Dear Residents,

Welcome to The University of Southern Mississippi, and thank you for choosing to live on campus. The college experience is made more special by residing on campus with other students. We firmly believe that a successful start to college at Southern Miss requires living on campus, for at least the first year, as a Golden Eagle. You are now a part of the Southern Miss family, and staff and faculty are committed to working with you so that you may be successful students. College can, and should be, an experience that is filled with excitement, learning and challenges. Our hope is that your experience here will be one that will change your life for the better.

Last year, students who lived in the residence halls, sorority houses and fraternity houses academically out-performed students who commuted to campus each day. Living on campus helps Southern Miss students. The residence halls are safe; they contain fire sprinklers and fire alarms that are closely monitored by university staff. The residence halls are secure; exterior doors lock when closed, and front desk assistants (DAs) monitor people entering the halls and help restrict nonresidents. The residence halls are staffed; there are resident assistants (RAs) who help you socially network with other students on your floor and help problem-solve when you encounter a hurdle. The residence halls are also convenient; they are only a short walk from classrooms, labs, libraries, professors’ offices, the Moffitt Health Center, Eagle Dining venues, athletic and intramural playing fields, and the Payne Center. You really are living in the center of all the action! Living on campus provides you an incredible opportunity to develop lifelong friendships, get involved in student organizations and experience all facets of campus living.

The Department of Housing and Residence Life is comprised of staff, services, facilities and activities intended to make the quality of your life as a student the best it can be. More than that, we in the department and in the Division of Student Affairs, are committed to do all we can to ensure that your academic and individual experiences here at Southern Miss exceed your expectations. We will help prepare you to not only learn to make a living, but also learn to make and live a life.

This handbook is provided to you as a resource, and we hope you find the information helpful. Remember that we are here to provide support and assistance. Your RA, the Senior RA in your building, front desk assistants and the Residence Life Coordinator (RLC) are all here to help. We want your campus living experience to be enjoyable, as well as an opportunity for learning. Thanks again for choosing to live on campus at Southern Miss! Good luck with your academic pursuits and life in the halls!

Southern Miss to the Top!
Dr. Scott Blackwell
Director, Department of Housing and Residence Life

MISSION STATEMENT
The Department of Housing and Residence Life is committed to providing a high-quality physical, social and cultural environment that encourages and supports the holistic development of the residential student.

CENTRAL OFFICE
Location: Hickman Hall, First Floor
Phone: 601.266.4783
Fax: 601.266.4891
Email: reslife@usm.edu
Website: usm.edu/housing

MAINTENANCE AND CUSTODIAL SERVICES
Location: Residence Life Housing Maintenance Building
3105 W. 4th Street
Phone: 601.266.5404
LIVING OPTIONS

RESIDENCE HALLS
(See website for details, photos, floor plans and video tours.)

- Century Park North
  - Building 1
  - Building 2
  - Building 3
  - Building 4
- Century Park South
  - Luckyday Citizenship Hall
  - Scott Hall/Moffitt Health Center
  - Vann Hall
- Hattiesburg Hall
- Hillcrest Hall
- Oseola McCarty Hall
- Mississippi Hall
- Scholarship Hall
- The Village
- Wilber Hall

HOUSING FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
If a student needs a reasonable accommodation made to a residence hall space for reason of disability, the information regarding the accommodation should be provided in the online housing application. If you have difficulty accessing any portion of the website or completing the housing application with adaptive technology or because of a disability, please contact Sabrina Johnson in Housing and Residence Life’s central office (Hickman Hall 100) between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday - Friday, at 601.266.4783 or sabrina.l.johnson@usm.edu.

It is also the student’s responsibility to contact the Office for Disability Accommodations (ODA) at 601.266.5024 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday - Friday, about the need for accommodations at the university. The ODA will verify eligibility, and if accommodation for residence hall space is granted, the Department of Housing and Residence Life and the ODA will work together to implement the accommodation.

BREAK HOUSING
The residence halls and sorority and fraternity houses close for mid-year and end-of-year breaks. Students will not be able to access the halls, sorority or fraternity houses during these periods. During mid-year break, students do not have to remove their belongings from their rooms. However, the end-of-year break requires all belongings to be removed from rooms. *Depending on demand and availability, housing may be offered during mid-year and end-of-year breaks on an as-needed basis at no additional cost to residents. End-of-year break housing residents will have to relocate to the designated break housing area.

Note: Residence halls are open during fall and spring breaks.

RESIDENCE HALL FRONT DESK NUMBERS
(From a campus phone, just dial 6 and the four-digit extension. You must include 601.266 if calling from a personal phone.)

Assistant Directors ....................................... 6.4783
Century Park North 1 ................................... 6.1500
Century Park North 2 ................................... 6.1506
Century Park North 3 ................................... 6.1515
Century Park North 4 ................................... 6.1521
Century Park South (Scott Hall) ...................... 6.1435
Century Park South (Vann Hall) ...................... 6.1434
Century Park South (Luckyday Citizenship Hall) ..... 6.1433
Hattiesburg Hall .......................................... 6.5532
Hillcrest Hall ............................................... 6.2033
Oseola McCarty North ................................... 6.1800
Oseola McCarty South ................................... 6.3557
RHA Activity Center ..................................... 6.5608
Scholarship Hall ......................................... 6.3920
The Village ................................................. 6.3920
Wilber Hall ................................................ 6.5538

EMERGENCY NUMBERS
Emergency Calls ............................................... 911
University Police .......................................... 6.4986
University Information ................................... 6.4111
HOUSING AND RESIDENCE LIFE STAFF

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (AD)
Assistant directors are responsible for all staff members and hall functions within their areas. There is a full-time professional assistant director for each area (freshman housing and upper-class housing). Each assistant director may be reached at his/her office between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday - Friday. One professional staff member is available 24 hours per day, seven days a week for emergencies. This staff member may be contacted via the hall staff or UPD.

RESIDENCE LIFE COORDINATOR (RLC)
These live-in, professional staff members oversee our largest buildings. There are two RLCs for Century Park North and two for Century Park South. There is one RLC for Hattiesburg and Mississippi Halls, Hillcrest Hall, Oseola McCarty Hall, The Village and Wilber Hall. One professional staff member is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for emergencies. This staff member may be contacted via the hall staff or UPD.

SENIOR RESIDENT ASSISTANT (SRA)
The senior resident assistant is an experienced resident assistant who resides in the building and assists with front desk administrative procedures and programming.

RESIDENT ASSISTANT (RA)
One of the first individuals you will meet is your resident assistant, the staff person who lives on your floor. They are a valuable resource for questions you may have.

DESK ASSISTANT (DA)
Desk assistants are students who work at the front desks in the lobbies of each hall. These students are responsible for greeting visitors, checking in guests during visitation hours, making announcements, answering the phone, checking IDs and performing general desk duties.

STUDENT ACADEMIC MENTOR (SAM)
Student academic mentors are upper-class students who mentor freshman residents, providing connectivity to campus resources.

STUDENT ACADEMIC TUTOR (SAT)
Student academic tutors are upper-class students who tutor freshman residents, focusing on prerequisite courses to enhance academic success.

DATES TO REMEMBER

FALL 2018

AUGUST 29
Classes begin
Buyout/Appeal request (form available online at noon)
*See housing contract for details.
Room Change request (form available online at noon)

AUGUST 31
Room Change request deadline (form offline at noon)

SEPTEMBER 2
Buyout/Appeal request deadline (form offline at noon)
*See housing contract for details.

SEPTEMBER 3
Labor Day Holiday | Residence halls remain open.

OCTOBER 11-12 (dates subject to change)
Fall Break | Residence halls remain open.

DECEMBER 3-6
Exams

DECEMBER 7
Commencement (9 a.m./3 p.m.)
Deadline to pay fall balance (through Business Services)

DECEMBER 8
Residence halls close at noon for the fall semester. Winter Break housing opens at noon.

SPRING 2019

JANUARY 18
Residence halls open at 8 a.m.

JANUARY 24
Classes begin

MARCH 4-5
Mardi Gras Holiday | Residence halls remain open.

MARCH 11-15
Spring Break | Residence halls remain open.

APRIL 19
Good Friday Holiday | Residence halls remain open.

MAY 6-9
Exams

MAY 10
Commencement (9 a.m./3 p.m.)

MAY 11
Residence halls close at noon for the spring semester.
The university agrees to consider information and requests provided by the student on the application form when assigning living accommodations, but specific hall and roommate requests are based on space availability. The university agrees not to alter or cancel the resident’s assignment except for cases of disciplinary action, catastrophe, closing of facility, maintenance issues, consolidation of vacancies, unavailability of space or unresolved incompatibility of roommates.

*Procedures for assigning beds from a waiting list consist of a review of the following: grade point average, disciplinary record, number of semesters in campus housing and history of removal from housing.

*Room preference is based on date of application, receipt of payment and approved registration status by the registrar; all of these must be done for the application to be complete, and a room will not be assigned until this occurs.

During the fall semester, students are automatically assigned to their same rooms for the spring semester. Students may request a room change online during the designated period. Room changes are not guaranteed and will be granted according to space availability and date of request.

**ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGES**

When damage occurs within a resident’s room or in areas adjacent to it (i.e., windows, doors, suite/study area), it is ultimately the responsibility of the occupant to pay the cost to replace or repair the damaged property. The purpose of the Room Inventory/Condition Form, which residents complete upon hall check-in, is to establish the condition of the room at occupancy so that residents can be assessed fairly if damages occur. It is the responsibility of the student to complete the Room Inventory/Condition Form accurately. If you do not receive a form at the time of check-in, it is your responsibility to obtain one from your RA. Damage charges may be appealed in writing to the associate director. An Appeals Committee will then review your appeal and render a final decision. Any appeals for charges that were incurred more than one year in the past will not be considered.

**Common Area Damages**

Damage to the common areas of a residence hall or common area of suites is the responsibility of the resident and/or resident’s guest who caused the damage to the areas. Common areas include lobbies, study rooms, lounges, student kitchen lounges, hallways, public/non-private bathrooms, elevators, etc. If the responsible party cannot be determined, the university will charge the residents residing in that area for an equal share of the total cost of repair.

**BILLING FOR PRIVATE ROOMS**

A limited number of rooms are designated for private occupancy and are assigned based on date of application and when space is available. Students granted private rooms will be assessed an additional charge. The additional private room charge becomes part of the total room rent and is subject to the university’s refund policy.

**BREACH OF HOUSING CONTRACT**

The resident agrees that breach of the Department of Housing and Residence Life’s housing contract lease agreement exists when it is determined that violation of provisions of the contract and violation of university rules and regulations have occurred. The resident agrees that - subsequent to due process - the university reserves the right to reassign or to remove from the residence halls residents who have exhibited – by their behavior – disregard for the residential community and/or the specific living area, the terms and conditions of the housing contract, or university rules and regulations. The resident understands that breach of the housing contract lease agreement may also result in assessment of liquidation damages, cancellation of current occupancy, and denial of subsequent university housing. Removal from the halls for policy violations is a breach of contract by the resident.

**CANCELLATION OF HOUSING CONTRACT**

The Department of Housing and Residence Life’s housing contract lease agreement is a nine-month contract. Students are required to live in a residence hall for both the fall and spring semesters if the student is enrolled at the university and has signed a housing contract. Exceptions to this policy include those students who are student teaching, participating in cooperative education classes, fulfilling the requirements of their academic program through an internship, graduating or withdrawing. (See your housing contract lease agreement for specific details.) Individuals who wish to file an appeal for the reasons stated above...
need to complete an online appeal form and provide supporting documentation to the Housing and Residence Life central office in Hickman Hall by the advertised deadline. Appeals without supporting documentation will not be considered.

A student must be enrolled in order to reside on campus. If you withdraw from the university during the semester, you must notify the Department of Housing and Residence Life by going online and submitting the Room Cancellation Form. You must check out of the residence hall immediately upon withdrawal from the university. To avoid future charges, each student who is checking out of the residence hall should follow these procedures:

1. Meet with a member of your hall staff and complete a room condition report.
2. Turn in keys to your hall staff, if applicable.

If you change your mind about living on campus between the spring and fall semesters, you will be required to submit an online cancellation form, located on the Housing and Residence Life website, prior to the June 15 cancellation deadline. If you are enrolled in the university, have paid the application fee and have signed a housing contract, you will be held to the terms and conditions of the contract if a cancellation form is not submitted by June 15.

Registered students who leave university housing but remain enrolled at USM during the designated buyout/appeal period are billed the designated buyout fee and provided an opportunity to appeal.

For more information on the buyout/appeal process, visit usm.edu/housing/buyoutappeal-housing-contract.

*Note: The processing fee is nonrefundable and not considered part of the room rate.

*University policy regarding prior balances states that all students must have balances paid by the commencement date each semester, or the following semester’s classes will be cancelled. In order to continue living in the residence halls, students must have prior balances paid and must be enrolled in classes by Move-in Day each semester.

CHECKOUT PROCESS

Residents are notified each semester of checkout dates and times, as well as the proper procedures to follow. Students can go through formal checkout with their RAs. Failure to check out of your residence hall properly and failure to be out of the building by a designated time will result in a charge of $50.

Students checking out during the middle of the semester must check out with a Housing and Residence Life staff member and follow the formal checkout procedures below. All residents, with the exception of graduating seniors, are required to check out of the residence halls within 24 hours of their last exam. Graduating seniors must notify their hall supervisors, in advance, if they wish to stay longer and must move out prior to the official closing of the halls.

The following are the procedures for checking out of the residence halls:

1. Make an appointment with a resident assistant.
2. Move all belongings out of room prior to appointment.
3. Clean your room.
4. Sign the room inventory.
5. Make sure your door is locked when you leave.

CONSOLIDATION PROCEDURE

Housing and Residence Life reserves the right to consolidate vacancies in assigned rooms. If a vacancy occurs in an assigned room, the remaining resident or residents may agree to accept other roommates as assigned, be moved into another room or hall, or pay additional charges based upon lowered occupancy of the room. Consolidation will take place in the fall, spring and summer semesters.

FURNITURE

Each resident is responsible for the loss or damage to furniture and other equipment in his or her room. Since furniture has been inventoried to your room, room furniture may not be transferred from one room to another or exchanged between rooms or suites.

Furniture in the lobbies, student kitchen lounges, study rooms, etc., is not to be moved from those areas under any circumstances. Disciplinary action and a moving charge of no less than $50 will be assessed for any furniture or university property removed from public areas or resident rooms.

Any personal window coverings (draperies) or floor coverings (area rugs) brought into the room must be fireproof and bear a manufacturer’s label signifying that the material will not support flames. Such personal items must not block or obstruct room access or create a nuisance to either roommate.

Due to the nuisance created by insects that may be transported into the residence hall on or inside furniture covered in fabric, residents are discouraged from bringing large furniture items such as sofas and recliners into the residence halls.
LOCKOUT PROCEDURE
Occasionally, students will find themselves locked out of their rooms. The hall staff will provide lockout service to students free for the first three lockouts during an academic year. Any lockout after three times will result in a $10 lockout fee per incident.

OCCUPANCY
Occupancy of an assigned room is limited to residents assigned to a particular room. The room should be used only as living space, and that space will not be loaned or occupied by nonresidents or residents of different rooms.
*All overnight guests should be registered according to the overnight guest procedures. Excessive numbers of requests may be denied.

PROCESSING FEE
A nonrefundable processing fee of $75 (early-bird rate; $150 after the June 15 cancellation deadline) must be paid online via credit card. Money orders are also accepted (fee may not be charged to a student’s account). This fee covers the fall and spring semesters.

ROOM DECORATING
The Department of Housing and Residence Life wants you to feel at home in your room and encourages you to decorate it. In order to help maintain the condition of the rooms, certain rules must be observed when decorating.

Students are reminded that the use of nails, staples or glue on walls is prohibited. 3M poster and/or picture hanging strips should be used to attach posters and pictures to the walls. When vacating the room, remove the poster/picture and leave the strip on the wall for maintenance to remove to avoid possible damage. Permanent adhesives (double-sided masking tape, contact paper, etc.) should not be used. Wall borders of any type are not permitted.

a. You may bring a rug from home.
b. All items brought into the facilities during the year must be removed from the building at checkout.
c. All upholstered furniture brought into the student’s room must meet commercial fire code.
d. All residence hall furniture must remain in the room at all times.

*For safety reasons, bunking and/or lofting beds is prohibited.
*Items must fit in each room properly without being stacked, being a nuisance to the roommate, or creating an environment that becomes a health, safety or fire concern.
*All types of string lights are prohibited in the residence halls.

STORAGE FEES
When a student leaves the university but does not remove personal belongings from his/her room, the items become property of the university and will be disposed of after 30 days. Students claiming items within the 30-day time period will be assessed a $100 storage and packing fee.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE RESIDENCE HALLS
Students leaving the residence halls during the semester are responsible for notifying both the hall staff and the Housing and Residence Life office. Students should contact and make an appointment with their resident assistants prior to leaving the residence halls. Upon checkout, students will receive a signed copy of the room condition report from the hall staff to retain for their files. Students must sign the room condition report when moving from the halls. After moving all belongings from the residence halls, the student must contact a hall staff member to complete the room condition report. Once this is completed, the hall staff will delete the student from the building and forward the deletion to the Housing and Residence Life office. This will complete the cancellation process. Students who leave the residence halls during the semester, and who do not complete both processes, will not be granted refund of rent (if eligible to receive refund) and will be responsible for any damages that may occur in the room.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE UNIVERSITY
If you are withdrawing or being withdrawn from the university, you must vacate your residence hall room within 24 hours unless special permission is granted by authorized Housing and Residence Life personnel. Students must officially withdraw from the residence hall following the “Withdrawal from the Residence Halls” procedures mentioned above. A student will be held liable for room and board charges beyond his/her last date of attendance if he/she does not vacate university housing within 24 hours or does not cease using the institution’s dining facilities.
CHECK-IN/CHECK-OUT PROCEDURE

1. Host must meet his/her guest at the door and escort guest to the desk.
2. At the front desk, the host will record the guest’s name, time and room where the visitor will be.
3. Guest must leave a valid photo ID (government-issued photo ID or Southern Miss ID only) at the desk after being signed in on the register.
4. The guest must remain with the host at all times. At no time is a visitor permitted to remain in the room or hall without the host. The host is responsible for the actions and behavior of his/her guest.
5. When the guest leaves the hall, the host must sign the guest out on the register. At that point, the guest will receive his/ her ID.

