NU ID.
All Other Students: NU students not living in a particular residence hall must show and swipe their NUIDs and properly sign in at the front desk. Proper sign-in includes printing one’s first and last name and the host’s name and room number.
Nonstudent Visitors: Persons without an NU ID will be considered non university visitors and must have a resident host sign them into the residence hall. The guest must sign in, obtain a guest pass and leave a picture ID (driver’s license, passport, college ID, etc.). The ID will be returned upon the guest’s departure.
• Guest passes may be issued for up to two consecutive days. Guests are not permitted to stay more than two overnights per week on campus.
• Guests under 16 years of age are not permitted to spend the night in the residence halls.
• Guest passes will be issued or preregistered by CA staff only. A student may preregister a guest pass for a visitor arriving after CA desk duty hours. The preregistered visitor’s identification information will be verified by the RLO or hall monitor upon arrival, and the pass will be issued.
• Visitors without a guest pass or preregistered pass will not be permitted in the residence halls.
• Guests must keep guest passes in their possession and be escorted by their hosts at all times.
• Guests must abide by all university policies and procedures. Failure to do so will result in the guest being required to leave campus.
• Hosts are responsible for the actions of their guests and may be subject to judicial action for their guests’ misconduct.
• A maximum of three guest passes per room may be issued concurrently.
• Advanced registration of guests may be required during exam periods and/or special events and holidays. Guest passes are not needed for apartment guests. All other guest regulations do apply to the apartments.

NOISE IN RESIDENCE HALLS
The university expects students to respect the rights of others relative to a learning environment. Students are required to uphold living habits normally associated with responsible community life, and are held accountable for maintaining a residence atmosphere conducive to study and habits normally associated with community living at all times. Students should keep the volume of televisions, stereos, DVD players, MP3 players and other electronics low so as not to disturb others. Practice or performance on musical instruments must not disturb others. The use of electronically amplified or percussion musical instruments is prohibited in rooms or common areas. Official quiet hours may be established for each residence floor. During exam week, 24-hour quiet hours will be in effect in all campus residences. Excessive noise may result in room/hall reassignments and other appropriate disciplinary action including removal from residence.

DAMAGE TO UNIVERSITY RESIDENCE HALL PROPERTY
Student agrees that they are liable for full payment for any loss or damage to the room or apartment, furnishings, or public use areas provided by Niagara University. This includes, but is not limited to, acts of intentional or willful destruction, negligence, careless disregard, or accidental destruction.

Student may be held accountable for damages associated with the property of other students or University property. Student also may be charged on a prorated basis for public area damages where responsible parties cannot be identified. The University reserves the right to fine all students on the floor where damage occurs in a common area that cannot be traced to a specific person, group, or incident.

Student may not remove University property from rooms or apartments, lounges, hallways, etc.
Student is responsible for all his/her activities and his/her visitors' activities taking place on the premises.

Student shall take good care of the premises and the furnishings, appliances, equipment and fixtures therein, and shall keep them in good sanitary condition, and shall return the same at the end or other termination of this contract in as good a condition as when received, ordinary wear and damage or destruction not caused by negligent or willful acts or omissions of student excepted.

Student agrees to assume and bear the risk of loss with regard to all personal property kept or maintained in the residence halls. Niagara University assumes no responsibility for damage to student personal property including damage to student personal property as a result of natural disaster, act of nature, or negligent/accidental act of another student. Students are encouraged to secure rental/property insurance as appropriate. All students are encouraged to keep their rooms, suites and/or apartments locked and their valuables secured at all times.

**PETS AND FISH**
No pet of any kind is permitted in any campus residence, with the exception of freshwater fish in tanks that are 10 gallons or smaller. Students must remove fish from the residence halls and empty and unplug fish tanks during break periods. Students wishing to request permission to have an Emotional Support Animal on campus must contact Disability Services and gain approval for this accommodation prior to the ESA being on campus.

**WATER BEDS**
The use of waterbeds is prohibited in all university owned residence halls and apartments.

**ALTERATIONS TO RESIDENCE ROOMS**
Residents may not put up any decorations or make any alterations to their room that will damage or change university property or constitutes a safety or health threat to residents or the campus community. For a list of what to bring/not to bring, please consult the Residence Life website. Students may not use personally owned furniture of the types already provided by the university. Raising furniture off the floor, stacking furniture or use of same for anything other than its intended purpose is prohibited. Residents should not attempt any repair or maintenance work on their own.

**RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES**
Recreational activities normally conducted outdoors or in gymnasiums, auditoriums or other open areas are prohibited in the residences. This includes activities such as ball games, Frisbee, soccer, skateboarding, hockey, etc.

**RESIDENCE HALL SOLICITATION**
No door-to-door soliciting or canvassing is allowed in residence halls or apartments at any time. University recognized student groups may request permission to hang posters or flyers on the first floor of each residence hall by contacting the Office of Residence Life.
KEYS
The possession of room keys constitutes occupancy. Students are issued room keys for which they are responsible. Any key not returned during checkout, or within 48 hours following checkout, will be considered lost and the student will be **charged** for replacement of keys and/or lock changes.

In order to maintain the integrity of the university’s key system, the following procedures are in effect for all residences:

- Whenever a key is lost to a room, a new cylinder will be installed and the appropriate number of keys made. Students will be charged according to the designed room capacity and the number of keys recut.
- The resident will be required to pay for the lock change once billed by the Student Accounts office.
- Key replacement requests cannot be rescinded once filed with the Residence Life Office.
- An automatic lock change will be done at the student’s expense if the student is found illegally in residence.
- The duplication of any university key is strictly forbidden. Students found misusing or duplicating keys are subject to strict disciplinary action.
- Whenever a key is misplaced, a CA will open the student’s door only when identification by the room’s legal resident is demonstrated. Students may be assessed a charge for each lockout.

ROOM INSPECTIONS
Room inspections are conducted throughout the semester to address health and safety issues, and facilities issues. Students may be notified in advance of scheduled room inspections, including those conducted in conjunction with the Fire Inspector. Residence Life reserves the right to enter student rooms without prior knowledge or permission when there is a health or safety concern or policy violations are believed to be occurring. For more information about this, please consult the Administrative Search policy.

PERSONAL PROPERTY
Niagara University will not assume responsibility for any liability related to student’s personal property. **As such, students are advised to carry personal property insurance.** During fall and spring recess periods, residents may leave personal property in residence rooms or designated storage areas at their own risk. The university accepts no liability for students’ possessions.