

A SAMPLING OF COMMON POLICIES FROM THE CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

Pets are not permitted in the residence halls unless they are non-carnivorous fish in 20 gallon (or less) tanks or service animals.

Refrigerators may be brought from home, but they must be 5 cubic feet or less.

If you have a **bicycle** on campus, you may ask the Department of Residence Life for a key to a storage room, and you must retrieve a license from the Selinsgrove Borough for a fee of \$1.

The following are **not permitted** in residence halls (this is not an exhaustive list): Air conditioners, portable heating units or microwave ovens. The following are **not permitted in residence hall rooms** but may be stored (unplugged) in common area kitchenettes at owner's own risk: hot plates, toasters, coffee machines, hot pots, electric fry plans, griddles, etc.

Fire Safety

Fabric/Tapestries may not be hung from ceilings or walls

Halogen lamps and **candles** are prohibited, even if they are for décor only.

Mini decoration lights may be used, but cannot be attached with metal fasteners or be a main source of light in a room

Alcohol

If you are **under the age of 21**, you may not be in a residence hall room with alcohol, period. You can be documented and held responsible for doing so, even if you weren't drinking.

SOME NUMBERS TO CONSIDER:

During the 2008–09 academic year:

44 percent of first-year-students who earned **lower than a 2.0 GPA** at the end of the fall semester also went through the conduct system

19 percent of first-year-students who earned a **3.0 GPA or higher** at the end of the fall semester also went through the conduct system

80 percent of first-year-students dismissed or suspended by the Academic Standing Committee at the end of the fall semester also went through the conduct system

When surveyed in the fall of 2008, Susquehanna students reported consuming an average of 5.2 alcoholic drinks per week. This is consistent with the 2008 national average (5.5 drinks per week)

Additionally, 27.3 percent of Susquehanna students surveyed reported not consuming alcohol in the past 30 days. This is up from 23.7 percent in 2006 and consistent with the 2008 national average (28.1 percent)

Susquehanna
UNIVERSITY

Office of Student Conduct
Division of Student Life and
Department of Residence Life and Civic Engagement
514 University Avenue
Selinsgrove, PA 17870

www.susqu.edu/reslife
www.susqu.edu/student_handbook
570-372-4133 (phone)
570-372-2863 (fax)

OFFICE OF STUDENT CONDUCT
DIVISION OF STUDENT LIFE AND DEPARTMENT OF RESIDENCE LIFE AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



MISSION AND GOALS:

The Office of Student Conduct, as part of the Department of Residence Life and Civic Engagement, is dedicated to supporting the mission and priorities of the Division of Student Life by seeking to provide a student-centered experience when upholding community standards and university policies. Understanding that student learning and development continue outside of the classroom, both on and off campus grounds, the Office of Student Conduct aims to empower students in the following ways:

- Provide accessible programming and literature on the Code of Student Conduct to increase students' awareness of their rights and responsibilities
- Promote a mutual respect for self and others
- Engage in conversation in order to reflect upon professional goals, personal development, desired impact on one's community, and how future decisions may affect these objectives
- Administer educationally based assignments to enhance critical thinking skills beyond the classroom
- Adjudicate university policy violations resulting in consequences to preserve the safety and well-being of oneself and others, including but not limited to restitution, outreach for alcohol and other drug abuse or removal from campus

A PARENT'S ROLE IN STUDENT CONDUCT:

Susquehanna University's data consistently tell us that parents and families, peers and personal beliefs are most likely to influence our students' decisions about conduct. Anecdotally, students typically voice a concern about their parent or coach finding out about an incident of underage drinking or misconduct. What does that mean for Residence Life? We partner with coaches and other administrators to address our students' actions in an effort to recognize their personal priorities and how their actions may affect themselves or others. We understand that our students are adults and encourage them to make their own choices. With this comes the knowledge that certain choices have consequences if students are found responsible for violating a university policy.

What does that mean for you?

We encourage you to talk to your student about what he or she hopes to gain from the collegiate experience. Experiences outside of the classroom are extremely valuable to your student's personal growth. From time to time, students may encounter alcohol or other drugs. Before opening convocation in the fall, talk to your son or daughter about your expectations. Then, talk *again* when he or she returns home for breaks. Your child's experiences will change from semester to semester!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

My student told me he got in trouble, but also told me "it wasn't a big deal." Why did he have to do that assignment and pay that fine?

