



# SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE

RESIDENCE LIFE



GERSTENBERGER HALL

**HANDBOOK  
2026-2027**



**Welcome to South Plains College Residence Life!**

Dear Resident,

Welcome to South Plains College and our community! We are so excited you have chosen SPC to continue your education. Residence Life staff are looking forward to getting to know you this year!

Residence halls are an ideal place to broaden your life experiences and make lifelong friends. Students from all backgrounds, cultures, lifestyles and attitudes live on campus creating a rich community and student body. You will have the opportunity to learn to communicate and interact within a community while you learn more about yourself and others.

Residence Life staff are available to assist residents. They will work with you to create an atmosphere which supports academic, intellectual, social and emotional growth. This growth will be accompanied by responsibilities to yourself, your roommate, and the residential community.

We expect that you will respect the privacy of your fellow residents, encourage practices which create and support a learning environment, and do your part to promote a safe and secure community.

Please take time to review the Residence Hall Handbook and the SPC Student Guide. We want you to get the most out of your experience at South Plains College!

We look forward to getting to know you. If we can help you in any way or if you need more information, please do not hesitate to reach out. We wish you the best this year!

Sincerely,

Shane Hill  
Associate Dean of Students  
South Plains College

South Plains College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award associate degrees. South Plains College also may offer credentials such as certificates and diplomas at approved degree levels. Questions about the accreditation of South Plains College may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website ([www.sacscoc.org](http://www.sacscoc.org)).

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## RESIDENCE LIFE MISSION AND GOALS

### MISSION

South Plains College Residence Life improves the lives of its students by establishing a foundation for lifelong learning by providing a residential community that is innovative, educational, engaging, compassionate, safe, and supportive of the College vision.

### VISION

South Plains College Residence Life improves each student's life

### GOALS FOR HOUSING & RESIDENCE LIFE

South Plains College Residence Life strives to promote a student's personal and academic successes by curating opportunities for skill development towards ethically and culturally minded members of the South Plains, Levelland, Texas and global communities. Housing and Residence Life staff consistently seek to provide a welcoming and comfortable campus environment. Highly trained staff and quality education and social programs enhance student experiences, personal and academic growth. South Plains College housing and hall staff strive to:

- Create an exciting campus community that engages residents.
- Teach sensitivity to the rights and values of others.
- Curate opportunities for students to connect with the instructional, local, and global communities on a societal level, learning skills to be part of a unit to create global change.
- Encourage personal accountability of every resident for their own actions.
- Support the academic goals of residents.
- Support and maintain a community that embraces belonging.
- Maintain a campus environment which provides the opportunity for individual growth and development.

### RESIDENCE HALL ASSOCIATION (RHA)

Living on campus at SPC is an integral part of the college experience. It is one of the best ways to become connected to our college community. As a governing body, the Residence Hall Association (RHA) is the OFFICIAL voice of on-campus residents, serving as the liaison between residents and the administration. We inspire growth, leadership, and involvement through our development of residence and campus life.

RHA is responsible for additional residence life programming, leadership development, fundraising, community service, and student advocacy within the residence halls. RHA exists to support students' leadership skills and hear student concerns and what they would like to do for programming. RHA strives to provide a space of engagement and community for students that live on campus.

All residents are members and all are welcome in any meeting at any time!

## Residence Hall Student Rights

South Plains College has basic rights that govern the special nature of interpersonal relationships in the residence halls. These rights define reasonable expectations that students should have for one another while sharing space in residence halls.

In a group living situation, it is important for students to understand their rights as a resident and their responsibilities to others. The rights to study and sleep are considered primary in the residence hall environment as part of an optimum environment for students to learn and grow. Student values and worldviews may be challenged while living on campus, therefore it is imperative that students learn to recognize, understand and celebrate human differences.

Each resident can expect to have the following rights while living on campus. These rights apply to all students in residence halls. Violating the rights of another student or students may result in disciplinary action and/or reassignment to another room or residence hall.

### Residence Hall Student Rights

- The right to sleep during the night undisturbed.
- The right to sleep in one's room free of noise and distractions during quiet hours.
- The right of access to one's room and facilities at all times.
- The right to feel secure against physical or emotional harm.
- The right to a clean room and clean common areas.
- The right to have one's belongings respected.
- The right to have guests in the room when they will not disturb your roommate's right to sleep or study.
- The right to privacy.
- The right to redress grievances and due process.

### Roommate Agreements and Conflicts

Living with roommates isn't always easy. Sharing a living space may be stressful and conflicts may arise. Sometimes situations that work at the beginning of the year become more difficult as the year goes on. It is perfectly normal to have roommate conflicts.

Many conflicts can be resolved easily with mature and respectful conversation between roommates. Other conflicts may be more difficult to resolve and may require assistance through a formal mediation process. Any student can request a mediation with their hall staff. Additional resources and support may also be found with the Residence Life Leadership Team in the Dean of Students Office. In extreme cases, conflicts may not be able to be resolved resulting in a room change for one or both roommates.

### Roommate and Suite-mate Agreements

At the beginning of each year, roommate agreements will be facilitated by hall staff. This will be a time for roommates and/or suite-mates to have a conversation about healthy boundaries and expectations they have for each other. Topics will include noise, visitation, use of personal items, food, cleanliness, etc. Your agreement will be available on file in the Hall Director (HD) Office. It is the responsibility of the student to return the roommate agreement to their hall staff.

### Communicating with Your Roommate

If you start to notice that your roommate does not want to talk with you, may get annoyed with you over little things, may leave the room when you are there, you should recognize these as signs of potential roommate issues. If a

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problem is addressed early, there is a better chance of it being worked out amicably. Most roommate conflicts are the result of miscommunication or, in some cases, a total lack of communication. If you can communicate effectively, it will be much easier to develop a comfortable living environment for yourself and your roommates.

How to address the issue:

- Approach your roommate in private.
- Confirm that this is a good time for both of you to talk. If either of you feels rushed or blindsided the conversation will be less effective.
- Be direct. Discuss the issue with regard to behaviors rather than personality traits. This tactic is less likely to put your roommate on the defensive.
- Be patient. Listen to your roommate and remember that there are two sides to every story. As you are listening, try to put yourself in your roommate's shoes.
- Each person should be given an opportunity to share their perspective on the roommate relationship and potential areas of tension.
- Revisit your roommate agreement. Which of your guidelines are working and which of them need to be reconsidered?
- Remember that a solution will probably involve each person giving something and getting something. The solution may not be your ideal scenario, but it should be an improvement on the current state of things.

## Roommate Mediation

In difficult discussions, such as roommate conflicts, it is very helpful to have an unbiased third party to help mediate the discussion. Our Hall Directors have experience helping roommates find solutions to their conflicts. If you find that you and your roommate are having difficulty resolving your conflict, you should approach your Hall Director to arrange mediation.