*A host must register his or her guest each time he or she has a visitor, regardless of gender, even if the same guest visits more than one time each day.

SAFETY AND SECURITY TIPS

These tips are recommended for your safety and for the protection of your property:

1. Lock your door when you leave your room.
2. Do not leave valuables in plain view.
3. Inventory your property and include serial numbers of all appliances.
4. Mark or engrave personal items with your name or ID number.
5. Report thefts or security problems to your RA immediately and call the University Police Department (UPD) at 601.266.4986.
6. Residents assume all responsibility for their personal property. The university does not assume any legal obligation for any resident’s personal property that may be lost or damaged in its buildings or on its grounds. Students are encouraged to obtain personal property loss insurance.
7. Travel with a companion after dark.
8. Students are encouraged to use the student escort service after dark for on-campus destinations. This service is provided by the UPD every night.
9. Inform your roommate of your whereabouts and expected time of return.
EXPECTATIONS

Every community needs a basic framework within which all members are expected to live cooperatively. The residence hall setting presents a special kind of living situation where students are living in close contact. In this special living situation, it is most important that all residents be informed and respectful of the guidelines that help maintain a harmonious environment.

Residence hall students are expected to follow the “Code of Student Conduct” as explained in the Southern Miss Student Handbook, the Housing and Residence Life Handbook, the Southern Miss Standard, and the Southern Miss Creed. As a member of the residence hall family, you are responsible for becoming aware of and observing all published rules affecting your status with the university.

Violation of residence hall rules and regulations will be processed by the Department of Housing and Residence Life and/or the Office of the Dean of Students. Appropriate sanctions will be imposed up to and including cancellation of the residence hall contract and removal from campus housing without refund of fees.

PRIVACY OF RESIDENTS
All due respect is given to the privacy that residents enjoy in their own rooms. Occasionally, circumstances present themselves that necessitate authorized university personnel to enter a student’s room. Authorized staff have the right of entry into a student’s room for custodial purposes and general maintenance; assessment of damages; inventory of university property; determination of violations of public health and sanitary regulations; compliance with university rules, regulations and policies; and emergencies where imminent danger of life, safety, health or property is reasonably suspected. When possible, advanced notice of need for entry will be given to the student occupants. Only duly authorized law enforcement authorities following appropriate legal procedures are entitled to enter and search residence hall rooms and residents’ belongings. As a general rule, prior notice is given to appropriate university personnel in order for a representative of the university to be present to safeguard the rights of students and the university’s interests.

VIDEO CAMERAS
Video cameras are placed in a number of buildings to offer students a more secure environment. The Department of Housing and Residence Life reserves the right to place cameras in public areas where observation is necessary to enhance community responsibility. These videos are reviewed and maintained by the department. *Covering, tampering or removing of video cameras will not be tolerated.*
Any student who is convicted or has felony charges pending is obligated to disclose this information to the Department of Housing and Residence Life upon completion of a housing application. A committee of Student Affairs professionals will meet to determine whether the student poses a potential threat to others. If it is determined that he/she poses a threat to others or to the community, the student will be denied housing.

The university has determined that convicted sex offenders, whether required to register or not, pose a significant, clear and present danger to residents living in university housing. Therefore, convicted sex offenders are not permitted to live in university housing.

ALLEGuED VIOLATIONS

Any behavior and/or conduct that discriminates against or compromises the health or safety of any student, student staff, resident or roommate is prohibited.

Business Enterprises - Students are not permitted to start or run business enterprises from the residence halls.

Controlled Substances - Misuse of controlled substances, including prescription drugs, is prohibited. The controlled substance must be issued in the name of the resident and stored in their assigned room when the resident is not in immediate possession.

Destruction of Property - Damaging, destroying, defacing or altering the property of the university or the property of another person is prohibited.

Drug Policy - The illegal possession, use, sale or attempt to obtain unlawful drugs is prohibited in or on Housing and Residence Life property.

Drug Paraphernalia - The possession of drug paraphernalia (including, but not limited to, bongs, grinders, pipes, vaporizers, rolling papers, spice, etc.) is not permitted in the residence halls.

Failure to Comply - Failure to comply with the directives from the professional housing administrators and the residence hall student staff and failing to identify oneself when requested to do so will not be tolerated.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Alcohol (over 21) - Sale, consumption and possession of any alcoholic beverages/containers is prohibited in the residence halls, and it is illegal for those of legal age to provide alcohol to a minor (anyone under 21).

Alcohol (under 21) - Residents under 21 are not permitted to possess, consume, be in the presence of, or possess any alcohol containers in the residence halls.

Behavior and Conduct - Any behavior and/or conduct that discriminates against or compromises the health or safety of any student, student staff, resident or roommate is prohibited.

Business Enterprises - Students are not permitted to start or run business enterprises from the residence halls.

Controlled Substances - Misuse of controlled substances, including prescription drugs, is prohibited. The controlled substance must be issued in the name of the resident and stored in their assigned room when the resident is not in immediate possession.

Destruction of Property - Damaging, destroying, defacing or altering the property of the university or the property of another person is prohibited.

Drug Policy - The illegal possession, use, sale or attempt to obtain unlawful drugs is prohibited in or on Housing and Residence Life property.

Drug Paraphernalia - The possession of drug paraphernalia (including, but not limited to, bongs, grinders, pipes, vaporizers, rolling papers, spice, etc.) is not permitted in the residence halls.

Failure to Comply - Failure to comply with the directives from the professional housing administrators and the residence hall student staff and failing to identify oneself when requested to do so will not be tolerated.
Firearms - It is against university policy for residents to possess ammunition, firearms (including, but not limited to, any type of pistols, revolvers, automatics, shotguns, etc.), and all types of air or gas-operated guns (including, but not limited to, paintball guns, airsoft guns and any object perceived to be a gun).

Fire Safety - Smoking, candles, incense, air conditioners, space heaters, combustible materials, cooking appliances, extension cords, Halogen lamps, all types of string lights and any additional items listed in the handbook, other than a single-cup coffee maker with automatic shut-off function, are not permitted in the residence halls.

Fire and Safety Equipment - The city fire code prohibits anyone from tampering with fire and safety equipment and remaining in the residence hall during a fire alarm. Tampering includes pulling fire alarms, discharging fire extinguishers, removing exit signs, hanging items from the sprinkler heads, interfering with smoke detectors and failing to evacuate during a fire alarm.

Harassment, Bullying, and Threatening or Aggressive Behavior - Harassment and/or bullying – whether physical, verbal or electronic – that interferes with an individual’s work; academic performance; or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work or learning environment will not be tolerated.

Health and Safety Policy - Students are expected to refrain from creating fire, health and/or safety hazards in their rooms.

Identification (misuse) - Unauthorized transferring, lending, using or altering a university identification card or any other instrument of identification will not be tolerated.

Infliction or Threat of Bodily Harm - Acts that cause, or could cause, physical harm to any person or to oneself are prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, fighting, verbal altercations and engaging in other acts of physical or verbal violence.

Noise Policy - Causing excessive noise and/or disruptive behavior at any time of the day or night will not be tolerated.

Obstruction - Residents must comply with the guideline that all corridors, lobbies, lounges and walkways – in and around the halls – be free from obstructions at all times.

Overnight Guests - Students are responsible for the actions of their guests and are not permitted to have non-approved overnight guests.

Pet Policy - Pets are defined as any animal except harmless aquatic life (fish). Dogs, cats, hamsters, mice, snakes, birds or any other animals are not permitted in the residence halls or sorority and fraternity houses. Properly registered service animals and emotional support animals are allowed. *See page 18 for more information.

Restricted Areas and Windows/Balconies/Roof - Students are not permitted to enter areas not designated as a public space. Opening windows, accessing the roof or balcony via the window, and being on any balcony or roof is prohibited.

Smoking - Smoking is prohibited inside and outside the residence halls; this includes the use of cigarettes, e-cigarette devices, hookah, e-hookahs, spice, vaporizers and any other item that produces smoke or vapors.

Southern Miss Standard - See Southern Miss Standard section in handbook.

Theft and Possession of Stolen Property - Being involved in the act of stealing and/or being found in possession of property determined to be stolen is prohibited.

Vandalism - Vandalism or malicious damage to student rooms and/or public residence hall areas and elevators will not be tolerated.

Visitation Policy - Residents are responsible for their guests and must accompany them at all times. Guests are not permitted to be in the residence halls outside of visitation hours.

Weapons - Weapons are prohibited in the residence halls. A weapon is any device that is designed or traditionally used to inflict harm (including, but not limited to, guns, switchblade knives, swords, hatchets and hunting knives with blades over three inches).
DUE PROCESS
A student who is alleged to be in violation of Housing and Residence Life policies is entitled to certain procedural guarantees to ensure a fair hearing of evidence. These guarantees are as follows:

The student will be provided with a notification letter of alleged violations and the scheduled hearing date. This letter will be delivered via email to the student’s university email account, as this is the university’s designated means of communication. (Please see the Student Handbook for more details regarding the activation and use of your email account.)

The University of Southern Mississippi’s Housing and Residence Life Conduct Process states that the notification letter will be sent within five business days of the incident resulting in documentation. This notice will provide details sufficient for the student to prepare a case for the hearing. A student will be given a copy of the incident report, upon request, at the time of the conduct hearing. Should the student fail to respond, hearings will proceed in absentia.

