

ABOUT US

OFF-CAMPUS & COMMUTER SERVICES

Supports equitable access to curricular and co-curricular experiences and institutional resources, regardless of a student's place of residence.

PREPARING FOR
LIFE OFF CAMPUS

CONTACT US

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ESSENTIALS FOR SELF-ADVOCATING
WHILE LIVING OFF CAMPUS

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ON & OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING

Moving from on-campus living to off-campus living can be a difficult transition if the differences between the two are not understood. Below, are five differences WCU students should keep in mind as they move from on-campus housing to off-campus housing:

REPORTING MAINTENANCE ISSUES

Typically, there are no maintenance forms to fill out off campus, and instead, renters must contact their property owner directly when issues arise.

WHO ENFORCES THE RULES

Resident Assistants live in the residence halls and enforce rules 24/7. There are no RAs for off-campus living, but there are police officers.

REPRIMANDS FOR BREAKING THE RULES

WCU students are expected to uphold the Student Code of Conduct on and off-campus. Rules broken in the Borough result in a student conduct hearing in addition to any Borough reprimands.

HANDLING ROOMMATE CONFLICT

Roommate conflicts on campus are frequently mediated by RAs. When living off campus roommate conflicts can be mediated by an OCCS staff member.

CLEANING SCHEDULES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Communal areas in the residence halls, such as bathrooms and lounges, are cleaned by custodial staff. Living off campus requires students to create their own cleaning schedules.



HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT YOUR LEASE?

RECEIVE A BOROUGH CITATION?

NOT SURE IF YOUR PROPERTY OWNER IS LEGALLY REQUIRED TO FIX SOMETHING?

Schedule a **FREE** 15-minute appointment with an attorney who can help you with any legal issues!



Scan the QR code to schedule your appointment today.

SELF-ADVOCACY BEST PRACTICES

Be Decisive

Decide on what you want, or don't want, and be clear about it. Set your sights on a goal and get as close to it as possible.

Speak Up

If you have a question, ask it. If you want something changed, ask about it. Speaking up and asking about something never hurts and will always give you more information.

Educate Yourself

Familiarize yourself with the subject of your decision. The more knowledge you have on the subject you're advocating for the better argument and counterargument you can present.

Believe in Yourself

You already know what you want and you've educated yourself, you can do this! When you believe in yourself you make others believe in you too. Confidence is hard to argue with.

Keep Cool, Calm & Collected

When you are advocating for yourself and others, try not to let your emotions rise. Nothing looks more professional confident than someone staying calm while someone else gets upset.

Document Everything

Documenting conversations in writing is the best way to reinforce your argument. Verbal conversations and agreements are easy to dismiss, but a paper trail with information and pictures is much harder to dismiss.



West Chester Borough Code of Ordinances

WEST CHESTER BOROUGH CODES TO KNOW

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

ALCOHOL - CH. 36

Individuals cannot consume or possess an open container containing an alcoholic beverage in public.

TRASH COLLECTION - CH. 62

Accumulation of storage of garbage waste, refuse, rubbish or recyclables shall be contained in 35-gallon cans with tight-fitting lids.

NOISE - CH. 73

No person shall operate, play or permit the operation of devices that produces, reproduces or amplifies sound in such a manner as to create unreasonable noise.

SMOKING - CH. 76

Smoking, inhaling, exhaling, burning or carrying any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, e-cigarette, pipe, or any other lighted or heated plant product in any manner or form in any Borough-owned property is prohibited.

SNOW - CH. 95

Within a period of 24 hours after cessation of snowfall or other precipitation, sidewalks must be cleared, and a nonskid material applied to the sidewalk.

OCCUPANCY - CH. 112

The Borough Ordinance sets limits to the number of residents residing in a dwelling unit.

ROOMMATE AGREEMENT FORM



Similar to the roommate agreement form that is recommended students fill out when living on campus, OCCS has created a roommate agreement specific to living in a shared house or apartment off campus.