We believe that Roommate Mediation is paramount to the learning process and the development of conflict management skills. As such, we require all students involved in a roommate conflict to participate in mediation before changing rooms.

### How Mediation Works

- Contact your HD, either by email or in person, to explain the situation and to request mediation.
- Your HD will contact all roommates to find a time that works best for everyone.
- The HD and a co-mediator will begin the conversation. The HD will explain the ground rules; discuss confidentiality and the mediation process.
- The mediators will type up the agreement and will schedule a follow up meeting for two weeks after the original meeting. The follow up meeting will be used to determine if the agreement will be effective in resolving the conflict.

Remember, the HD is not a magician. Some roommate conflicts require a number of mediations before a solution can be found. In other cases, the roommate relationship may not be mended even after an honest attempt at mediation has been made. In those cases, and only in those cases, a room change may be the best answer.

## Room Change

Sometimes, roommate conflicts do result in the student deciding to change rooms. Residence Life staff will work with students to find new room accommodations on campus. Students are required to participate in roommate mediation before a room change is approved. This is to ensure that students have the opportunity to intentionally engage in learning conflict management skills and to ensure all roommates have the experience of attempting to compromise and work out a solution, which is an important part of community life.

The role of Residence Life staff is not to determine which roommate is at fault. Rather our role is (a) to assist in the communication which is aimed at resolving conflict and (b) to make logistical arrangements for room changes when necessary. This means that we will work with students who ask to move into a new room. We will not make their roommate move unless this is an agreed upon solution reached during mediation or unless the roommate has been found responsible for violating the roommate agreement or mediation agreement. The College's conduct and due process system is used to determine responsibility in these matters. If the complaining student desires a roommate change, but does not wish to engage the conduct process and the College is asked to determine who will move, the complaining student will be asked to move to a new room. *Adapted from Sarah Lawrence College*

## Residence Life Administrative Procedures

### Assignments

The College and the Residence Life Office reserve the right to determine room and residence hall assignments. Assignments are made on a first come-first served basis.

Students who do not designate a roommate request on their housing application will be assigned a roommate(s) on the basis of all information listed without regard to race, color, sexual orientation, creed or religion. All assignments are made by priority according to the date a student's completed application and security deposit are received by the Residence Life Office.

If the requested residence hall is full, the student will be assigned a room in another residence hall as vacancies exist.

Students must fill out a new application for each term (Fall/Spring and Summer) they wish to live in a residence hall. On the application, the student is allowed to request a hall and/or roommate. The Residence Life Office will make assignments based on completed applications and will send assignment notification to students via their SPC email.

Students who wish to cancel their housing assignment for an upcoming semester should email the cancellation to [housing@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:housing@southplainscollege.edu).

### Break Housing

Residence halls close for Winter Break, and between the spring and summer semesters. Residence hall fees do not cover the cost for these break periods. Housing and meal services are not provided during break periods.

In special circumstances, if housing is available, residents may request to live on campus during breaks. Students that require break housing must request special arrangements with the Director of Residence Life a minimum of two weeks before the scheduled break. All requests for break housing are subject to approval and are not guaranteed. Students may be charged \$20 per night during breaks and may be required to relocate to a temporary room during the break period.

During the break period, the following rules apply to all students:

- NO GUESTS are allowed during breaks. Students registered for break housing may visit other registered break housing residents ONLY within designated common areas. If you allow anyone else to enter your room/apartment/building for any reason without written authorization from the Residence Life Office, your actions can result in disciplinary action.
- Students staying during break must carry their student ID and key fob at all times. If you lock yourself out of your room/apartment/building, please recognize that there may be a substantial delay in a response, as staffing will be minimal.
- Students are responsible for knowing and understanding policies and procedures as they appear in the Residence Life Handbook and Student Guide.

- Preparation work or maintenance in your room/apartment may need to be completed and college staff may enter to complete the work without prior notification. Maintenance work may continue in an adjacent space to your room/apartment/building 24 hours a day, therefore, you should have no expectation of quiet time due to cleaning, maintenance, or other preparations.

## Checking into Halls

Check-in is supervised by the residence hall staff and is conducted according to a specific schedule of dates and times. Students will not be allowed to check-in until their room and board fees have been paid in full or an installment contract is on file with the Business Office.

When you check in to your hall, you will be asked to provide a room inventory to check the condition of your room as well as complete a personal information form online. It is important to document any damages clearly and in detail on the room inventory sheet or the online version to avoid possible charges at check-out.

## Checking Out of Halls

Residents are expected to vacate their rooms by the day, time, and procedures posted for each semester. Each resident must check out in person with the Hall Director or other hall staff. Rooms are to be clean and in the same general condition as they were at the time of check-in. In halls where beds are adjustable, the beds must be lowered when checking out. Fees may be assessed for excessive cleaning, loss of keys/fobs, late check-out, and/or damages (*See Damages*).

If a resident requires special check-out arrangements, they must contact their Hall Director to schedule an appointment in advance of checking-out. Residents who wish to check out during the semester must contact the Hall Director and the Residence Life Office to process the necessary paperwork.

Unless officially released from their Housing Contract, students may be held responsible for the full amount of their room and board charges. If a student checks out prior to the last week of classes each semester and/or improperly, the security deposit will be forfeited. Failure to follow these steps may result in the assessment of fees for cleaning, key/fob replacement, and improper checkout charges.

Students who withdraw from all classes will be given 48 hours to check-out of their residence hall. Students should contact their Hall Director immediately after withdrawing to coordinate the checkout process.

## Complaints

Residents should never hesitate to communicate any problems in the hall or any actions by roommates or fellow residents which infringe upon resident's rights. Most problems in a residence hall can be solved in-hall. Resident concerns, problems or complaints should first be taken to the Resident Assistant who may in turn consult with the Hall Director of that area.

In situations where residents feel uncomfortable approaching their Resident Assistant, they may take their concerns directly to the Hall Director. Complaints that are not able to be resolved at that level can then be discussed with the Residence Life Leadership Team.

## Confidentiality

Communication, reports, and information shared between residents and their hall staff members or the Residence Life Office are kept in strictest confidence.

## Confiscation

Residence hall staff, the Residence Life Office and/or South Plains College Police may confiscate items that are deemed illegal, in violation of residence hall or South Plains College policy or unsafe. In instances where residence hall staff have confiscated an item and the resident is not present, notice will be left in the room and the residents of that room should expect to receive further notification from the Hall Director and Residence Life Office about conduct follow-up or disciplinary action.

Confiscated items may be claimed before a break to take home (with Hall Director permission). Unclaimed items will be disposed of at the end of each semester.

