HMSC Housing Policy Guide

Introduction

Updated October 2023

This HMSC Housing Policy Guide is incorporated into both types of Resident contracts with HMSC - the Student Housing Agreement and the Short Term Housing Agreement (“Contract”). In signing the Contract, the resident is agreeing to all of the terms, conditions and policies outlined in this Policy Guide. The goal of the terms of the Policy Guide is to provide convenient, sanitary housing on the HMSC campus that is available to those who need it as a place to advance their work or study as safely as possible. Because they disrupt work, study and/or safety, behaviors that violate this Policy Guide may result in immediate disciplinary action up to and including cancellation of the resident’s Housing Contract and dismissal from the university, depending on the severity of the violation and the Code of Student Conduct or OSU employment policies when applicable. Relatedly, this Policy Guide supplements but does not replace the Code of Student Conduct, which applies to all Oregon State University students. The Code of Student Conduct can be found here: https://studentlife.oregonstate.edu/studentconduct. This Policy Guide can be made available in alternative formats. Please contact HMSC Housing at 541-867-0876 or hmsc_housing@oregonstate.edu for alternative format requests.

Please note that changes to this Policy Guide may be made at any time and for any reason by authorized HMSC staff and will be published online and dated. We will email Residents to alert you of changes. Please review the most current version of this Policy Guide and monitor your emails frequently to ensure that you remain aware of expectations.

Safety and Security: A Shared Responsibility

Students contracted to live at HMSC agree to take primary responsibility for their own personal safety and security, and to support the safety and security of fellow residents, the buildings, and common areas. HMSC will work cooperatively with residents to promote a safe and secure environment, although safety cannot be guaranteed. Residents agree to read and abide by security policies, alerts and precautions stated in this publication and in all other University publications.

Acceptable Use of University Computing Facilities

Residents must follow the policy regarding the acceptable use of University computing facilities, which can be found at http://fa.oregonstate.edu/gen-manual/acceptable-use-university-computing-resources and Acceptable Use of Computing Resources | University Policies and Standards | Oregon State University. The University takes copyright infringement and unauthorized file sharing seriously and engaging in this behavior can have significant negative financial and legal ramifications.

Animals

Residents may not have pets in any residential building. Exceptions to this policy are granted for residents who have preapproval for a service or emotional support animal through Disability Access Services (DAS) if a student or Equal Opportunity and Access (EOA) if an employee or visitor. For more information please visit the following website: https://accessibility.oregonstate.edu/serviceanimalpolicy

DAS or EOA-approved service or emotional support animals additionally must not pose a health or safety risk or a significant disruption to the educational environment at any time. The University may require a resident to remove an approved animal from residential facilities in the following instances:

- The animal poses a direct threat to health or safety of others;
- The animal causes significant property damage;
- The animal poses a nuisance to the community such that the educational goals of the living environment are not met; or
• The resident does not comply with their ongoing responsibilities as outlined in the Service and Assistance Animal checklist, which begins at the time that their animal is approved to live in residence.

If you notice stray animals in or around HMSC Housing, please notify a staff member so that the animal can be appropriately assisted or relocated. You must not abuse, feed, or bring the animal into any HMSC building.

**Building Security**

1. Residents are prohibited from propping exterior doors or leaving doors propped open to common spaces, including laundry facilities and dining hall.
2. Residents are responsible for proper use of the key(s) and electronic access devices (ID card or proximity device) issued to them by the University and/or HMSC. Residents may not loan keys, ID cards, or proximity devices to individuals not listed on the contract.
3. Residents may not duplicate University-issued keys.

Residents are encouraged to keep their exterior apartment doors locked at all times, including when they are leaving for a short time and when they are sleeping.

**Controlled Substances**

**Alcohol**

1. Residents and guests who are under the age of 21 may not possess or consume alcohol.
2. Residents and guests may not furnish, manufacture, distribute, or sell alcohol except as expressly permitted by law and the University’s policies regarding alcohol.
3. It is a violation of housing policy to provide alcohol to anyone regardless of age who is visibly intoxicated.
4. It is a violation of housing policy to be publicly intoxicated in the public or common areas of HMSC Housing. Even residents and guests who are 21 or over who are disruptive because of the use of alcohol may be considered in violation of this policy.
5. Open containers of alcohol are not permitted in public or common areas. Common areas include, but are not limited to, parking lots, sidewalks, decks, lawns, gazebo, basketball and volleyball courts, dining hall, and laundry rooms.

