



## **West Chester University of Pennsylvania Housing Policy for Discipline- and Justice-Involved Students**

**A. Policy Statement:** West Chester University strives to provide a safe campus and learning environment. As a part of that effort, when the Office of Residence Life and Housing Services receives an application for housing<sup>1</sup> from an individual who has been convicted of certain criminal offenses and/or received a disciplinary sanction from an institution of higher education, the application will be forwarded to the Dean of Students as chairperson of the Discipline/Justice Review Committee.

A conviction or disciplinary action does not, in and of itself, disqualify an applicant from residential housing. The Committee's task is to evaluate the nature and extent of the applicant's potential threat to campus safety and the University's learning environment based on considerations of the nature and age of the offense, its severity and the relation of offense or disciplinary action to campus housing.

The Committee will review the completed documentation and determine if the applicant is eligible for residential housing. As part of this process, the University may request additional documentation from the applicant and may, where appropriate, request that the applicant appear for an interview with the Committee. The Committee's decision is final.

If the relevant requested documentation is not received from the applicant, the application will remain incomplete. Should the requested documentation not be received within 2 weeks of the document request date, the Office of the Dean of Students has the option to direct the Office of Residence Life and Housing Services to cancel the application as incomplete.

If an applicant answers no to the criminal background or the disciplinary history application question(s) and it is later found the applicant did not truthfully respond to the questionnaire or provide complete and truthful information, the University has the right to rescind the offer of residential housing or take disciplinary action that may include removal from housing and/or dismissal from the University.

**B. Reason for Policy:** This policy has been established to provide consistent and equitable decisions regarding access to residential housing for those individuals with prior involvement with justice or student conduct actions.

**C. Appeal Statement/Process:** Not applicable.

**D. Definitions:**

- **Criminal Conduct** refers to a felony or misdemeanor conviction. A conviction is an adjudication of guilt, including pleas of nolo contendere (no contest). For purposes of this definition, convictions for traffic citations, summary offenses, or which have been expunged or sealed are not considered. This term also specifically excludes an adjudication of delinquency for a criminal offense.

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that "housing" refers to university-owned residential housing. The term also applies to affiliate housing at those universities where the university has a written agreement with the affiliate that provides for university receipt and review of applications for housing.

- **Disciplinary Action** refers to a disciplinary sanction of removal from housing, suspension, expulsion or other form of dismissal from an institution of higher education for behavioral misconduct. For purposes of this definition, interim measures (e.g., Interim Suspensions, interim housing removal, etc.) are not considered. Pending initiation of student conduct charges is not considered unless the student withdraws or has withdrawn prior to disposition of the charges.

**E. Keywords:**

- Residential Housing Policy
- Criminal Conduct
- Disciplinary Action

**F. Related Policies:** N/A

**G. Other Relevant Information:** Criminal & Disciplinary Residential Housing Procedures

**H. Enforcement Body:** Discipline and Justice Involved Students Review Committee