## Consolidation

The College and Housing Office reserve the right to determine room and residence hall assignments and to consolidate rooms with single occupants, except when those students have paid for a private room. Consolidation occurs to:

- Make room for students housed in temporary assignments
- Facilitate cleaning
- Reduce the cost of utilities
- Support the private room practice

If a resident is assigned to a room without a roommate and all temporarily assigned residents have been placed, the residence hall staff will notify residents when consolidation will be required. All consolidations must be completed by the end of the second week of each semester. Residents will have the option to request a private room (\$500 fee), request a specific student be consolidated into their room, or move in with another resident who does not currently have a roommate. If a resident has not requested a private room, they may receive a new roommate at any time during the semester. Refusal of a roommate will result in the \$500 private room fee.

## Damages

Residents are responsible for keeping the premises (room and hall) and its contents in good order and free from damage both by themselves and their guests. Residents will be held accountable for any damages they cause in common areas and/or resident rooms. Each resident understands and agrees that they are responsible for the replacement cost for any damages that may occur to the room and/or its contents.

Your active involvement in reducing damages within your community is encouraged. You can assist by following these guidelines:

- Report any damages to your Hall Director immediately
- Treat College property with as much respect as you would your personal property
- Discourage others from behaving irresponsibly in your hall

In situations where no individuals can be held accountable for damages, the Residence Life Office reserves the right to "group bill" all residents that may have been associated with damages.

## Evictions

Residents may be evicted from housing when they fail to meet enrollment requirements, make payments, or as a result of disciplinary action. Residents who have been evicted may return to campus when they meet the terms of eviction; re-enrollment in the College, payment of fees and clearance by the Residence Life Leadership Team.

## Extermination of Pests

Residence halls are exterminated on a regular basis throughout the year. Contact a staff member should you have questions related to this service. Students who discover insect problems should report them to the Hall Director immediately so that their rooms may be treated.

### Bed bugs

The staff of the South Plains College Residence Life Office are committed to an effective and efficient response to students who suspect they may have bed bugs. For the safety and comfort of all students living in the residence halls, our staff will adhere to the following guidelines:

1. As soon as a student suspects that they may have bed bugs, the student should contact their Hall Director. If their Hall Director is unavailable, the student should contact the Resident Assistant on call or the residence life office at 806-716-2379 during regular office hours.
2. Student Housing will dispatch the College's exterminator to the location to perform an inspection of the room on the next business day. The exterminator cannot be dispatched on weekends or holidays.

Students who report suspected bed bugs on a workday when the exterminator can be dispatched within 48 hours will NOT be granted an immediate temporary room change nor will they be issued a new mattress. This is CRUCIAL so that we can prevent the spread of bed bugs if they are found to be in the student's room and belongings.

If the exterminator is unable to respond to the student's room to inspect within 48 hours, Residence Life staff may be able to provide a temporary location in which the student can sleep until the inspection can take place. This is based on the availability of space within the residence halls. Any student who is given a temporary relocation is required to wash and dry (in hottest dryer setting) whatever clothing they need to take with them for up to 5 days. Upon doing that, the student should shower and put on clean clothes. The clean laundry is all the student can take with them to the temporary room. We want to ensure that if there are bed bugs in the student's room, they do not travel to another room with the student. Please refer to the **Bed Bug Treatment Checklist for Students** and follow all procedures required by students on the checklist.

Students may not, at any time, deny the College's exterminator or Residence Life staff access to their living space (including their bedroom, suite common space, apartment, kitchen, living room, closets, bathroom, etc.)

The reporting student and any other students assigned to the room will be required to see the Student Health Office if they are presenting bites.

### Exterminator Findings

Only the College's exterminator can confirm or deny the presence of bed bugs - NOT Primary Care Health Services or any outside person.

If the exterminator finds that there are no bed bugs present in the student's room, suite or apartment, then no further action will be taken. The student will be asked to continue monitoring their living space, and to notify Residence Life immediately if there are further problems.

If the exterminator concludes that bed bugs are present in the room, suite or apartment, the Residence Life Office will provide the affected student(s) with a detailed list of instructions for the removal and laundering of their personal items and the exterminator will treat the room for a total of five treatments. While the Residence Life Office can provide the student(s) with laundry detergent, the office will not cover the cost of anything a student wishes to dry clean or have laundered by an outside vendor.

Bed bugs are a serious community health issue, and ALL students are expected to comply with all instructions given to them within 24 hours once bed bugs have been confirmed within their living space

## Financial Responsibilities

Students are expected and required to promptly address all financial responsibilities owed the campus. Unpaid debts, returned checks and other cases of financial irresponsibility can result in action that may not be limited to holds placed on records, eviction from residence halls, and/or criminal or civil actions.

## Group Billing

Financial charges relating to the cleaning of, damage to, or theft of college property are billed to the specific individual(s) responsible whenever such individuals can be identified. However, when damage or theft cannot be assigned to a specific individual(s), the charges may be divided equally among the residents of the affected, floor, unit, building, or area. Residents will be given every opportunity to identify individual(s) responsible for the damage before group billing is finalized.

Damage charges will be assessed by the Associate Dean of Students to those individuals that are charged through the group billing process.

## Hall Staff

**Resident Assistants** - Resident Assistants (RAs) are student staff members responsible for aiding residents and organizing activities within the residence halls. RAs are on duty in each residence hall lobby during the following times:

- 10:00 PM -12:00 AM

**Hall Directors** - A Hall Director is a professional, live-in, staff member responsible for the daily operations of each residence hall or housing complex. They supervise the RA staff and assist with the planning and execution of residence life activities. Residents have access to a Hall Director 24 hours a day while school is in session with the exception of holiday breaks (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Spring Break, and between spring and summer semesters). Hall Directors hold office hours from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm Monday to Friday. Additionally, residents are encouraged to seek out their Hall Director for advice and/or resolution to questions, concerns, or issues that may arise while living in the residence hall. Hall Directors maintain office hours within their respective residence hall offices. If a resident is issued a Hall Director Referral, he or she must schedule a time to meet with their Hall Director during office hours. This meeting must be scheduled within 24 hours of receiving the Hall Director Referral or the resident may receive a \$25 fine.

**On-Call Hall Staff** - Hall Directors and Resident Assistants will rotate responsibilities after hours, on weekends, and during breaks. If a resident needs assistance during these times, they can reach the on-call Resident Assistant at the posted number in each hall. On-call information will be posted in the residence halls each semester.

## Residence Hall Charges

Housing fees are charged each semester a student resides on campus. Charges differ based on the residence hall. Fees include room charges, as well as a full meal plan charge. Prior to the fall payment deadline set by the Business Office, students are required to pay their total balance due in full, or set-up a payment plan to pay at least 50% of the total remaining balance due.

## Housing Security Deposit

A room security deposit of \$100.00 must accompany the student's Housing Application. This deposit may be refundable if the student fulfills the housing contract agreement and properly checks out of the residence hall each semester they reside on campus. The security deposit will rollover to the next contract term or credited to the student's account after the student moves out and check-out charges and/or damages to the room are assessed.

If a student checks out prior to the last week of classes or does not properly check-out of their room/hall, they will forfeit their security deposit and will be required to pay an additional security deposit to remain assigned to a residence hall for subsequent semesters.