University officials will require individuals who violate the alcohol policy to dispose of all alcohol in their possession. Residents who violate the alcohol policy may be referred for disciplinary action, if applicable. University officials have discretion to call local law enforcement. HMSC staff will dispose of alcohol found abandoned in public areas. HMSC staff will direct residents to dispose of alcohol that is determined to have been in the illegal possession of a resident or guest.

Students who have any questions or concerns about alcohol use are encouraged to talk with a staff member at Student Health Services (SHS) or Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS). Both departments have trained staff that provides information, assistance, and counseling. For more information on alcohol and other drugs please visit the following website:

http://studenthealth.oregonstate.edu/alcohol-and-other-drugs.

**Cannabis**

1. The possession, use or distribution of cannabis in HMSC housing is prohibited. This is true even if a resident has a medical card or is over 21 years of age.
2. It is prohibited to be under the influence of cannabis in any form. Residents who exhibit behaviors that appear to have been influenced by cannabis use may be subject to disciplinary process, if applicable. Such behaviors may include, but are not limited to the smell of cannabis or disruptive behavior due to cannabis use.
3. Residents may not possess cannabis paraphernalia, which includes equipment, products and materials of any kind which are marketed for use or designed for cannabis
use including, but not limited to, bongs, smoking pipes, vaporizers, and roach clips. For a more complete listing of prohibited items please see Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 475B.376.

University officials will refer situations involving residents and guests who violate this provision to the Newport Police Department. Because cannabis is prohibited on campus regardless of age or medical cardholder status, HMS staff will work with the Newport Police Department to remove and destroy cannabis in any form and/or drug paraphernalia that is found on campus property. For more information about cannabis at OSU, please review the following website:

http://main.oregonstate.edu/university-policies-regarding-marijuana

Student Residents who have any questions or concerns about drug use are encouraged to talk with a staff member at Student Health Services (SHS) or Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS). Both departments have trained staff that can provide information, assistance, and counseling. For more information on alcohol and other drugs please visit the following website:

http://studenthealth.oregonstate.edu/alcohol-and-other-drugs

https://www.samhsa.gov/

Drugs

1. The possession, use or distribution of illegal drugs in HMS housing is prohibited. The illegal possession, use or distribution of prescription drugs in HMS housing is also prohibited.
2. The use of substances outside of their intended purposes and in a manner not prescribed by a physician is prohibited. Prescription drugs are permitted on campus if supported by an authentic medical prescription. Use of legal medication outside the parameters of the medical authorization is prohibited.
3. It is prohibited to be under the influence of federally controlled substances in any form. Residents who exhibit behaviors that appear to have been influenced by federally controlled substance(s) use may be subject to disciplinary process, if applicable. Such behaviors may include, but are not limited to, slurred speech, smell/odor, lack of balance, or swaying. Residents are reminded that being under the influence of drugs, including legal substances such as salvia, is not an excuse for disruptive behavior or other violations of University policies or rules.
4. Residents may not possess drug paraphernalia but may possess medical equipment when necessary for the administration of prescribed drugs such as syringes for injecting a prescribed medication. Drug paraphernalia includes equipment, products and materials of any kind which are marketed for use or designed for drug use including, but not limited to, bongs, smoking pipes, vaporizers, syringe needles, and roach clips. For a more complete listing of prohibited items please see Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 475.525.
5. It is a violation of this Policy Guide for anyone to knowingly be present in a housing area where any of the following are taking place:
   a. illegal substances are present, or legal substances are being used illegally by anyone;
   b. violations of the Drugs or Marijuana sections of the Code of Student Conduct behavioral expectations, for University students,
   c. or, for all residents, violations of Drug and Smoking sections of this Policy Guide.

University officials will refer situations involving residents and guests who violate this provision to the Newport Police Department.