1. A hearing will be held to determine a student’s responsibility for an alleged policy violation.
2. Although a student may choose to remain silent during a hearing, he/she may refute or question any evidence presented and produce witnesses or written documentation submitted on his/her behalf.
3. To assist the student at a Student Conduct Board hearing, the student may choose an advisor to attend the hearing as well. The role of advisor is limited to assistance only. The advisor cannot question witnesses or speak on behalf of the student.
4. At a Student Conduct Board hearing, the student may challenge the objectivity of any board member, giving reasonable cause to believe the member may be biased or have a conflict of interest regarding that officer’s objectivity. The hearing board adviser will make the final ruling on any such challenge.
5. The outcome of the hearing will be determined solely on the evidence presented during the hearing. A finding of responsibility is decided on the existence of substantive evidence to support the charge.
6. After a hearing, a student may appeal the decision and/or sanctions within two business days from the date on the decision letter, provided there are appropriate grounds. Students are limited to one appeal for each hearing process. Please review the appeals section for more information regarding the appeal process.

EDUCATIONAL SANCTIONS
The Student Conduct Board and Housing and Residence Life administrators have jurisdiction over any residence hall, policy violation, and/or individuals who allegedly violate said policies. Housing and Residence Life staff reserve the right to consult with any other university official when necessary. Violations of residence hall policies and standards will be addressed through educational sanctions that will be determined by

1. Assessment of the seriousness of the violation;
2. Consideration of any mitigating circumstances within the case;
3. The student’s previous conduct record;
4. Consideration of previous incidents bearing similarities in violation infractions;
5. Directing an educational sanction with substantial impact to help the student understand the policy and prevent additional future violations; and
6. Imposing educational sanctions or taking actions aimed at preserving the community while considering the victim’s rights.
The educational sanctions listed below will range in severity without specificity to the violation but to the individual student and case. This list is not inclusive of all possible sanctions:

• Official written warning
• Administrative relocation
• Residence hall probation
• Removal from residence hall system, which may be temporary, permanent, and/or immediate and may be done for a serious first-offense violation
• Loss of residence hall visitation privileges
• Reimbursement for damages

Furthermore, because residence hall students have a contractual relationship with the Department of Housing and Residence Life, those who damage the halls may be financially responsible for repairs and replacement costs. This contractual agreement may not threaten or interfere with a student’s academic standing, although a recommendation may be made to the Office of the Dean of Students. *Please note that any student removed from the residence hall after a conduct process is still subject to the terms and conditions of the housing contract and may be financially responsible for payment to Housing and Residence Life and the university.

**ROUTES OF PROCESS**

When a student poses a clear emergency or danger to himself/herself or others, the director of Housing and Residence Life or designee may take immediate action to suspend the student from the residence halls. This can include temporary removal from the residence halls until a hearing takes place. In this event, the hearing will occur while the temporary removal is in place. When a student is accused of violating a Housing and Residence Life policy, he/she will have a conduct conference with a Housing and Residence Life staff member or the Student Conduct Board to discuss the student’s rights and his/her right to enter a plea and choose a conduct hearing option in response to the alleged violations. If the offense is deemed a serious violation, an administrative option will be mandated and will include referral to the Office of the Dean of Students. Failure to respond to conduct notification will result in a hearing held in the student’s absence.

**STATEMENT OF RIGHTS**

The accused student must have the opportunity to appear in person at the designated hearing. The accused student and the accuser are entitled to present their cases to the Student Conduct Board/administrative officer and to call witnesses on their behalf.

All hearings in connection with residence hall incidents will be closed, with the exception of the accused student, appropriate witnesses, the accused student’s adviser, members of the Student Conduct Board, the board adviser, and/or any other necessary university official. The accused student is entitled to an explanation of the outcome of the hearing.

Each case will be heard at the originally assigned time unless the accused student notifies the Student Conduct Board adviser or administrative officer of a change in schedule or delay within a minimum of 24 hours (one business day) prior to the scheduled hearing. Hearings will only be rescheduled for academic conflicts and personal emergencies that can be verified with documentation.
CAMPING AND GRILLING
Due to safety concerns for students in our residential facilities, camping and grilling is not permitted on campus. We encourage our students to reside inside the facilities where safety provisions, such as access, hall staff and visitor check-in, are provided.

CUSTODIAL CARE PROCEDURES
1. In the event that a student requires transportation to a hospital, medical center, treatment center or correctional facility because he/she is a potential harm to self or others, Housing and Residence Life staff may contact UPD or AAA Ambulance for the purpose of transporting the student.
   *Housing and Residence Life is not financially responsible for transportation and treatment received.
2. In the event that a student is transported – whether voluntarily or involuntarily – to a hospital, medical center, treatment center or correctional center because he/she is a potential harm to others, the following will be required for the student to be re-admitted to his/her residence hall:
   a. Provide a release form signed by the attending authority indicating the student is released from care and no longer a threat to others.
   b. Provide a copy of the release given to the attending authority indicating they have permission to release information regarding the student’s status to Housing and Residence Life or Southern Miss Counseling Center professional staff. Prior to the potential re-admittance to the hall of any student, Housing and Residence Life must receive verbal approval from a Southern Miss counselor on call.
   c. Housing and Residence Life reserves the right to deny residence hall re-admission to a student based on issues such as timing of the request, possible negative impact of re-admittance upon the living-learning environment, information provided through the attending authority’s release, and the continued potential of harm to others.
3. Occasionally, a student transported to a hospital, medical center, treatment center or correctional facility may not be allowed to return to the residence hall until a hearing can be conducted. The student will be responsible for his/her own arrangements for off-campus accommodations and transportation, financial and otherwise. Staff cannot assume responsibility for a student who declines medical treatment.
4. If a student is admitted to a hospital, medical center, treatment center or correctional facility as a result of potential harm to others, an attempt will be made to contact a parent or legal guardian to make him/her aware of the situation, the re-admittance policy, and to release the student to that person’s care.

DANCES/OTHER EVENTS
Any event that involves excessive noise cannot be held in the residence halls unless by special permission. With prior approval, such events, as dances, can be held on Friday and Saturday nights until midnight. All activities must be approved in advance by the hall supervisor and the assistant director. An activities form requiring an assistant director’s signature must be completed and submitted to the Office of Leadership and Student Involvement (located in The Hub) a minimum of seven days in advance of the event.

ELEVATORS
Tampering with, vandalizing, “surfing,” propping or misusing the elevator is strictly prohibited. Students found to be in violation will be removed from campus housing through administrative mandate.

FIRE AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT
The city fire code prohibits anyone from tampering with fire and safety equipment in the residence halls or in any campus building. Tampering includes pulling fire alarms, discharging fire extinguishers, removing exit signs, hanging items from sprinkler heads and interfering with smoke detectors. Never hang or affix any item to sprinkler heads or smoke detectors. Interference with the operation of a smoke detector is prohibited. Students found responsible will be liable for damages. All violators are subject to disciplinary action and possible criminal prosecution. The civil penalty for malicious use of fire and safety equipment is a $500 fine and/or 90 days in jail.

Air Conditioners/Space Heaters - Individual air conditioners and/or heaters are not permitted in the residence halls at any time. Due to fire hazards, items present of this type will be confiscated if they are found in the halls. Although all the halls are air-conditioned, residents may wish to bring small fans for use in their rooms.

Combustible Materials - Due to the threat of fire, combustible decorative materials such as dry vegetation, natural Christmas trees, excessive trash and similar materials are not permitted in the residence halls. The storing of flammable liquids or materials of any kind or classification is prohibited.
Cooking and Appliances - Due to the nature of residence hall living, the physical facilities of the halls and the concerns for fire and safety standards, only microwave cooking is permitted in student rooms. A MicroFridge® (microwave, refrigerator/freezer combination) or a compact refrigerator/freezer are provided in every room by the Department of Housing and Residence Life. Cooking appliances, such as toasters and hot plates, are not allowed in student rooms. George Foreman® grills or similar products also are not permitted. Single-cup coffee makers with automatic shut-off functions, such as the Keurig®, are permitted in rooms. *Microwaves should be used in accordance with general usage practices. At no time should metal of any type be placed in a microwave.

Electrical Requirements - No extension cords of any kind (single or multi-plug) should be used. A power strip with a built-in circuit breaker should be used if more receptacles are needed. All appliances must be UL-approved.

Halogen Lamps - Due to high operating temperatures that could result in a potential fire, halogen lamps are prohibited in the residence halls.

Incense/Candles - Incense, candles and heated potpourri pots are not permitted in the residence halls. Burning substances in any form creates a fire hazard. This includes the use of candle warmers.

FIREARMS AND OTHER WEAPONS

IHL Firearms Policy
The board recognizes that the possession of pistols, firearms or any weapons on any of its institutional premises, institutions or off-campus student functions by persons other than the duly authorized law enforcement officials, institutional security officials, authorized persons and institutional approved programs creates an unreasonable and unwarranted risk of injury or death to its institutions’ employees, students, visitors and guests and further creates an unreasonable and unwarranted risk of damage to properties of the institutions, employees, students, visitors, guests and others. Because of such dangers, the board hereby prohibits the possession of pistols, firearms or other weapons, in any form, by any person other than duly authorized law enforcement officials, institutional security officials and other authorized persons. “Authorized persons” include those individuals authorized by applicable law and by the institutional executive officer or his/her designee. Authorized persons also include those who have in their possession a valid, unexpired state firearms permit with the “Instructor Certified” (IC) sticker on the front/back or the equivalent permit issued by a state with a reciprocity agreement with Mississippi. Even so, those possessing such permits are not permitted to possess firearms in any institutional facilities and/or areas that are deemed non-public. Students and employees are not authorized to possess firearms on institutional properties or at institutional off-campus events regardless of possession of firearm permits.