Students wishing to cancel their housing reservation may do so in writing prior to August 1 for the Fall Semester, January 2 for the Spring Semester, May 15 for the Summer I Session and June 15 for the Summer II Session to receive a full refund of their security deposit.

Any refund of a security deposit will first be applied to any outstanding balance the student owes the College. If the student has no outstanding debt to the College, the student's account will be credited for the amount refunded.

## Identification

For the safety and welfare of all students and to protect the property of the residence halls, members of the staff may request proof of identity of any person in residence halls. Your cooperation is appreciated should such an occasion arise. Failure to identify yourself to a College staff member upon request may result in disciplinary action. Individuals that are unable to provide identification may be asked to leave and SPC Police may be contacted to assist with the situation.

## Occupancy

Students may occupy their rooms according to the schedule published by the Residence Life Office. No student will be allowed to occupy their room in advance of the official opening of the halls or between semesters or sessions. Special arrangements can be requested with the Residence Life Office at least two weeks prior to the end of the semester. However, the Residence Life Office reserves the right to deny requests for special arrangements. There may be a charge for such accommodations when they are available.

## Private Rooms

Frazier Hall has been designated as a female single occupancy residence hall. It was renovated in 2024. Stroud Hall is designated as a male single occupancy residence hall. Individuals may request these residence halls and be assured of a private room if they get the assignment. Room rates for Frazier and Stroud are listed and private room fees are not added.

For residence halls other than Frazier and Stroud, single occupancy is not guaranteed or offered prior to consolidation. Once room consolidation begins at the beginning of each semester and all temporarily assigned residents have been placed, private room requests may be made in the Residence Life Office. Students must pay an additional \$500 per semester if approved for a private room. The additional fee must be paid, financial aid must be in place, and/or installment plans must be adjusted within 48 hours of being granted a private room to keep the accommodation. The Residence Life Office reserves the right to deny private room requests.

## Programming

Numerous academic, cultural, educational, social and recreational activities will be offered in the residence halls and on campus. Most programs are provided at no cost to the residents and provide opportunities to grow socially, culturally and educationally while interacting with their peers and having fun. All housing programs will be conducted per guidelines established by the Residential Curriculum emphasizing, Personal Achievement, Personal Identity Development, Civic Engagement, Community Building, and Individual Development. (For more information, please contact the Residence Life Office)

## Reassignment

Residential hall staff and/or the Housing Office reserve the right to assign, reassign or consolidate rooms in any way that will best utilize the facilities available. The right is also reserved to assign a second student to a double room in which only one student is living. For this purpose, or for other reasonable cause, the Housing Office may change room assignments or require a student to move to different accommodations at any time during the housing contract period.

## Refunds

If a resident chooses to check out of the residence hall prior to the end of the semester they may be eligible for a prorated refund. When a resident has checked out properly a prorated refund for the remainder of room charges will be granted based on the official day of check out. The student will lose their \$100 security deposit.

## Room Changes

Once room consolidation begins at the beginning of each semester and all temporarily assigned residents have been placed, room change requests may be made in the Residence Life Office. Students must request a room change through the Hall Director and/or Housing Office prior to moving. Non-approved room changes or unapproved room changes may result in a disciplinary action and reassignment. Any resident who changes rooms without approval will be charged a \$100 improper check out fee.

## Room Entry

The College, through a residence hall staff member or agent of the College, reserves the right to enter a resident's room at any time for the following purposes:

1. To ensure compliance with all health and safety regulations.
2. To provide cleaning and/or maintenance.
3. To conduct an inventory of college property.
4. An indication of imminent danger to life, health, and/or property.
5. Reasonable belief that a violation of rules or regulations is or has occurred.
6. To search for missing property.
7. To ensure that proper break period closing procedures have been followed.

Items that violate College or departmental regulations will be confiscated. Examples of items that will be confiscated include candles and unapproved appliances. SPCPD may be contacted to confiscate alcohol, alcohol containers, drugs and drug paraphernalia. A room search by a designated College official is possible for any of the above listed purposes (see Confiscation).

## Room Checks

Room checks will occur a minimum of once a month. During room checks, hall staff will check for cleanliness, prohibited items, health and safety violations, maintenance needs, and damages.

## Health and Safety Inspections

The College reserves the right to enter a resident's room to determine compliance with health and safety regulations with probable cause.

Shall probable cause be established or consent of resident(s) is given, agents of the College may perform a Health and Safety Inspection of the room or other area. Probable cause can include but is not limited to:

1. Odor of drugs or alcohol
2. Evidence of a fire hazard
3. Evidence of a danger to health or life
4. Statements made indicating a violation
5. Video or photographic evidence of a violation
6. Social media content indicating a violation

## Technology Resources

The residence hall rooms each have at least one network access port, some rooms have two. These ports connect to the internet through the school's internet connection. It is recommended that residents use these ports to connect Smart TV's, Streaming Devices, Game consoles, computers, and anything with an Ethernet port. Approved gigabit switches are available from Information Services to residents who might need more ports than are available in the rooms.

The residence halls also have Wi-Fi installed. This system is designed to handle only the devices that do not have Ethernet ports. Saturating the Wi-Fi will degrade the signal and cause intermittent outages, slow speeds, and connection problems on the Wi-Fi network. If at all possible, plug all personal technology devices into a wired connection.

Wireless routers, Wi-Fi extenders, personal network routers, and other unapproved network extension devices are not allowed in the residence hall rooms. These wireless devices interfere with the installed Wi-Fi in the residence halls. Personal network routers can interfere with the normal operation of the network. Wireless routers, Wi-Fi extenders, personal network routers, and other unapproved network extension devices will be confiscated by the hall staff and individuals responsible may be subject to disciplinary action.

Be considerate of your neighbors when using the technology resources in the residence halls. The wired network as well as the wireless network in the residence halls has limited capacity and can be overwhelmed during peak usage times. *It should also be noted that microwave ovens operate on the same signal as Wi-Fi. If you are using a microwave in your room while connected to the Wi-Fi you can expect to lose signal on your device.*

## Services & Amenities

### Counseling Services

The Health and Wellness Center at South Plains College provides a safe and confidential environment for students to go for help with personal or relationship issues affecting their performance in life and school.

Licensed mental health professionals are available to students at the Levelland Campus. Students are seen on an appointment basis but are welcome to come in at any time during operating hours to complete initial screening paperwork and to set their appointments. Virtual appointments are also available.

Services Offered:

- Free & Confidential Counseling
- Mental Health Screening
- Seminars, Training, & Wellness Groups
- Consultation and Referral for Outside Services

Contact Information: (806) 716-2529

Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm during fall and spring semesters

During summer Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm, Friday 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

## Dining Services

Students are provided 21 meal per week service in Texan Hall seven days a week. Students who reside in residence halls obtain room and meals in a package plan for a unit price. Food services for residents of Smallwood apartments are available upon request.