Student Residents who have any questions or concerns about drug use are encouraged to talk with a staff member at Student Health Services (SHS) or Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS). Both
departments have trained staff that can provide information, assistance, and counseling. For more information on alcohol and other drugs please visit the following website:
http://studenthealth.oregonstate.edu/alcohol-and-other-drugs

Smoking and Tobacco Use and Possession
1. HMSC Housing is smoke and tobacco-free. No one, regardless of age, is permitted to use any tobacco products, including smokeless tobacco, in or around HMSC Housing facilities, both internal and external, including but not limited to, apartments, porches, gazebo, dining hall, or volleyball and basketball courts.
2. Due to increased fire risk and impacts on the local alarm system, no one, regardless of their age, is permitted to possess electronic cigarettes, vaporizers or vape pens, hookahs, pipes or incense within HMSC facilities.
3. Smoking or carrying any lighted smoking device or apparatus is prohibited for those of any age within and around all HMSC facilities.

Disruptive Behavior
1. Any act or omission that poses a danger to health, safety, or property within HMSC facilities is prohibited.
2. Residents shall not obstruct or disrupt the University living environment. Disruptive behavior is behavior that interferes with the University living and learning environment, or that interferes with the other residents’ rights to socialize, study, or sleep. Disruptive behavior may include, but is not limited to the following:
   a. excessive noise or nuisance;
   b. failure to cooperate with the reasonable directive of a University official (including HMSC housing staff and contracted security staff), acting in the performance of their duties;
   c. entering another resident’s apartment or room without the expressed consent from the resident(s) of that apartment;
   d. violent or threatening behavior;
   e. offensive public behavior (such as but not limited to public urination or defecation or indecent public exposure of intimate body parts) as prohibited by law.
3. HMSC staff reserve the right to confiscate items that cause an ongoing or serious disruption to the living environment.
4. Any unauthorized use of electronic or other devices to make an audio or video recording of any person without that person’s prior knowledge, is prohibited in accordance with applicable law.

Facility Maintenance
1. Residents may not damage any HMSC-owned property or property owned by other residents.
2. Residents may not permanently alter HMSC-owned property/space.
3. Residents are required to report any individuals they see damaging property. If you observe someone damaging property, please report the activity immediately to HMSC staff or TCB Security at 541-574-2828.
4. Residents must keep their apartment clean and free of health and safety hazards.
5. Residents must clean up after themselves in common areas. Common areas can include laundry facilities, gazebo, dining hall, and basketball and volleyball courts.
6. All trash must be regularly emptied into to the outside dumpster.
7. All corrugated cardboard must be taken to the co-mingled recycling bin (located in the parking lot). Corrugated cardboard is not allowed to be stored in any HMSC Housing. Residents in HMSC facilities can be held responsible for the misuse of or damages they have caused to HMSC property, or to another resident’s property. If a resident is found responsible for damaging property, they may be billed for the cost to repair or replace the item damaged. Residents who do not maintain cleanliness in their apartment will be charged an hourly fee for the removal of trash or apartment cleaning. Maintaining cleanliness includes, but is not limited to, keeping the living space free of: pests, clutter that blocks fire egress, and odors that impact others living in the community. Please do your part to help maintain a sanitary living environment.

Fire Safety

1. Residents may not tamper with, disable, cover or damage fire safety equipment, including but not limited to smoke detectors, alarms/strobe lights, exit signs, pull stations, fire doors and fire extinguishers, and fire safety signage. Residents who tamper with fire safety equipment may face sanctions, a monetary fine, or both and may also be referred to the Newport Police Department.
2. Residents may not possess items that may pose a fire safety risk. All personal items in HMSC living spaces need to meet the following criteria:
   • All appliances should be UL listed and have an automatic shutoff.
   • Items should be shut off when not in use and any cords should be examined to ensure they are not worn or frayed or subject to pinch damage.
   • Any device that would exceed the electrical load is prohibited.
   • Any cooking appliance must be personally attended at all times while in use.
   • All items should be in good working order and cannot be under recall by the manufacturer. Some information regarding recalls can be found here: [https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls](https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls).
   • Any damaged or altered items are prohibited.
   • The misuse or illegal use of electrical appliances create serious hazards and is prohibited.
3. The following items are never approved in or near apartments:
   • Air conditioners
   • Grills of any type
   • Dishwashers
   • Clothes washers/dryers (other than as provided by HMSC in the laundry room)
   • Space heaters
   • Haze machines
   • Gasoline, electric, or hybrid powered scooters

If you have a special need for an exception, please talk to the Housing Coordinator, who can guide you through the exception request process.
If the use of your item poses a health or safety concern, causes a disruption to the community, causes property damage or property loss, regardless of whether the item is approved, you may be subject to sanctions, if applicable, and be responsible for associated costs.