University Policy
It is against university policy for residents to possess firearms, ammunition, fireworks, knives, explosive devices, tasers, hunting equipment, crossbows, bows and arrows, or any such item that can be used as a weapon in a residence hall. Violators will be subject to immediate removal from campus housing, in addition to disciplinary action and possible criminal prosecution. High-powered water guns, BB guns, paintball guns and airsoft pellet guns are not to be used in or near the residence halls.

DEFINITIONS

Firearm - Any device that shoots a bullet, pellet, flare, tranquilizer, spear dart, paintball or other projectile – whether loaded or unloaded – including those powered by CO₂, is considered a firearm. This includes, but is not limited to, guns, air guns, dart guns, pistols, revolvers, rifles, cannons, etc., and any ammunition for any such device.

Weapon - A weapon is any device that is designed or traditionally used to inflict harm. This includes, but is not limited to, firearms, slingshots, switchblades, daggers, blackjacks, brass knuckles, bows and arrows, hand grenades, hunting knives, hatchets, nun chucks, and throwing stars, as well as any object that could be reasonably construed as a weapon.

Explosives - Explosives are chemical compounds or mechanical mixtures that contain oxidizing, combustible units or other ingredients – in such proportion, quantities or packing – that an ignition by fire, friction, concussion, percussion or detonator or any part of the compound, mixture or gaseous pressures are capable of producing destructive efforts on contiguous objects or of destroying life or limb. This includes, but is not limited to, firecrackers, black powder and dynamite, as well as detonating devices such as detonators, blasting caps, timers, incendiary wire and the like.

HEALTH AND SAFETY
Personal safety and residence hall security are top priorities of The University of Southern Mississippi. Students, staff and the University Police Department (campus security officers patrol the residence hall areas on a 24-hour basis) have worked together to develop procedures that have greatly increased security in
the residence halls. Students must share in the responsibility to ensure security and maintain control of each hall.

Housing and Residence Life expects students to respect the security of the buildings, be knowledgeable of safety policies and procedures, and refrain from creating fire or other safety hazards. Students have the responsibility to maintain residence hall rooms in a manner that will not create an adverse living environment for themselves, roommates and other students within the building.

The residence hall staff will, as it deems necessary, set a specific time to conduct a periodic room inspection for any health or safety hazards. Health and safety inspections are conducted at least once a semester. Should you fail your room inspection, you will be given a time frame in which to clean your room. Another inspection will then take place, and a fine and possible disciplinary action will be issued if you fail the inspection.

The following safety regulations and guidelines should be followed:
1. Door propping is strictly forbidden. Those found propping doors will be assessed a $50 charge and will be subject to further disciplinary action.
2. Only those authorized with proper identification are allowed to enter the residence halls.
3. Visitors must check in with residence hall staff or the hall security officer, sign the visitor log, and present a picture ID.
4. Violations of hall security procedures will result in disciplinary sanctions and/or criminal prosecution.

LOITERING OUTSIDE THE HALLS
Loitering on the steps in front of a building or in areas that make it difficult for residents and visitors to gain access to the building will not be permitted. If noise from outside gatherings can be heard from inside and causes a disturbance in the hall, the University Police Department will be contacted to disperse the loiterers, and disciplinary action may take place.

MISSING PERSON PROCEDURES
If a member of the university community has reason to believe that a student who resides in campus housing is missing, he or she should immediately notify the University Police Department (UPD) at 601.266.4986. UPD will generate a missing person report and initiate an investigation.

After investigating the missing person report, UPD will notify the student’s emergency contact or confidentially identified individual immediately after the student is determined to be missing. If the missing student is under the age of 18 and is not an emancipated individual, UPD will notify the student’s parents or legal guardian. UPD will also immediately inform local and surrounding law enforcement agencies.

In addition to registering an emergency contact, students residing in campus housing have the option to identify, confidentially, an individual to be contacted by Southern Miss in the event the student is determined missing. Students who wish to identify a confidential contact may do so by completing the Missing Person Contact Information on the Resident Student Data Card, which is available at the residence hall’s front desk. This confidential contact information will be accessible only to authorized campus officials and law enforcement officers; it will not be disclosed outside of a missing person investigation.

OBLIGATION OF CORRIDORS, LOBBIES, LOUNGES AND WALKWAYS
In support of state and university fire safety evacuation codes and out of respect for students with disabilities, it is essential that residents comply with the guideline that all corridors, lounges and walkways, in and around the halls, must be free from obstructions at all times. All personal belongings, such as bicycles, skateboards, athletic equipment and ironing boards, must never be left to obstruct the flow of traffic. All obstructions will be removed by Housing and Residence Life staff and will be discarded. Sleeping is not permitted in the corridors, lounges and walkways.

OVERNIGHT GUESTS
On occasion, residents are permitted to have guests of the same sex stay overnight in their rooms if the guest is registered with the hall supervisor at least 24 hours (USM student) or 48 hours (off-campus guest) prior to the guest’s overnight stay. *Approval is contingent upon agreement by the roommate and may or may not be given. Guests are to stay no longer than two nights, and only one guest is permitted per room per night. Students with non-registered guests will be subject to disciplinary action and assessed a per night charge of $20. A resident should receive his/her roommate’s permission prior to permitting a guest to use the roommate’s bed. Residents who host guests are responsible for the actions of their guests. Overnight guests are not permitted the week of finals. Sleeping is not permitted in the lounges or lobbies.

OVERNIGHT GUESTS - MINORS
A resident’s same sex sibling (at least 14 years of age) may be permitted to stay overnight in the resident’s room on Friday and Saturday nights ONLY. *Special permission from the assistant director must be obtained for weeknights. Proper documentation, including the Permission Form for Minors in the Residence Halls, must be completed by the parent/legal guardian and faxed/
and/or sending, making or delivering a threatening message are Acts of aggression such as, but not limited to, assault; fighting; Acts of Aggression consideration of suspension from the university.
halls may be referred to the Office of the Dean of Students for residence hall. Students involved in violent acts in the residence facility and will be financially responsible for transportation psychiatric help will be referred to the appropriate treatment Individuals who are deemed to be in need of medical or removal from residence hall, arrest, and/or required counseling. Potentially harmful by others. This may include, but is not limited to, POTENTIAL HARM TO OTHERS

The Department of Housing and Residence Life maintains the right to take any action necessary to protect students from potential harm by others. This may include, but is not limited to, removal from residence hall, arrest, and/or required counseling. Individuals who are deemed to be in need of medical or psychiatric help will be referred to the appropriate treatment facility and will be financially responsible for transportation and treatment received. Acts of violence, such as fighting, may result in the immediate removal of all involved residents from the residence hall. Students involved in violent acts in the residence halls may be referred to the Office of the Dean of Students for consideration of suspension from the university.

Acts of Aggression
Acts of aggression such as, but not limited to, assault; fighting; and/or sending, making or delivering a threatening message are prohibited. A student found responsible for any of these actions may be immediately removed from the residence hall in order to safeguard others. The Department of Housing and Residence Life reserves the right to forward these cases to the Office of the Dean of Students for further action.

Disruptions to the Living Environment
The Department of Housing and Residence Life will take swift action to ensure the residence halls are conducive to a quality living-learning environment for all. When a student is identified as exhibiting behavior that disrupts the community, the student may be temporarily removed from the residence hall. These behaviors include, but are not limited to, endangerment, obscene or indecent behavior, physical violence, stalking or threatening behavior, or verbal or written abuse directed at another community member. Incidents of this nature may be forwarded to the Office of the Dean of Students for further action.

SIGNAGE PROCEDURES
All signage intended to be displayed in a residence hall by registered student organizations must be approved by the Residence Hall Association prior to posting. The signage policy and request form are available at usm.edu/housing/residence-hall-association or in the RHA Center, which is located in the basement of Mississippi Hall. Signage from departments other than Housing and Residence Life or from off-campus organizations should be submitted for approval to the Department of Housing and Residence Life’s central office located in Hickman Hall.

No signage, posters, banners or flyers may be placed, taped, glued or hung on the exterior of any residence hall building. No signage, posters, banners or flyers may be placed in/on trees or bushes within view of residence hall buildings. No signage may be placed on fences or gates adjacent to residence hall or sorority house facilities. Inside the residence halls, the use of nails, staples, glue or double-sided tape is not allowed. Never hang or affix any item to the sprinkler heads or smoke detectors.

SMOKING
Smoking on campus (i.e., e-cigs, vapors, etc.) is prohibited. Effective January 1, 2018, the university implemented a Tobacco-Free Vapor-Free Policy. For more information about The University of Southern Mississippi’s Tobacco-Free Vapor-Free Policy, visit usm.edu/student-health-services/tobacco-free-usm.