### Texan Hall Hours of Operation

Weekdays	Monday- Thursday	7:15 am - 7:00 pm
	Friday	7:15 am - 6:00 pm
Weekends	Cont. Breakfast	9:00 am - 10:00 am
	Lunch	12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
	Dinner	5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

### Weekdays Monday-Thursday

(Fridays, all lines end at 6:00 pm)	Hot breakfast line	7:15 am - 8:45 am
	Continental breakfast	8:45 am - 10:30 am
	Sandwich bar	11:00 am - 1:30 pm
	Soup & Salad bar	11:00 am - 7:00 pm
	Hot lunch entree line	11:00 am - 1:30 pm
	Hot dinner entree line	5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

## Health Services

South Plains College offers all students taking at least six (1) semester hours on the *Levelland Campus* a medical treatment center with the services of a licensed nurse practitioner. The Student Health Clinic is located in the Health & Wellness Center adjacent to the Technology Center. Eligible students needing to schedule an appointment should contact the Student Health Clinic at 806-716-2576.

Hours: Monday thru Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

If the student has health insurance, the clinic will file a claim but no co-payment or balance will be collected.

The Student Health Clinic is closed during the summer.

## Access Fobs

Residents will be issued an access fob to enter outside doors of residence halls (when applicable). Residents must report all misplaced access fobs immediately to the Residence Life Office, for deactivation. Students who misplace or lose their access fobs are charged a \$20.00 fee for a replacement. Any problems with an access fob should be reported to the Hall Director or Residence Life Office. Any student found using another student's fob for building access will be subject to disciplinary action.

Residents should carry their access fob with them at all times. Residents who are locked out of their room should contact their Hall Director or the on-call Resident Assistant from the number posted in the hall.

Residents failing to turn in their fobs at the time of checkout will be charged the replacement fee.

Duplication of College keys/fobs is prohibited. Possession of College keys/fobs other than those assigned is not permitted.

## Laundry Rooms

Laundry machines are located in all halls and are for resident use only. Do not leave items unattended, and/or overload machines. The College is not responsible for laundry that is lost, damaged or stolen. Abuse of laundry machines only aggravates whatever problem the machine may have and is prohibited. Please report machine malfunctions to the Hall Director immediately.

## Mail Service and Delivery

Mail and packages are delivered to the SPC Mail Room located in the Student Center. Residents are responsible for leaving forwarding addresses with the mail room.

Students receiving mail and packages will be contacted by the mail room via their SPC email account. Once notified, the student will be required to pick up their mail or package(s) in the mail room. Any package shipped to an on-campus resident should be addressed to:

Resident Name  
South Plains College  
1401 South College Ave.  
Name of Residence Hall & Room Number  
Levelland, TX 79336

## Maintenance or Repairs

Maintenance requests or other room concerns should be reported to the Hall Director in a timely manner during office hours or via email. For emergency repairs, contact a staff member immediately. Emergency repairs can include, but are not limited to: electrical issues, heating or air conditioning issues, or plumbing issues.

Residence hall staff encourage reporting of maintenance problems early and with as much detail as possible. Maintenance personnel work between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays and may not always be able to arrive at hours most convenient to students. If problems persist continue to communicate that to the hall director.

## Storage

Storage is not available. All furniture must remain in the room. No space is available for students who wish to store belongings over the summer or while they are not enrolled. Temporary storage may be provided to students assigned to overflow housing at the beginning of each semester but is not guaranteed.

## Vacuum Cleaners

There are vacuum cleaners available in most common areas (unless there is no carpet in the residence hall rooms). Due to the limited number of vacuums available, students must return vacuum cleaners within the hour. Please notify Hall Director if a vacuum is not working properly.

## Vending Machines

Vending machines are located in all halls. Abuse of vending machines only aggravates whatever problem the machine may have and is prohibited. Please report machine malfunctions to the number listed on the machine.

# Campus Safety and Emergency Procedures

## Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2017, campus carry is intended to be in conformity with the requirements of Texas Government Code Section 411.2031.

Handgun license holders residing in SPC residence halls will be allowed to possess handguns on the premise provided that:

- a.) Such possession is in compliance at all times with Texas statutory law and these rules; and
- b.) The license holder stores his/her handgun(s) in a College-approved gun safe or in a locked personal vehicle.

It is the responsibility of the license holder to supply a College approved gun safe within the residence halls. College approved gun safes must meet the following requirements:

1. Be large enough to fully contain all firearms placed in it and provide for secure storage
2. Have exterior walls constructed of a minimum 16- gauge steel
3. Have high-strength locking system consisting of a mechanical or electronic combination or biometric lock, and not a key lock
4. Be certified to/listed as meeting Underwriters Laboratories Residential Security Container rating standards by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL).

Students who are assigned to rooms where a firearm is stored and who are concerned about their well-being may request a transfer to another room through the Housing Office.

## Campus Safe Walk Request

Campus Police officers or security guards are available to provide a safe walk to anyone, anywhere on the South Plains College campus. Students, faculty, administration and visitors are encouraged to call the South Plains College Police Department at the desired location for this service. After contacting SPCPD, an officer or security guard will meet you at your location and walk with you to your desired location. SPCPD can only transport individuals in police vehicles for safety purposes.

## South Plains College Police Department (SPCPD)

South Plains College employs licensed Texas Peace Officers at the Levelland Campus 24 hours a day. Should you have an emergency, dial 911. SPCPD can also be contacted by phone.

South Plains College Police should be notified when:

- Questionable strangers are on the campus or in the residence hall
- A strange or unknown vehicle appears on campus
- There is a problem with student safety

## EMERGENCIES

Emergencies should be reported to the South Plains College Police Department at 806-716-2396 and to the Hall Director on call. In an emergency situation, never hesitate to dial 911. In case of an emergency contact one of the following:

1. South Plains College Police at 806-716-2396
2. Dial 911
3. Your Hall Director
4. The on-call Resident Assistant at the number posted in your hall
5. The Housing Office at 806-716-2379 (during SPC business hours)

## Exterior Door Locking

Residents are expected to aid in maintaining the security of their hall. The exterior doors of the halls are locked at various times of day to control access and security of the hall. Residents are expected to carry their access fob to gain access to locked halls. Propping open exterior doors and/or tampering with locks are considered serious security violations and may result in disciplinary action.

## Fire Safety Procedures

In the event of an actual fire or a drill, all residents are required to evacuate the building according to the rules established by each residence hall. Follow the instructions of the Hall Director, Resident Assistants, SPCPD Officers, and/or firefighting personnel. Keep the following items in mind in the event of a fire:

1. Walk! Don't run. Be particularly careful in staircases.
2. Proceed directly to a place of safety outside of the building.