Students will not always tell their parents the full truth about a situation, or they do not have a complete understanding of why their action was against policy. (For example, underage students who are caught drinking in their residence hall room rarely believe they were breaking any rules as long as they were quiet and "not bothering anyone.") While we are not always permitted to disclose particular facts about an incident, we are always willing to clarify policies with parents over the phone. However, we encourage you to speak with your child about the incident first. If students have questions, we would prefer to explain things to them so they have an understanding about the incident and their learning can progress.

Will the school ever call me about my student's conduct issues?

This is always a possibility, particularly if we believe your child has displayed behaviors that indicate he or she is a risk to self or others, or if your child has been charged with violating a policy that could result in removal from the institution if a Conduct Board deems the student responsible. Normally, if a student has reached the second alcohol "level" or first drug "level," dependent students are required to inform their parent(s) about the incident and have their parent contact the Office of Student Conduct to confirm notification.

My student was cited in the Selinsgrove Borough or off campus. Why is he still being charged through the school? Isn't that double jeopardy?

"Double jeopardy" is a legal term used in a court system. As an educational institution, not only does this not apply to our system, it does not follow our philosophy on conduct issues for our students. It is our expectation that students follow all federal, state and local laws both on campus and in the surrounding community. In order to maintain a positive relationship with the Borough of Selinsgrove (population 3,000, excluding Susquehanna students), we demonstrate our commitment to upholding community standards by ensuring that our students know they must behave responsibly, no matter where they are.

What does this fine on my student's statement mean?

Typically, an educational sanction fee of \$25 is levied for first-level alcohol violation and \$50 is levied for a second-level alcohol violation. These fines are in addition to an educational component: reflective or research paper, online educational module, service hours, program through the alcohol and other drug Outreach Coordinator, etc. Students may contact the Coordinator of Student Conduct to discuss the option of completing community service hours on campus or in the Selinsgrove Borough in place of receiving a monetary fine. Additional fines may be issued for missed appointments (\$25-50) or overdue assignments (\$200 with a prorated credit depending on how soon a student turns in the assignment).

At the end of every semester, the cost of damages within the common areas of residence halls, which have not been attributed to a particular person, will be divided among the residents of a hallway or building. Students are encouraged to contact Residence Life staff with information about damages in their residence halls to avoid being charged for those costs.

Is my student permitted to have overnight guests?

Susquehanna's guest policy states that a student may have an overnight guest (whether or not he or she is a Susquehanna student) for a maximum of two nights in a two-week period. Guests are *only* permitted with the prior consent of a student's roommate(s). All non-Susquehanna student guests must receive a temporary visitor's pass from the Department of Public Safety office upon their arrival to campus.

OTHER HELPFUL TIPS TO DISCUSS WITH YOUR STUDENT:

- Each student on campus has a Resident Assistant and a Head Resident (who supervises the Resident Assistants). Any work orders, concerns or questions may be directed to them.
- The Department of Public Safety may be contacted 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (ext. 4444 from any campus phone). Residence Life staff and Public Safety can reach an on-call counselor or direct students to appropriate resources.
- To reach 911, dial 9-911 from any campus phone.
- For security reasons, students are encouraged to keep their residence hall room locked at all times
- Students may not loan their Susquehanna ID or room key to other people. Lost IDs and room keys should be reported to Residence Life immediately.
- Students must carry their Susquehanna ID at all times.
- Honesty and cooperation is appreciated and noted by Residence Life and Public Safety during any incident.
- On-campus parking rules and regulations may be found at <http://www.susqu.edu/safety/>. All students who have a car on campus (including students who live off campus) must obtain a parking permit. Tickets and "boots" are distributed for illegally parked cars. Tickets may be appealed in writing. Appeals are never accepted on the basis of "not knowing" what the parking regulations are.
- Students receive notifications from offices on campus (including the Office of Student Conduct) through their Susquehanna e-mail account and are expected to check it daily.

Thomas A. Rambo – Associate Dean of Student Life and Director of Public Safety
D. Eric Lassahn – Director of Residence Life and Civic Engagement
Jenna L. Fredericks – Coordinator of Residence Life for Student Conduct