Firearms, Weapons, Destructive Devices, Fireworks, Explosives and Combustibles

1. In accordance with university policy, possession, use, or threatened use of firearms, ammunition, dangerous chemicals, weapons, and destructive devices are prohibited.
   a. “Firearm” means a weapon, by whatever name known, which is designed to expel a projectile by the action of black powder, smokeless powder, or compressed air and which is readily capable for use as a weapon.
b. “Weapon” means any object that may be used to injure. Not all weapons can be listed here. Some common weapons that are prohibited include, but are not limited to, knives having a blade that projects or swings into position by force of a spring, by centrifugal force, or by gravity and is commonly known as a switchblade knife; or any knife with a blade longer than 3 inches or not intended for kitchen use. Weapons also include, but are not limited to, any hunting or target bow; any crossbow; any dirk, dagger, slingshot, metal knuckles, bow and arrow, BB/pellet gun, blowgun, paintball gun, sword, stun gun/tasers or any similar instrument by the use of which injury could be inflicted upon the person or property of any other person.

c. “Destructive Device” means a projectile containing an explosive or incendiary material or any other dangerous chemical substance; or a bomb, grenade, missile, or similar device or any launching device.

2. Firearms are not allowed in HMSC Housing. More detailed policy information can be found here: https://policy.oregonstate.edu/policy/firearms

3. Items that have the appearance of being weapons, including but not limited to parts of weapons, pellet guns, and air soft BB guns, are not allowed in any residence hall, dining center, or UHDS office, meeting, or classroom space. Imitation weapons are also prohibited.

4. Any device that projects items, including, but not limited to, slingshots, blowguns, and air soft guns are prohibited.

5. Dangerous chemicals, explosives and highly combustible or corrosive materials may not be used or stored in or near the living groups. This includes, but is not limited to, fireworks, any kind of explosive device (whether it uses combustible or non-combustible fuel), gasoline, propane, kerosene, lighting fluids, laboratory chemicals, photography chemicals, gun powder, paints, car batteries, tear-gas, and paint thinners.

6. Equipment and vehicles that use combustible fuel are also prohibited in or near the buildings.

7. Setting off firecrackers and other explosive devices in and around the housing units is prohibited and may be subject to immediate removal from housing.

Storage
Residents are expected to maintain the grounds and exteriors of the apartments to be as visually appealing as possible. Residents are asked to adhere to the following standards for outdoor storage. These guidelines are not intended to be exhaustive, but rather provide a framework for both residents and staff members in assessing the exterior condition of the housing units.

1. Residents are able to keep a small number of personal items on the porches of their apartments provided that:
   a. The items stored were designed and intended to be used and kept outside (i.e. patio chair)
   b. The entrance to the apartment is not obstructed
   c. The items do not encroach upon landscaped areas, stairwells, or common walkways
   d. Items are kept in an organized, clean, useable, and safe condition
   e. Items stored do not present a threat or potential threat to health or property
   f. Items are not affixed to the exterior of the building in a permanent fashion, i.e. with nails, screws, or hooks
   g. The presence of these items does not create a visual nuisance

2. The following items are never permitted to be stored outside:
a. Items that were not intended to be used and stored outside
b. Items that present a risk to life, health, or property
c. Items that provide a habitat or a source of food for pests (e.g. garbage, recycling, cardboard, etc.)