3. Do not attempt to salvage personal belongings.
4. Close doors and windows when you leave.
5. Before opening a closed door, feel it to see if it is hot. When it is hot, attempt to find another exit route.
6. A towel or blanket soaked in water can be helpful in combating smoke inhalation.
7. At all times, follow the instructions of personnel authorized to take charge at the scene of the emergency. If you have any questions about the procedures, contact your Hall Director immediately.
8. Stand away from the building.
9. Do not enter the building until given the all clear by staff or fire professionals.

Fire alarm pull stations and fire extinguishers are installed throughout the halls.

## Fire Doors

It is absolutely essential that corridor doors be kept closed at all times. In case of a fire emergency, closed doors retard the travel of smoke, heat, toxic gases, and fire from the area of origin. Propping of doors may result in disciplinary sanctions and fines. Nothing should be attached to a fire door. Tampering with fire doors may result in disciplinary action.

## Fire Drills

The College will hold fire drills to acquaint residents with fire evacuation procedures. All residents and guests should follow directions during fire drills. Failure to evacuate the room will result in disciplinary action.

## Fire Equipment and Exits

It is imperative that fire and safety equipment functions properly when it is needed. The following acts are prohibited:

- Tampering with fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, exit lights, or emergency lights
- Tampering with or pulling a fire alarm under false pretense
- Removing smoke detector batteries or otherwise rendering a smoke detector inoperable
- Propping open fire doors
- Obstructing halls and stairwells with furniture, debris and other materials
- Hanging objects from smoke detectors

Residents who jeopardize the safety of any resident will be subject to severe disciplinary action. Tampering with fire equipment or acts of arson can result in civil prosecution, disciplinary action, and possible fines.

## Liability

The College assumes no liability for loss, injury, or damage to personal property incidental to the occupancy or use of the residence halls, and each resident accepts full responsibility for the safety and security of his/her own personal property. The student agrees to hold the College harmless and indemnify it from any and all liability resulting from the use of the residence hall by the student.

## Loss of Property

Residents are responsible for the security of their own property. The College does not accept responsibility nor is it liable for theft, damage or other loss of money, valuables or personal effects of the student regardless of the cause of the loss. Residents are urged to purchase their own insurance for valuable items or possessions. In addition, residents

should take preventive measures to ensure items are not stolen. If a resident has items stolen from their car or room they are encouraged to file a report with the South Plains College Police Department.

## Missing Student Notification

The establishment of procedures for the college's response to missing residential students, as required by the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) of 2008 applies to all students who reside in any on-campus housing. For purposes of this policy, a student may be considered to be a "missing person" if the person's absence is contrary to his/her usual pattern of behavior; or some unusual or unexplained circumstance may have caused the absence. Such circumstance could include, but is not limited to:

- suspicion that the missing person may be the victim of foul play;
- past expression of suicidal thoughts;
- is or may be drug dependent;
- has been with or is acquainted with persons who may endanger the student's welfare.

Any individual on campus who has information that a residential student may be missing should notify Campus Police, the Dean of Students, the Associate Dean of Students, or the Residence Hall Director immediately.

## Reporting an Incident

Safety and security is of the utmost importance to the College. Students are encouraged to report any and all incidents that occur on campus that might be a safety threat or violation of campus policies, state, or federal laws. An incident reporting link is located the SPC website at [www.southplainscollege.edu](http://www.southplainscollege.edu) for students to report an incident. Incidents can also be reported directly to the South Plains College Police Department, the Dean of Students, Housing Office, and/or Health and Wellness Office.

## Safety

Safety within the residence halls begins with the resident. Report suspicious behavior to a staff member and/or the South Plains College Police Department. It is each resident's responsibility to follow the rules and regulations associated with safety procedures in the residence halls. In a community living situation, the safety practices of each individual greatly affect the safety of the other members of the community.

## Sexual and Gender-based Misconduct (Title IX)

Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), 20 U.S. C §§ 1681 et seq., and its implementing regulations, 34 C.F. R. Part 106 prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities operated by recipients of federal financial assistance. Sexual harassment of students [or employees], which includes acts of sexual violence, is a form of sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX. By an amendment to the Civil Rights Act of November 1980 and subsequent state legislation, sexual harassment is expressly outlawed and is considered a violation of College policy.

Inquiries concerning the application of Title IX may be referred to the Title IX coordinator (at SPC the Vice President for Student Affairs) pursuant to 34 C.F.R.§ Part 106.

## Smoke Detectors

All student rooms are equipped with smoke detectors. Detectors will be checked prior to the start of each semester and during weekly room checks by the hall staff. Residents that detect a problem with their smoke detector should contact the Hall Director immediately.

Disciplinary action will result if a student removes the batteries or otherwise renders the detector inoperative and a fine may be assessed. Disciplinary action could also result for residents who cause potential fire hazards through unsafe practices (i.e. overloading circuits, use of inappropriate extension cords, use of unauthorized cooking appliances, etc.).

## Tornado and Severe Weather

When a tornado or other severe weather is reported, residents are to follow the procedures of each building and move in an orderly manner to an interior wall within the building and away from windows. See the map of the building for designated shelter in place locations.

### Severe Weather/Tornado Watch

A watch is a statement that severe weather/tornado conditions are present and could occur.

### Severe Weather/Tornado Warning

When a severe weather/tornado sighting occurs, the National Weather Service alerts all weather stations and local authorities.

If severe weather or a tornado is approaching, the warning will be signaled by Levelland's emergency sirens.

- Do not leave the building unless instructed to do so by the authorities in charge; keep abreast of who these authorities might be (SPCPD, fire department, civil defense).
- Stay away from glass (windows and doors).
- Avoid outside walls.
- Go to ground-level floors in multi-story buildings.
- Do NOT use elevators.
- Go to interior rooms without windows.
- Never open windows and/or doors.
- Stay out of vehicles - do not try to evade a tornado in a vehicle.
- If outside and unable to reach shelter, move to a ditch or hollow and lay down with head covered.

## Residence Hall Policies

### Abandoned Property

SPC and its employees are not responsible for any student property left in residence hall rooms or public areas of residence halls. In the event that student property is left in residence halls after the housing contract period is over, the property will be removed at the owner's expense. Personal property left in any common area, such as bathrooms, hallways, or lobbies may be discarded by the College after 72 hours. Items left behind after a student has checked out of the halls may be discarded immediately. If items are saved, students will have 30 days after initial contact via email to retrieve items, after this period items will be removed and discarded at the owner's expense. (See also Personal Furniture and Items)

## Alcohol Containers

The possession of any alcohol container on campus is prohibited. This includes any empty alcohol containers used for decorative purposes.

## Animals on Campus

No pets or animals are allowed in the residence halls at any time. A student found with an animal in the residence halls will be asked to remove the animal immediately from campus, are subject to disciplinary action, and may be fined up to \$50 per day until the animal is removed. If hall staff are unable to locate the resident in a reasonable amount of time, local animal control will be notified for removal of the animal from campus.

