

# Living In Our Community

Congratulations on your choice to be a member of the UCLA On Campus Housing Community. You have elected to be a part of a special learning community composed of students, faculty and staff who highly value the role of scholarship in our culture and who work to promote academic success through a positive community experience. Leadership and personal growth opportunities are plentiful. You are expected to manage your time wisely and to participate in ways which will support your academic aspirations and help you develop personally.

The residential community experience requires each of us to be thoughtful in what we say and do so as to make this learning environment personally supportive and educationally valuable to all who live and work here. In such a community it is reasonable to expect that we keep open minds so we can better understand and appreciate the variety of life choices and uniqueness of those around us. Each of us must contribute to a community atmosphere of encouragement and mutual respect by giving to others the respect we desire for ourselves. We must each accept responsibility for our behavior and be accountable for our actions.

If you participate positively and effectively, you it will greatly enhance your educational experience at UCLA and give you many advantages in life after graduation. The student and professional staff are dedicated to helping you develop and succeed within this special learning community. We expect that you will do your part to make this a beneficial time for yourself and for each of your resident colleagues as well.

## Community Standards

UCLA is a community of people from diverse racial, ethnic, social and economic backgrounds, national origins, religious and political beliefs, physical abilities and sexual orientations. The Office of Residential Life (ORL) is committed to celebrating the rich diversity of people who live in On-Campus Housing. All of our activities, programs, and everyday interactions are enriched by our acceptance of one another, and the knowledge we gain when we learn from each other in an atmosphere of positive engagement and mutual respect.

We strongly believe that one's actions demonstrate one's commitment to respecting differences. As adults, we are responsible for our behavior and are fully accountable for our actions. We each must take responsibility for our awareness of racism, sexism, homophobia, and other forms of prejudice. At ORL we are guided by the principle that understanding and celebrating diversity enriches and empowers the life of each person.

Therefore, everyone who chooses to live in or visit On-Campus Housing must understand that we will not tolerate any form of bigotry, threats, intimidation, violence or other forms of harassment against any member of our community. In the same manner, we will not accept ignorance, humor, anger, alcohol or substance abuse as an excuse, reason or rationale for such behavior.

All of us who live, study and work in UCLA On-Campus Housing, have chosen to be here. As part of that choice we need to be committed to these principles which are designed to enable all individuals to expand their personal horizons, succeed academically and reach their full potential.

The way a community handles differences determines how safe it is for a person to think for oneself.

## Roommate Relations

The foundation of a close residence community is built from close and positive roommate relationships. While many of us have had experience building relationships of various types, few of us have had experience living in such close quarters. This can, of course, be quite a challenge.

It is important to recognize that roommates need not be best friends. Yet, building good roommate relationships requires the same courtesy, consideration, understanding, listening and time that building good friendships requires. Whereas friends occasionally have disagreements and misunderstandings, so do roommates.

A good place to start getting to know your roommate(s) is to compare notes on your background and your thoughts about being at UCLA—a quick overview of where you've been and where you're headed.

You may want to talk about some of the basic issues college roommates face such as, study times, friends vs. privacy, drinking, neatness of the room, etc.

## Triple Rooms and Suites

A unique problem with triples is based on the simple fact that three is an odd number.

Two roommates can be tempted to have a conversation and hence disturb the third who is trying to sleep or study. Two roommates can develop a friendship and inadvertently (or purposely) leave out the third roommate. Of course, there will be times when you feel you have more in common with one roommate than the other, but remain conscious of the feelings of the other roommate. Beware of consistently excluding a person from what is happening in his/her room or suite.

Having more than one roommate can be a pleasure, a challenge, or an adventure—depending on your attitude. A sense of being “crowded” depends on your perspective, as well as your physical surroundings and the people sharing the room.

You can feel crowded with one roommate if you are used to having your own room at home. Naturally, the task of getting organized becomes more difficult as you increase the number involved in the process. That is why communicating and negotiating are essential to living with others. Make sure you fill out your Roommate Contract with your roommates (see your RA for assistance). This will help facilitate the establishment of open lines of communication among you.

## Programs

One of the main advantages in living on campus is Residential Life Programming. Student Staff plan a variety of activities and events throughout the year called "programs." Programs are designed to build floor, house, and building communities, to support the academic pursuits of residents, to provide leadership opportunities, and to help develop each resident as an individual.

## Community Programs

Community Programs help you get to know your neighbors and make friends. They offer a broad range of recreational and social events specifically designed to enhance relationships among residents and develop feelings of community spirit, while maintaining an educationally supportive environment.

Both structured and unstructured Community Programs provide residents with needed study breaks and opportunities for camaraderie among residents of hall floors, suites, buildings, Sunset houses, and sometimes even entire Residential complexes. Community programs can range from TV or Video Nights in someone's

room to skiing trips at Mammoth Mountain.

RAs and Student Government Officers are very always interested in finding out what kinds of Community Programs residents would want, so don't be shy about making your wishes and opinions known, and don't be afraid to offer your help in getting these programs off the ground.

## Leadership Programs

This program area is designed to facilitate the development of a resident's leadership potential and existing skills. Participants in these programs will learn to recognize and utilize effective leadership techniques and will discover leadership opportunities in the Residence Halls and on the campus at large. Programs in this area are intended to develop leadership techniques and capabilities that may be applied in daily life, both immediately and in the future.

## Personal Growth Programs

Personal Growth Programs are educational programs that enable students to better understand themselves and how to effectively interact with their surrounding world. Some program objectives include: values clarification, career exploration, physical, mental and emotional competence, and appreciation for differences among others; appreciation of art and cultural expressions; and the ability to respond appropriately to a variety of situations.

Topics for these programs are virtually endless and residents are encouraged to suggest ideas for programs. Additionally, money is available to support any resident who wishes to implement an educational program in this or one of the other program areas. Your RA or PA can provide information about how to access these funds.

## Student Government

The primary purpose of student government is to help organize programs, activities and services that satisfy many needs and interest of residents. The student governments combined has a program budget of about \$128,000 per year. Student concerns are also represented in the decision making process for policies and procedures through the Policy Review Board (PRB) and the On Campus Housing Council (OCHC).

Opportunities for resident involvement are almost limitless. Floor/suite building/house governments are elected early in fall quarter, and each quarter after that. Representatives from these units join with Cabinet Officers, who were elected the previous spring, to form the Association. Representatives from each Association meet together forming the On Campus Housing Council. The Council and Associations are registered campus organizations of the University and are affiliated through the Office of Residential Life.

In addition to these elected student government positions you will find many more opportunities to participate either in appointed positions or as a member of committees or special projects and task groups. More information about opportunities to participate can be obtained from your Association President, Resident Assistant or Program Assistant.