Visitors and Guests
1. Guests and visitors are defined as any individuals who are not contracted residents of the specific room or building in question.
2. Residents are responsible for the behavior of their guest(s). Guests are expected to comply with applicable state and federal law and University standards, rules and policies.
3. Only individuals listed on the housing agreement may reside in that unit.
4. Residents may not provide access to common spaces to guests (e.g. laundry room, dining hall); residents must escort guests in common spaces at all times.
5. Guests are permitted only with the permission of the contracted resident(s) of the room and then only in designated areas and within the previously agreed upon frequency. In no event will guests be permitted more often than the frequency listed below. Residents may have guests stay providing they meet all of the following criteria:
   a. the guest stays no longer than three consecutive nights; and
   b. residents may only have overnight guests for a combined total of seven nights in an academic year or less than 25% of their total stay, whichever is shorter.
6. Residents may not give their room key to their guests.

Guests that are violating policies or damaging property may be asked to leave. If residents are concerned that a crime has been committed, or that there may be a danger to others in the community, they should contact TCB Security at 541-574-2828 or call 911.

HMSC Conduct Violation Process

OSU Students
OSU Students suspected of violating HMSC Housing policies will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards (OSCCS). Information about the OSCCS Hearing Process is available through their website: https://studentlife.oregonstate.edu/pre-student-conduct-community-standards

Other Residents
HMSC Housing residents who are not enrolled OSU students will receive an email from the Housing Coordinator outlining the violations of any policies by the resident. The email will be sent to the resident’s ONID email address. If the resident does not have an ONID email address, the email will be sent to the email provided by the resident on their housing application. Residents will have 48 hours to respond to the email and may provide a written response or request to meet with the Housing Coordinator in person. If no response is received within 48 hours, the Housing Coordinator will make a decision with the information available without resident input.

If a resident is found to be in violation of HMSC Housing policies, levels of sanctions in response may include:

1. Warning: An oral or written notice stating the resident has been warned that their actions or behaviors are not acceptable, that we expect that behavior modifications occur in alignment with institutional and housing policies, and that subsequent infractions may result in further disciplinary action or sanctions.
2. Probation: Probation means that a resident is not in good standing with HMSC Housing, and any further violations may result in more severe sanctions, such as canceling of a resident’s housing contract.
3. For students, referral to University Student Conduct.
4. Cancellation of HMSC Housing Contract: When contracts are cancelled to remove a resident from HMSC housing, the resident is no longer permitted in HMSC Housing facilities without expressed consent of the HMSC Housing Coordinator, even as a guest of another resident. Removals may occur within 48 hours of official notification. The resident will still be required to pay the standard cancellation fees.

5. Restitution: The resident is required to make payment to the University or to other persons, groups, or organizations for damages for which they are responsible. This is true whether the action was intentional or an accident. If it was intentional, other sanctions may also apply. Damage caused in public areas in which there is not a known perpetrator may be charged to all residents with access to that space, depending on the reasonableness of the charge based on the circumstances. Fees associated with fire violations or furniture misuse and/or loss may be applied to a resident’s invoice.

6. Notification of Home Institution: If a resident is enrolled or employed by another institution, a notification of policy violations may be sent to the department at that institution that is responsible for student or employee conduct.

**General Information**

**Abandoned Property**
Any personal items (including lost and found and items left in common areas and outdoors) left abandoned after a student moves out may be disposed of after 5 business days or by the close of each term. Items that are confiscated because they are in violation of HMSC Housing policies will be kept until the end of the term, unless otherwise noted. Any costs associated with disposal will be charged to the resident.

**Missing Person Protocol**
Any person who is aware of a resident who is missing must report that information immediately, if in an emergency to 911, otherwise in a non-emergency they should contact the Newport Police Department by phone at 541-574-5807. If you prefer to report in person, contact the Housing Coordinator. You do not have to wait 24 hours to report you believe a resident is missing. This will allow the university to initiate its missing person procedures and notify the missing resident’s confidential contact. Each year, residents, regardless of age, are required to provide a confidential missing person contact when they complete their housing application with HMSC. This contact is strictly for missing persons purposes and can be the same as their general emergency contact, or residents may also choose someone different. For more information about how to register a confidential contact or contacts, please contact HMSC Housing at 541-867-0876 or HMSC_Housing@oregonstate.edu.

**Room Inspections**
Room entry and search may be necessary, and the University may exercise its contractual right to do so under certain circumstances. The University recognizes and respects residents’ desire for privacy, especially within the context of a group living environment. In its efforts to protect privacy, HMSC has defined and restricted the conditions under which authorized University personnel may enter or search a resident’s room.

