Frequently Asked Questions

How do Health and Safety Inspections work?
Health and Safety Inspections are conducted at least twice per semester. A fire safety inspection is also conducted during the semester. Office of Residence Life staff look for basic safety and cleanliness issues; not spotless rooms, although spotless rooms are always appreciated by staff and roommates!

How do I incur a Health and Safety Violation?
*If we find no violations:* We will leave a colorful pass receipt in your room.

*If we find violations:* We will detail them on the yellow sheet and leave it in a visible spot in your room. You will receive an e-mail telling you that your area needs to address issues, and give a date for a re-check. You are responsible for contacting Residence Life prior to re-inspection if you don’t understand what changes need to be made.

If we find no violations the second time: You pass.

If you still have violations during the second inspection: We will let you know that you will be documented. In addition, you will be responsible for any fines related to having the violation corrected by the Office of Residence Life.

Is the Office of Residence Life allowed to enter rooms without permission?
Yes, according to the Student Handbook under Residential Guidelines, the University reserves the right to enter a room for inspections for cleanliness, health and safety, to complete repairs, and when required by law.

Do you enter rooms during the breaks?
Yes. Residence Life staff enter rooms/apartments/townhouses for a visual inspection prior to University breaks to ensure windows are shut/locked. *Note:* Unapproved items will be confiscated and students illegally in possession of alcohol will be documented.

Who conducts Health and Safety Inspections?
Health and Safety Inspections are conducted by the Office of Residence Life staff (Resident Assistants, Area Coordinators, Assistant and Associate Directors). In some instances, Residence Life may call upon the Department of Public Safety or Facilities Management for assistance.

Should I be present during the inspection?
Students do not need to be present during inspections. If they want to be present, students must contact the Area Coordinator to arrange a time.

Will I know when a Health and Safety Inspection will be conducted?
A general rule is that Health and Safety Inspections are done for each major break. Area Coordinators will notify students via e-mail prior to additional inspections.

What if a room fails a Health and Safety Inspection?
In most instances, the Office of Residence Life will allow students to correct the violations and re-inspect in 24 hours to ensure that the violation has been corrected. Failure to correct the violation could result in documentation and a fine.

Staff Contact

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A Quick Guide to Health and Safety Inspections
Goal of Health and Safety Inspections

Health and Safety Inspections are conducted to ensure that residents are maintaining the Residential Guidelines as outlined in the student code of conduct.

All residents are responsible for the cleanliness of their room, hallways, bathrooms, and other common areas. Failure to maintain accommodations properly or follow the code of conduct may result in a residential fine, code of conduct meeting, or re-inspection. Items in violation are subject to confiscation and may not be returned.

The Office of Residence Life completes Health and Safety Inspections a minimum of five times per year. The first Health and Safety Inspection happens in late September/early October. Each subsequent inspection happens prior to University closings.

The Office of Residence Life reserves the right to add additional Health and Safety Inspections on an as-needed basis.

All Health and Safety Inspections are conducted as plain-view searches, meaning Residence Life will not be checking drawers, wardrobes, desks, micro-fridges, etc. Inspections focus on four categories: Fire Safety, Code of Conduct Violations, Health Concerns, and Maintenance.

Fire Safety

Fire safety violations are defined as any violation that could threaten the safety or well-being of students in the event of a fire. Some of the most common violations include, but are not limited to:

- Candles
- Non-University curtains
- Covered smoke detectors
- Blocked egress
- Non-approved lights or extension cords
- Items hanging from the ceiling or sprinkler pipes
- Non-approved University furniture

Students who do not pass Health and Safety Inspections due to candles are subject to a $10 fine per candle. Candles that are confiscated will be discarded. Students who hang non-University curtains will need to remove the curtains immediately due to the risk of fire.

Code of Conduct Violations

Students will not pass their Health and Safety Inspections if there is evidence of a policy violation. Some common policy violations are:

- Evidence of underage drinking (empty alcohol bottles, funnels, beer pong tables, etc.)
- Evidence of a disruptive gathering
- Basement usage
- Unauthorized possession of University property

Health Concerns

During Health and Safety Inspections, staff members look for rooms that could pose a potential health risk due to several factors such as:

- Failure to remove trash
- Food left out
- Failure to maintain a clean living environment, including the bathroom
- Dirty kitchen
- Evidence of a pet
- Evidence of a non-resident living in the room

Maintenance Issues

During the inspections, the Office of Residence Life looks for any major maintenance issues that should be corrected immediately. Some of the common issues are:

- Student-made holes in the walls
- Student wall patches
- Damaged furniture
- Damaged/missing screens
- Broken windows
- Damaged doors/locks
- Non-approved lofts
- Shower leaks

Students who cause malicious damages will be responsible for the restitution to fix the problem as well as a potential fine.