Residents will face removal from the residence hall following a third violation of the tobacco-free policy inside a campus housing facility. *Students may be cited by campus law enforcement for violating the Tobacco-Free Vapor-Free Policy.
SOLICITATION
Solicitation is not permitted in the residence halls. Exceptions to the policy must be cleared with the director of Housing and Residence Life and the director of the Union and Programs department. Solicitation includes any activities performed for the purpose of selling and promoting a product or service—such as door-to-door knocking, campaigning for SGA or other political offices— or the distribution of pamphlets and flyers.

If you see anyone soliciting in the halls, tell your RA or hall supervisor immediately. Individuals wishing to have fundraisers or to sell items on campus must obtain prior permission from the Union and Programs department. This applies to all student groups as well.

SPORTS ACTIVITIES/EQUIPMENT/GAMES
Sports, rough-housing and water fights are not allowed in the residence halls because of possible damage and/or personal injury to members of the community and facility. Flying drones; riding hover boards or bicycles; roller blading or roller skating; skateboarding; and throwing Frisbees, darts or balls are not permitted in any residence hall.

STUDY/QUIET HOURS
All persons who are present in the residence halls between the hours of 11 p.m. and 8 a.m. will be expected to observe quiet hours. Reasonable quiet is expected at all times and is strictly enforced. It is your right, as well as your responsibility, to let offenders know if their activities are in violation of quiet hours. Stereos, radios, TVs and all conversations must be kept at levels that will not interfere with the study or sleep of other students. The playing of musical instruments is prohibited in the residence halls. The use of stereos, radios and other amplifiable equipment is a privilege. This privilege may be revoked when the equipment is used in such a way to interfere with maintenance of quiet and courtesy hours. Individuals who repeatedly violate the quiet hour policy may be asked to leave the hall.

QUIET HOURS
11 p.m. to 8 a.m., seven days per week
COURTESY HOURS
24 hours a day, seven days per week
FINAL EXAM WEEK QUIET HOURS
24 hours a day, seven days per week
*Students will be immediately removed from campus housing after second warning.

VANDALISM
Any resident responsible for vandalism or malicious damage to student rooms and/or public residence hall areas will be assessed a fee of $250 plus the labor and material costs to repair the damage. In addition, formal discipline procedures will be enforced for that resident.

VISITATION
A visitor is defined as any person who does not reside in the building. The maximum time any residence hall may have visitation is within the hours of 10 a.m. to midnight, Sunday - Thursday, and 10 a.m. to 1 a.m. on Friday and Saturday. Freshman halls will not be allowed visitation until the first day of classes. Residents are responsible for the actions of their guests and must be considerate of other residents. Residents may only check in two guests at a time. All guests, regardless of gender, must be registered at the front desk and be escorted by the resident at all times. Guests must be 16 years of age or older, unless escorted by a parent or guardian. Residents must escort their guests the entire time they are checked in. *See Overnight Guests.

WINDOWS/Balconies/ROOF/RESTRICTED AREAS
Throwing any objects, including trash, from the windows or balconies is hazardous and demonstrates a lack of respect for the university community. Please put all refuse in appropriate areas and receptacles. Disciplinary action will be taken against violators of this policy.

Windows in the residence hall rooms should remain closed at all times, and screens should remain in place to ensure safety of our residents and proper functioning of the ventilation systems.

Students are not permitted to enter or exit the building through their windows and should never be on a balcony, roof or overhang. Access to roofs is restricted to authorized personnel only. Sunbathing and other activities on the roof or porch overhangs are strictly prohibited. Violators will be subject to disciplinary action.

In all buildings, there are areas such as basements, attics, mechanical rooms, custodial areas, breaker rooms, etc., that – for safety reasons – are not accessible to students. Accessing these areas will result in disciplinary action.
BICYCLE RACKS
Racks where bicycles may be locked are provided adjacent to each residence hall and near many sorority houses. Bicycles should not be kept in corridors, stairwells, entryways, porches, on sidewalks, or tied to benches or trees. Improperly parked bikes will be removed by university personnel. Be sure to register your bike or motorcycle with the Department of Parking Management. All abandoned bikes left at the end of each semester will be removed by UPD.

CAMPUS MAILBOX
All residence hall students are required to have a Southern Miss post office box on the ground level of the Thad Cochran Center. Students must visit the Post Office in order to receive their P.O. Box numbers.

CARD ACCESS SYSTEM
Each residence hall is equipped with a card access reader. Your student ID card will give you access to your residence hall but will not allow access to any other halls. Each student ID card is personalized to the respective student. Each time a card is used for an attempted entry, the student’s name, hall, time and date will be registered on a computer printout. Each student is responsible for his/her own ID card. In the case of a lost card, the student should notify the hall staff as quickly as possible. *Allowing another individual access to your student ID for entry into your room or building is a misuse of access and will result in disciplinary action.

CENTURY PARK NORTH LEARNING CENTER
Residents wishing to reserve space in the Century Park North Learning Center should send an email request to reslife@usm.edu including the following:
1. Name of the student group and if it is an approved student organization on campus
2. Name of person responsible for the room (the person signing the form and responsible for any damages)

For more information, please contact the Housing and Residence Life central office at 601.266.4783.

HOUSEKEEPING
In traditional residence halls (Wilber), housekeeping staff clean all public areas daily – bathrooms, corridors, study rooms, lounges and lobbies. In the suite-style residence halls (Century Park North/South, Hattiesburg, Hillcrest, McCarty, Mississippi and The Village), housekeeping staff clean corridors, study rooms, lounges and lobbies daily. Residents are responsible for the cleanliness of their own rooms and the common areas in the suites. Residents of suite-style buildings are also responsible for providing their own shower curtains and toilet paper. *Rooms and bathrooms must be left clean upon termination of occupancy; failure to do so will result in a cleaning charge.

LAUNDRY FACILITIES
Washers and dryers are located throughout Century Park North and South and in Hickman, Hillcrest and McCarty halls, as well as The Village and Fraternity Housing. A central laundromat is located behind Wilber Hall. Residents of campus housing are able to use the laundry facilities free of charge. Access to the facilities is obtained by using your access card. Laundry services are to be used by residents of campus housing only.

LOST ARTICLES
Items found on campus should be turned in to the University Police Department where owners can claim them. Notice of any lost items should be filed there. Items found in the residence halls should be turned in to the hall staff. To claim any lost items, it is important that you have all your possessions identified with either your student ID number or serial numbers.

MAINTENANCE REQUESTS
Each student is able to enter his/her own maintenance request online from this link: usm.edu/housing/maintenance-request-residence-halls. (If you have difficulty entering your work order, hall staff will be able to assist you.) Students who enter their own requests will receive an email response to let them know when their requests have been completed. When maintenance staff arrives to complete a work request, the area/room should be completely clear. Furniture should be moved, clothes picked up from the floor, and all personal belongings arranged in a manner that allows the worker access to the work area. If the worker arrives and the student’s room is not in the condition to accomplish the job, the work order will not be completed. The maintenance staff will return the...
next day to complete the work order. If the room is still not in a workable condition, the work order will be closed, and the student will need to resubmit the request. Work orders received after midnight will be scheduled for the next day, unless an emergency exists. *Contact the RA on duty if there is a maintenance emergency after hours.

MEAL PLAN
All students who live in the residence halls are required by the university to purchase an Eagle Dining meal plan. All residence hall students are automatically assigned a seven-day meal plan; however, students may change to a different plan. For further information concerning the meal plan, please contact Eagle Dining at 601.266.5376 or visit their website at usm.campusdish.com/en/MealPlans/Category?cat=Students_Required_to_Buy_7197&lid=7197.

MOTORIZED VEHICLES
Motorized vehicles (i.e., motorcycles, golf carts) are not permitted inside the gated communities and are subject to removal if parked within.

PEST CONTROL
Pest control service is provided on a regular basis for all the residence halls. If you are experiencing a problem with insects that requires additional attention, complete a maintenance request form online.

PHONE SERVICE
Students wishing to have a room phone must visit iTech to request phone service. (Phone service fee is included in the residence hall rates.) Phones will be located on each floor for emergencies/911 access. *NOTE: It is against the law to make false 911 calls. Students who make false 911 calls will be penalized according to the university and state of Mississippi policy on the abuse and misuse of phone services.

UNIVERSITY EMAIL
All students at the university are automatically assigned an official university email address. It is the obligation of each student to activate his or her email account, to check routinely for new messages, and to keep it in good working condition.

The university and the Department of Housing and Residence Life will use this email account to send official communication to students, such as reassignment details, housing assignments, important dates and reminders, as well as information regarding rooms (i.e., maintenance).

For more information about your university email account, contact iTech at 601.266.4357 or at helpdesk@usm.edu.

VENDING SERVICES
Throughout the campus, you will find conveniently located snack and beverage machines. Refunds for losses in all snack and drink machines are handled by University Vending, located in the Thad Cochran Center. If you lose money in a machine, do not repeat the selection. Proceed to the Post Office in the Thad Cochran Center within 24 hours (except weekends and holidays), and your loss will be refunded. Promptly report any malfunctions, vandalism or problems to 601.266.4004. Please be aware that Section 491 - Title 18 – United States Code makes the use of slugs or foreign coins in coin-operated machines a federal offense punishable by a fine of no more than $1,000 or imprisonment of no more than a year, or both.
PROBLEM-SOLVING AT A GLANCE

Knowing who to contact in certain situations is not always so clear. This quick reference guide should provide some help. We encourage you to contact your resident assistant before calling or going to an office. Your resident assistant is your primary source for information and usually can help save you a great deal of time and effort. If your resident assistant is not available, contact your hall supervisor, residence life coordinator or assistant director.