Fish are allowed in a three-gallon maximum sized tank. Fish tanks must be cleaned regularly. If tanks become excessively dirty or smelly, owners will be asked to remove the fish from the residence hall. Fish must be removed during holiday breaks (Thanksgiving, Winter, and Spring Break). If a student leaves a fish during the break, the fish will be confiscated, the student will lose their privileges to have a fish in the residence halls, and disciplinary action may be taken.

Additionally, animals are not allowed in any college building except when needed for instruction or where needed by an employee or student with a disability.

### Service Animal

Service animals are dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Service animals are permitted in every area of campus unless posted due to safety concerns. Students with service animals are NOT required to register with the Disability Services Office, but notification is recommended. The ADA requires service animals be under the control of the handler at all times. This can occur using a harness, leash, or other tether. It is suggested that the service animal also wear identification (e.g. identification tags, vest, bandanna, etc.).

The following guidelines are required for service animals on campus:

- The service animal must be vaccinated and licensed according to local or county Ordinances.
- Animals must be under the control of the owner at all times. The Service Animal itself is an extension of the student and therefore under the same code of conduct as the student.
- The owner is responsible for waste disposal.
- A person with a disability cannot be asked to remove his/her service animal from the premises unless: (1) the dog is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it or (2) the dog is not housebroken. When there is a legitimate reason to ask that a service animal be removed, staff must offer the person with the disability the opportunity to obtain goods or services without the animal's presence.

### Emotional Support Animal (ESA)

Emotional Support Animals are used in the treatment of a diagnosed condition. ESAs are not allowed in campus buildings with the exception of student housing.

Emotional Support Animals must be a dog, cat, small bird, rabbit, hamster, gerbil, other rodent, fish, turtle, or other small, domesticated animal that is traditionally kept in the home for pleasure. Reptiles (except turtles), barnyard animals, monkeys, kangaroos, and other non-domesticated animals are not considered common household pets. No snakes!! (HUD, 2020). They must also be:

- Fully vaccinated
- Fully house-broken

### Unique Emotional Support Animals

These are animals not commonly kept as a household pet. The student must have substantial burden of proof of a disability-related therapeutic need for the specific animal or specific type of animal.

ESAs should be in compliance with community ordinances for pets. Any animal that is not allowed within a community due to city health ordinances, typically wild animals, would not normally be eligible as an ESA. (Ex., Skunks, Raccoons, Opossums)

### How Many ESAs Can a Student Have?

In general, a student is entitled to a single ESA. However, in some cases a student may request two ESAs.

A request for more than one ESA needs to be supported by clear documentation from the mental health provider stating specifically the reasoning for needing more than one. If more than one is supported by documentation, then size of the ESA has to be considered.

Students with ESAs in housing must follow the standards below:

- Animals cannot be left unattended overnight at any time.
- ESAs cannot be taken into the residence hall office, administrative offices, or common student living areas.
- The animal must be "crated" or "caged" while the animal owner is away from the residence hall.
- Animal waste must be disposed of in a plastic bag and then placed in the garbage dumpsters outside. Clean up must occur IMMEDIATELY. Animal feces may not be disposed of in any trash receptacle inside the residence halls or other college building or through the sewer system.
- Residents with cats must properly maintain litter boxes as outlined by the cat litter manufacturer. Litter box contents must be disposed of properly and regularly.
- Animal accidents within the residence hall room must be promptly cleaned using appropriate cleaning products.
- Regular and routine cleaning of floors, kennels, cages, and litter boxes must occur. Animal odor emanating from a residence hall room is not acceptable.
- Animal owners will be charged a cleaning and/or damage fee if necessary. ESAs who leave stains, scuffs, bite marks, scratches, or any other damage and/or mess to any SPC residence hall property will be fined a minimum of \$35.
- Animal owners can take precautionary measures to prevent flea and tick infestations by using flea and tick collars, and medicated shampoo for the animal. If a flea or tick infestation occurs a report must be made to the Hall Director who will then have SPC contracted professional extermination services ordered. The owner will be responsible for extermination costs.
- Animals must not be allowed to disrupt others (e.g. barking continuously, growling or howling, etc.). Animals that are a threat or nuisance to staff, residents or property, as determined by the Associate Dean of Students or designee, must be removed within seven (7) days of notification. SPC Police Department personnel who determine an animal poses an immediate threat may contact animal control to remove the animal. If the behavior of an animal can be addressed by the owner so that the pet does not have to be removed, a written action plan must be submitted by the owner to the Associate Dean of Students. The action plan must outline the action to take place to alleviate the problems and also must give a deadline as to length of time the plan will take to complete. Any action plan must be approved by the Associate Dean of Students or designee. The day after the deadline for removal, the Hall Director will do a residence hall room inspection to check damage and flea/tick infestation and then the mandatory cleaning and extermination will be scheduled. Any animal owner found not adhering to the removal directive will be subject to disciplinary action, which could include contract cancellation.
- The animal owner will take all reasonable precautions to protect college staff and other housing residents from situations where they might experience the perceived threat of or an actual injury as a result of the animal's behavior.
- The owner will immediately notify the Hall Director if the animal has escaped its confines.

- All liability for the actions of the animal (bites, scratches, etc.) is the responsibility of the owner. Violations concerning any of the aforementioned may result in the resident having to find alternative housing off-campus for the animal and, as warranted, may also result in a resident being in breach of their housing contract.
- The Housing Office reserves the right to revoke and remove ESAs if any of these standards are not met.

All Emotional Support Animal requests must be submitted to the Disability Services Office on the Levelland Campus. Only after the Disability Office has approved the accommodation of an ESA **and** required documentation is provided to the Housing Office can the student can bring the animal to campus housing.

## Appliances

Electrical appliances **not** allowed include, but are not limited to: air conditioning units, room water coolers, camping stoves, ceiling fans, electric skillets or woks, griddles, halogen lamps, potpourri pots, waffle makers, hot oil popcorn poppers, hot plates, coffee pots, oven broilers, power tools, any appliance with an open coil, space heaters, toasters, or toaster ovens. No wireless routers or modems may be used in the residence halls.

Hall staff will confiscate unauthorized or misused appliances, and the individuals responsible may be subject to disciplinary action.

Allowed appliances include: Microwaves, mini-refrigerators (one per resident, 3.2 cubic feet maximum), single serve coffee makers (unless it includes a hot plate), air fryers (without toaster/convection capabilities), hot air popcorn poppers, rice cookers, blenders, and televisions (40 in maximum).

No locks can be placed on any appliances. Refrigerators may be inspected during health and safety inspections.

## Babysitting

Babysitting is not allowed in the residence halls.

## Bicycles

Bicycle racks are located outside each hall. Bicycles should always be locked to prevent theft. Students may store their bicycles in their rooms, with their roommate's consent, as long as the bicycle is cleaned before entering the hall. Bicycles should not block the room exit if stored in a room.