The following procedures have been developed as a guide for University staff and HMSC Housing staff to enable them to perform their duties and to maintain certain standards, while giving due recognition to the rights of privacy. HMSC reserves the right to enter rooms for reasons including, but not limited to:

- Provision of maintenance and housekeeping services
- Preparation of space for a new resident
- Inspection of room conditions upon vacancy of a resident, during break periods, or for sanitation, security, or safety reasons
• Elimination of nuisances
• When reasonable cause exists to indicate a violation of contract or the Policy Guide

HMSC performs health and safety inspections at the end of each term, during other breaks such as Thanksgiving and in some halls, at the beginning of break periods. During health and safety inspections, contraband items (such as drug paraphernalia, alcohol, and other prohibited items) may be confiscated and reports may be made to the Newport Police Department; trash/recycling may be removed (with labor costs charged to the resident); room/bathroom cleaning may be completed with appropriate charges to the residents assigned to the room/suite; and policy violations that are noted during inspections may result in referral for sanction.

The following University and University-affiliated personnel are authorized to enter residents’ rooms under the procedure described below:

1. HMSC Housing staff or TCB Security personnel, and full-time professional staff members of HMSC, including our Facilities personnel;
2. Employees of the University’s Department of Occupational Safety and Environmental Health;
3. University and non-University personnel contracted to perform maintenance and repair or provide other services on behalf of HMSC;
4. Other members of the University staff and/or civil authorities may enter student rooms under the conditions described below only when accompanied by a member of the HMSC Housing Staff. In an emergency situation, fire/emergency personnel may enter a room unaccompanied.

Room Entry Procedure

1. Except in an emergency, no room shall be entered without knocking. Entry following the knock shall be preceded by a time lapse of sufficient duration to provide occupants with ample opportunity to open the door.
2. When it is necessary for authorized University personnel to enter a room, there shall be, whenever possible, two authorized staff members present. If it is necessary, under the conditions outlined, for authorized University personnel to enter a room when an occupant(s) is not present, the resident(s) will be notified of the entry and the reason for the entry upon returning to the room. This provision does not apply to housekeeping and maintenance personnel performing routine or requested duties, or to staff conducting a health and safety check. Health and safety checks traditionally take place at the end of each term during which staff may check rooms to evaluate cleanliness and safety issues.
3. HMSC Housing staff members may remove an item of personal property from a resident room without prior consultation with the owner when it is the judgment of the staff member that the item represents an imminent hazard to persons or property or is otherwise prohibited. HMSC Housing staff are also authorized to remove from a resident room clearly identifiable University or HMSC property not provided as part of the room
furnishings. If an item is removed under the above conditions, the resident will be notified promptly of the removal, and a notice left regarding the removed item. If the removed item may be legally possessed by the resident, but it is in violation of this Policy Guide, the contract or Oregon State University policies or standards, it may be claimed by the resident but not retained in any HMSC building. If illegal or prohibited goods are found and confiscated during the authorized room inspection, the resident may be subject to criminal prosecution and/or disciplinary action or other sanction, depending on their status.

4. Entry of resident rooms will occur only as necessary. Attempts to notify the occupant(s) in advance will always be made unless there is a critical situation which precludes notification.

5. Entry of resident rooms by HMSC Housing personnel shall only be permitted, except in the case of an emergency, with prior consultation with the HMSC Operations Manager or designee. In these instances, room entry will be conducted by no less than two authorized HMSC Housing staff members.

6. HMSC is opposed to general room searches; that is, the search of a number of rooms in a given area in the absence of cause to search a specific room. General room searches, except in the case of emergency, will be permitted only after authorization by the HMSC Operations Manager or designee.

7. State and federal law governs the entry into a resident’s room by law enforcement officers. Situations which may permit such entry include, but are not limited to, officers in possession of a valid search/arrest warrant, health/safety emergency, or certain circumstances where search warrants are not required by law. Entry under such circumstances may be facilitated by HMSC Housing staff.

8. Residents may make requests to hall staff to be present at the time of their room being checked during the following periods. Check the OSU Academic Calendar for specific dates.

   a. First weekend of winter break
   b. First weekend of spring break
   c. Weekend between summer sessions 2 and 4.