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One of the most rewarding aspects of living on campus is the opportunity to establish close friendships with people from a variety of backgrounds. Whether your roommate is a close friend from home or you are meeting for the first time, your roommate relationship can work and even be fun. Most people enjoy the company of others, and your roommate can be someone to share ideas, interests and good times.

For many, sharing a room is a new experience and can sometimes result in a few misunderstandings. It is important to realize that not only do you have a roommate, but also you are a roommate. Getting along usually requires work, but the benefit of establishing friendships makes the work worthwhile. Even if a lifelong friendship is not established, learning to respect each other’s differences without infringing on one another’s freedom can be a valuable part of your education. Southern Miss also provides a service called Roommate Connection. Please check out the department website for more information.

**ROOMMATE BILL OF RIGHTS**

As a residence hall community member, these are the rights you can expect and the rights you have a responsibility to maintain:

- The right to read and study free from undue interference in one’s room (Unreasonable noise and other distractions inhibit the exercise of this right.)
- The right to sleep without undue disturbance from noise, guest of roommate, etc.
- The right to expect that a roommate will respect one’s personal belongings
- The right to a clean environment in which to live
- The right to free access to one’s room without pressure from a roommate
- The right to personal privacy
- The right to host a guest with the expectation that guests are to respect the rights of the host’s roommate(s), other hall residents and the visitation policy
- The right to address grievances (Staff members are available for assistance in solving conflicts.)
- The right to be free from fear of intimidation, physical and/or emotional harm, and racial or sexual harassment

**HELPFUL HINTS TO MAKE IT WORK**

1. **COMMUNICATE**
   The key to a successful relationship with your roommate is communication. Sit down and talk about habits, preferences, moods and values. Even if your roommate is your “best friend,” you will be surprised to find out some things you did not know about him/her. If something is bothering you, the sooner you talk about it, the sooner it can be resolved.

2. **BE UNDERSTANDING**
   Everyone has those days when everything seems to go wrong and bad moods are a result. Try to be understanding and helpful through the tough times. Making it through the rough days builds stronger friendships.

3. **ESTABLISH “HOUSE” RULES**
   To avoid misunderstandings, it’s important to establish ground rules regarding each other’s belongings, room cleaning (there is a wide spectrum between “neat freak” and “total slob”), phone use and visitation. Complete a roommate contract at the beginning of the year to assist with establishing boundaries. If you each know where the other stands on these matters, then everything will work smoothly.

4. **GIVE EACH OTHER SOME SPACE**
   Togetherness is great, but you can have too much of a good thing. Consider your roommate’s need for time alone and establish your own quiet time also.

5. **BE OPEN-MINDED**
   If you do not have a particular roommate in mind, you need to keep an open mind toward having a roommate who may be different from you.
The Southern Miss Standard was developed to embody the values we hope residents possess. At the same time, the university is strongly committed to freedom of expression. Consequently, these principles do not constitute university policy and are not intended to interfere in any way with a resident's personal freedoms. We hope, however, that residents will voluntarily endorse these common principles, thereby contributing to the traditions and scholarly heritage left by those who preceded them, and will thus leave Southern Miss a better place for those who follow. We encourage residents to demonstrate respect, integrity and compassion in every facet of their university life, thus ensuring the success of each resident. Our community will be our strength as each resident values and appreciates scholarship, service and involvement, and assumes an active role in our society.

Implicit within the Southern Miss Standard is:

- A respect for the hall environment and university property;
- A respect for language that is appropriate, never obscene, and neither demeans nor intimidates;
- A respect for the level of noise at all times and an understanding of how personal noise levels affect others in the community;
- A respect for the academic community and a commitment to the academic principles of scholarly study and class attendance;
- A respect for the differences that exist among residents and a commitment to know the members of the floor/hall;
- A respect for the staff of the hall and compliance with all policies and procedures;
- A respect and adherence to the principles of truth and honesty;
- A respect for all safety measures and the adherence to safety practices; and
- A commitment to refrain from violence when addressing conflict at Southern Miss.
I belong to a community of scholars at The University of Southern Mississippi.

I will demonstrate integrity and determination in all academic pursuits.

I will appreciate the value of differences among people, customs and viewpoints and oppose hatred, bigotry and bias toward others.

I will exhibit behavior and choose language that demonstrates respect for fellow members of the Southern Miss community.

I will respect others by honoring their rights, privacy and belongings.

I will value human dignity in my academic, social and employment settings.

I commit to exhibiting civil behavior, demonstrating responsible citizenry, and doing my part to achieve a positive and secure living and learning environment for all.

**While not a part of the Code of Student Conduct, The Creed at Southern Miss is a statement that was endorsed by the Student Government Association to express how students should ideally interact with each other in a community of diverse ideas and opinions. Students are only subject to disciplinary action based on violations of the Code of Conduct, and of municipal, state, or federal law.**
GETTING INVOLVED

NATIONAL RESIDENCE HALL HONORARY (NRHH)
The National Residence Hall Honorary is the recognition branch of the National Association of College and University Residence Halls (NACURH). NRHH represents the top one percent of all residents on campus. As such, through the submission of OTMs (Of the Month), NRHH recognizes those leaders in Housing and Residence Life and on those campuses who strive to better the living community. To learn more about NRHH, visit nrhh.org.

RESIDENCE HALL ASSOCIATION (RHA)
The Residence Hall Association was founded in 1982 at Southern Miss and currently represents more than 3,300 students who live on campus. RHA is the governing and programming board for all residence halls. This organization consists of the Executive Board officers, representatives from each hall and committee members. Input from all RHA members is utilized to develop campus-wide social events, respond to the issues and needs of on-campus students, and enhance the total residence hall living experience. RHA members also have the opportunity to serve as delegates to state, regional and national leadership conferences. RHA provides an excellent opportunity for you to get involved on campus and gain leadership experience!

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED WITH RHA?

Become a committee chair. Each of the standing committees is directed by a committee chairperson. The Executive Board and RHA advisors, with consent and approval of the RHA representatives, will appoint chairpersons for these committees.

Become an Executive Board member. The RHA Executive Board is comprised of six members: director, national communications coordinator, associate director of administration, associate director of finance, associate director of public relations and NRHH president. These six individuals work as a team to oversee all RHA activities and network with other student leaders and on-campus student organizations, as well as maintain the RHA Center. The Executive Board is elected in February to serve in the upcoming year, receiving invaluable leadership experience for future endeavors.

The RHA Center, located on the north side, ground level of Mississippi Hall, is a large multipurpose room exclusively for students living on campus. It provides a meeting area, study space, computers and lounge area with a large-screen television to sit back and relax with friends. The RHA Center is also the location of the RHA Executive Board office and NRHH office. RHA meets every Monday at 5:15 p.m. in the RHA Center.

STUDENT CONDUCT BOARD
Student Conduct Board members serve as conduct officers within the Housing and Residence Life Conduct Process, allowing residents who are alleged to be in violation of departmental policies to plead their cases to a group of students who also live in the residence halls. Students serving as hearing officers on the board have the ability to adjudicate cases just like administrative hearing officers (residence life coordinators and assistant directors).

To ensure objectivity, student hearing officers cannot be employed by the Department of Housing and Residence Life or serve on SGA’s Judicial Board. Additionally, it is important that student hearing officers do not have significant conduct history. For more information, contact the Department of Housing and Residence Life at 601.266.4783 or reslife@usm.edu.
EMERGENCY SIRENS

Siren Testing Schedule - The Southern Miss siren will be tested on the last Friday in August at noon and the last Friday in January at noon. The test will begin with Westminster chimes followed by a voice stating: “The following tone is a test of the Southern Miss emergency warning system. Please do not dial 911. This is only a test.” This message will then be followed by a two-minute tone. The tone will then be followed by the final voice message: “This has been a test of the Southern Miss emergency warning system. Please do not dial 911. This was only a test.”

The siren will also be tested once a month using the Westminster chimes. These monthly tests will occur on the last Friday of each month at noon. In case of severe weather, the test will take place the following Friday at noon. If there is bad weather on the second Friday, then that month’s test will be cancelled.

The Emergency Warning System - The siren control panel is located at the University Police Department dispatch office. If a tornado warning is issued for our area, the police dispatcher will call the Emergency Management District to confirm that a tornado is threatening our campus. The dispatcher will activate the siren tornado warning. The tornado siren warning sequence will be the following:

Tornados - Westminster chimes will be followed by the voice message, “A tornado warning has been issued for the Hattiesburg area. Please seek shelter.” This would be followed by a three-minute tone, which will be repeated if necessary. Residents should remain in their shelter areas for 45 minutes after the last three-minute tone.

Hazardous Weather - In times of hazardous weather (lightning, hail, hurricanes or weather likely to produce a tornado), the dispatcher will activate the hazardous weather warning: the Westminster chimes followed by the voice message, “A hazardous weather warning has been issued for the Hattiesburg area. Please seek shelter.” This will be followed by a three-minute tone.

What to Do During an Actual Warning (Not a Test) - When you hear the emergency warning siren, seek shelter inside the nearest building on the lowest level possible. Move away from windows and doors. When the bad weather hits, move to a center hallway away from windows and doors and sit down with your back to the wall. If you have a backpack, use it to cover your head. Do not touch metal pipes or metal structures during a storm. Tune in to a local TV or radio station for weather updates.

During and After the Storm – What You Should Know and Expect if You Stay

1. Residents with emergency housing needs will remain in their individual halls until the storm has passed.
2. The Village residents with emergency housing needs will be relocated to vacant women’s residence halls.
3. Fraternity Row residents with emergency housing needs will be relocated to vacant men’s residence halls.
4. Students remaining in the halls during the storm MUST sign the building’s occupancy report form so staff will have an accurate number of those staying.
5. Expect a four to six-hour wait in the hallways (safe zone).
6. Expect a possible lack of air conditioning, water and limited electricity.
7. Sack lunches will be provided to all residential students by Eagle Dining.
8. Residents are encouraged to ration their food and water accordingly, making it last through the next day.
9. Avoid standing or sitting near windows and doors. In the event that the roof of the structure is damaged or blows off, go to a secure room, lie on the floor and cover yourself with a mattress.
10. If the center or the “eye” of the storm passes directly overhead, there may be a lull in the wind lasting from a few minutes to half an hour or more. DO NOT venture out during this time. Remember that the wind may return suddenly from an opposite direction with even greater force.
11. It is not uncommon for buildings to take in water or for windows to break during a storm. All we can do is clean up to the best of our ability and wait for the storm to be over. Never put yourself in danger trying to clean up a mess.
12. Remain inside – DO NOT leave the building during the storm unless it is an emergency.
13. DO NOT play in any standing water around the buildings due to potential downed power lines.
14. Power Outages – Residents may NOT use candles
or other flammable types of lighting under any circumstances.

15. Flashlights are recommended in the event of a power failure. *Emergency generators will supply emergency lighting in the hallways and stairwells, fire alarm systems, and access card system.

16. Listen for tornado sirens. We could expect to receive several tornadoes from a hurricane. If you hear the tornado siren, please leave your room immediately and go to the safe zone in your building (first floor).

17. Once the storm has passed, all residents may be relocated to the Thad Cochran Center.

18. Campus Curfew (strictly enforced) – In the event a curfew is in effect by the police department, residents will not be permitted to leave the building and will be ARRESTED for doing so. This is for the safety of the students, hall staff and emergency response teams.

For more information on what to do before, during and after a storm, please review and print the Severe Weather Guide located under the Housing Resources section of our website: usm.edu/housing/housing-resources-helphful-information.

FIRE ALARM PROCEDURES
1. Leave your room immediately, as required by state law.
2. Leave the wall or overhead light on.
3. Close the room door and lock it (only if time permits).
4. Walk quietly and quickly outside via the stairwells. Do not use the elevators.
5. Remain outside until the signal is given to return to your room.

For your own protection, obey all fire regulations. Failure to evacuate a hall when an alarm sounds and failure to comply with staff directives constitutes grounds for disciplinary action, which may include removal from the residence halls. Housing and Residence Life staff and the University Police Department reserve the right to enter student rooms to locate the source of the problem and to ensure that everyone has evacuated the building.

GAS LEAK PROCEDURES
A gas leak is any situation where someone has detected or reported a smell of gas or gas is believed to be leaking from a pipe or another source. Gas leaks are considered serious and potentially dangerous and need to be reported immediately. Exit the building immediately. Prop door open on your way out in order to ventilate the room/building of gas. DO NOT use matches, lighters, electrical switches, appliances or your telephone inside the residence halls. Call UPD at 601.266.4986 or 911 after exiting the building.

DO NOT re-enter the building until it has been declared safe to do so by emergency personnel. If gas service must be turned off, know that it may not be restored until the following day.
What It Means to “Shelter-in-Place”
If an incident occurs and the building or areas around you become unstable, or if the air outdoors becomes dangerous due to toxic or irritating substances, it is usually safer to stay indoors because leaving the area may expose you to that danger. As a result, to “shelter-in-place” means to make a shelter of the building that you are in. With a few adjustments, this location can be made even safer and more comfortable until it is safe to go outside.

Basic “Shelter-in-Place” Guidance
If an incident occurs and the building you are in is not damaged, stay inside – seeking an interior room – until you are told it is safe to come out. If your building is damaged, take your personal belongings (purse, wallet, etc.) and follow the evacuation procedures for your building (close your door, proceed to the nearest exit and use the stairs instead of the elevators). Once you have evacuated, quickly seek shelter at the nearest university building. If police or fire department personnel are on the scene, follow their directions.

How You Will Know to “Shelter-in-Place”
A “shelter-in-place” notification may come from several sources, including the University Police Department, Housing and Residence Life staff members, other university employees, or other state or local authorities utilizing the university’s emergency communication tools.

How to “Shelter-in-Place”
No matter where you are, the basic steps of “shelter-in-place” will generally remain the same. Should the need ever arise, follow these steps unless instructed otherwise by local emergency personnel:

1. If you are inside, stay where you are. Collect any emergency supplies and a telephone to be used in case of an emergency. If you are outdoors, proceed into the closest building quickly or follow instructions from emergency personnel on the scene.
2. Locate a room to shelter inside. It should be
   a. An interior room;
   b. Above ground level; and
   c. Without windows or with the least number of windows. If there is a large group of people inside a particular building, several rooms may be necessary.
3. Shut and lock all windows (tighter seal) and close exterior doors.
4. Turn off air conditioners, heaters and fans.
5. Close vents to ventilation systems as you are able. (University staff will turn off ventilation as quickly as possible.)
6. Make a list of people with you and ask someone (Housing and Residence Life staff, faculty or other staff) to call in the list to UPD so they know where you are sheltering. If only students are present, one of the students should call in the list.
7. Turn on a radio or TV and listen for further instructions.
8. Make yourself comfortable.
CAMPUS SERVICES

UNIVERSITY POLICE
The University Police Department provides 24-hour patrol and dispatcher services with access to other local emergency services.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY
Depending on the type of emergency, call your resident assistant, residence life coordinator, UPD, fire department, and/or Student Health Services. The number for UPD is 911 for emergencies and 601.266.4986 for all other circumstances. The University Police Department is located in Bond Hall.

CODE BLUE EMERGENCY TELEPHONES
There are emergency phones located throughout the campus with direct lines to the University Police Department. The phones can be found at the following locations:

- Asbury Hall – Northeast
- Asbury Hall – Southeast
- Asbury Hall – Southwest
- Baptist Student Union – 31st Avenue
- Bennett Auditorium – South
- Reed Green Coliseum
- Between Cook Library and Power House Restaurant
- Between Scott Hall and Vann Hall
- Beside Kennard-Washington Hall
- Between The Hub and M.M. Roberts Stadium
- Black and Gold Boulevard by Bobby Chain Technology Center
- Cedarbrook Apartments
- Centennial Green
- Century Park North – East and South Sides
- Century Park South
- Joseph Greene Hall by N. 31st Avenue
- Harkins Hall – Southwest
- Forrest Avenue by Forrest County Hall
- Forrest County Hall – West
- Fraternity Drive by Intramural Fields
- Freshman Quad
- Hillcrest Hall – South
- Hillcrest Hall – Northeast
- International Center – West
- Intramural Field by M.K. Turk
- J.B. George Building – East
- Joseph Greene Hall – Southwest
- Quad by Pulley Hall
- Lot W. 4th Street – North Intramural Field
- Liberal Arts Building – West
- Luckyday Hall – West
- Luckyday Hall – South
- Math Zone – South
- Oseola McCarty Hall – East and Northwest Quads
- Mississippi Hall – Northwest
- Montague Boulevard and Pine Haven – East and West Sides
- Montague Boulevard and N. 31st Avenue
- N. 34th Avenue and Pearl Street Lot
- N. 35th Avenue and Pearl Street Lot – South
- N. 35th Avenue and Pearl Street Lot – North
- Nursing Building – Southeast
- Parking Garage – Northwest (Floors 1-5)
- Parking Garage – Southeast (Floors 1-5)
- Payne Center by Volleyball Courts
- Mannoni Performing Arts Center – North
- Physical Plant
- Pinehaven Circle by Tri Delta
- The Village Laundromat
- Pride Field by Payne Center
- Ross Boulevard Gravel Lot
- Ross Boulevard South Lot
- Scholarship Hall
- Scianna Hall – West
- Scianna Hall – East
- Softball Complex
- Speech and Hearing – East Side
- Speech and Hearing – Northwest Corner
- Tennis Courts
- Thad Cochran Center – North
- The Village Circle by Kappa Delta
- The Village Gated Lot
- Trent Lott Center – West
- Walking Track by Thames Polymer Science Research Center – West
- Wilber Hall – East

FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS
(From a campus phone, just dial 6 and the four-digit extension. You must include 601.266 if calling from a personal phone.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Extension</th>
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<tr>
<td>Admissions</td>
<td>6.5000</td>
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<td>Athletics</td>
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<td>Bookstore</td>
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<td>Business Services</td>
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<td>Eagle Dining</td>
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<td>Disability Accommodations</td>
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<td>Financial Aid</td>
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<td>Greek Life</td>
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<td>Library (McCain)</td>
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<td>Seymour’s</td>
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<td>Student Employment</td>
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<td>Student Health Services</td>
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<td>Office for Disability Accommodations</td>
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<td>Textbook Center</td>
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<td>Tutoring Information</td>
<td>6.5905</td>
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<td>University Police</td>
<td>6.4986 or 911</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vending Services</td>
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