Under no circumstances, is anyone allowed to ride or store a bicycle in the lobby or hallway of a residence hall. Bicycles are not to be left in the courtyard or chained to bike racks after a resident checks out of the hall. Bicycles that remain on campus the Monday after residence halls close for the semester will become property of the College.

## Bulletin Boards

Only campus organizations or College departments may post information on hall bulletin boards. All items to be posted should be approved by the Hall Director and/or the Director of Student Life. Submit items to be posted to the hall director during office hours for review. Hall staff will post approved materials in designated areas.

Any damage to or tampering with any hall bulletin board or white board may result in charges for damages and/or disciplinary action.

## Cleaning

Residents are expected to keep their assigned room reasonably neat and clean at all times. Hall staff reserve the right to ask residents to clean their room for safety, health, or roommate concerns. Room checks will be conducted to insure proper care of the residence halls. Failure to keep your room and restroom clean and sanitary will result in disciplinary action, and in extreme cases can lead to removal from student housing. Custodial services are not provided after a resident has moved into their room. Residents should report common area cleaning concerns to their Hall Director.

## Cooking

Cooking in the residence halls is allowed with approved cooking appliances. Residents are responsible for ensuring that proper sanitation, ventilation, and fire safety precautions are taken. Use of unapproved cooking appliances and/or any damage resulting from cooking or improper food disposal may result in disciplinary action and/or charges for damages.

Kitchens are available for use in some halls. Residents are responsible for cleaning the kitchen when cooking is completed. Hall Directors reserve the right to shut down any common area kitchen without warning if they are being misused or left in an unsanitary manner.

## Common Area Use

The lobbies and common areas in each hall are for the use of residents and their guests. Appropriate public behavior and dress are expected in lobbies. Students and/or their guests may be asked to leave a common area should they not meet these requirements.

Residents are encouraged to use the common areas for relaxing, socializing, studying or in-hall events. Public displays of affection, disruptive behavior and sleeping in the common areas are not socially acceptable behaviors and are not permitted.

Operating hours for the main lobby, courtyards, study rooms, lounges, kitchens, and laundry rooms in each hall are posted for residents. Guests may accompany residents in common areas during visitation hours. All visitors in the lobby must be 18 years of age or older. Quiet hours for the common areas are from 12:00 am - 9:00 am daily.

## Darts and Dartboards

Because of the potential danger to both persons and property, darts and dartboards are prohibited in the residence halls and will be confiscated by hall staff if found.

## Decorations

Pictures, posters, and other items used to decorate a student's room are encouraged as long as they do not create a health or fire hazard or damage the room. All decorations are subject to the approval of roommates. All decorations visible through the window or on the door should be in good taste. Pictures and other materials that may be considered objectionable are not to be displayed in areas that may be visible outside the student's room. Decorations containing rude, vulgar, indecent or obscene messages, include alcohol or drug references, or display of excessive nudity are prohibited and can be subject to confiscation, disciplinary action and/or criminal charges.

To keep the walls in resident rooms in excellent condition students are prohibited from using 3M (or any like brand) Command Strips of any kind, double sided tape, duct tape, adhesives, screws, nails requiring anchors, and large nails on any surface in the residence halls. Push pins, small tacks, and poster putty are allowable. Damage charges may apply for excessive damage to walls caused by push pins, small tacks, or poster putty.

Carpet tape may not be used to secure items to the floor. Placing contact paper or any adhesives on the walls, woodwork or desktops may result in damage charges. Wallpaper and border may not be used in rooms.

### **Holiday Lights**

LED holiday lights and rope lights may be used as decoration. Lights must be UL-approved and of low wattage - only miniatures. Proper electrical outlet space MUST be used. No more than three strings of lights may be connected together and any extension cords used must meet residence hall requirements. Lights should not be hung near wall hangings, curtains, or sinks. Lights must be off when residents are not in the room.

## **Extension Cords and Surge Protectors**

Extension cords may be used on a limited basis in a residence hall room. Only cords with an AWG (American Wire Gauge) rating of 14 or lower and are 25' or less may be used. Extension cords may be plugged into circuit breaker protected power strips, but power strips should not be plugged into extension cords. Extension cords and power strips should never be placed above the ceiling tiles, underneath carpet or stapled or pinched in anyway. Only power strips and multi-plugs with built in circuit breakers (surge protectors) may be used in rooms. Improper use of extension cords may result in confiscation and/or disciplinary action.

## **Guests**

A guest is defined as a person who is not assigned to the room or hall they are visiting. Residence hall students are allowed to host up to two guests in their rooms or common areas during visitation hours. Violating a roommate's right of entry into the room or hindering a roommate's ability to study and/or sleep within their room is considered a violation of guest privileges. Individuals under 18 years of age are not allowed in the residence halls as guests. All guests must be escorted at all times by their host in all areas. No more than six students should be in a room at a time (this includes residents of the room). An excessive number of guests in any room can be asked to relocate visitation by the Hall Director or Resident Assistant.

Guests should use appropriate restroom facilities within the halls including public restrooms. Community restrooms in Forrest, Frazier, or Stroud should not be used by any female guest at any time. Guests are prohibited from using the shower facilities in any suite or hall restroom.

### **Host responsibilities**

Hosts are responsible for the behavior of their guest at all times and are obligated to inform the guest of all College and residence hall rules and regulations. Any violation of rules or regulations by a guest may result in disciplinary action being taken against both the host and the guest.

### **Escorting Guests**

The host must escort guests, regardless of gender, at all times. Guests are required to wait for their host before proceeding into the building, into a hall or to their host's room. Guests should be escorted completely out of the host's residence hall. Guest escort must also take place in hall courtyards and all common areas. Guest's should never be without a host in a resident room. Never escort anyone that is not your guest. Failure to follow this rule will result in a loss of visitation and/or disciplinary action.

### **Overnight Guests**

Arrangement for overnight guests (resident and non-resident) must be approved by the Residence Life Office. Guests are not allowed to stay overnight without roommate(s) permission.

## Co-Habitation

Co-habitation is not permitted in any residence hall or on-campus apartment. Co-habitation is defined as a guest staying in a resident's room for more than two consecutive days a week and 10 days per contract period (academic year).

## Holiday Decorations

If students decorate their rooms for the holidays, these guidelines must be followed:

- Trees and other greenery must be artificial and must have proof of flame resistance
- Lights must be LED, UL-approved and of low wattage - only miniatures
- All decorations are to be removed within two days following the holiday. If the holiday falls near a break period, then all decorations must be removed prior to the break period.
- Fire alarm pull stations, fire extinguisher cabinets, smoke detectors, sprinkler heads and exit signs must not be covered and exits must not be blocked
- No candles or any open flame may be used

## Hoverboards and Skateboards

The use of bicycles, roller blades, skateboards, motorized skateboards, scooters and other mechanical means of transportation are not allowed for use within South Plains College buildings or residence halls. The following exceptions apply: 1) when required for a work or class assignment or 2) as necessary for a disability or medical condition. Use of any of the above in the residence halls will result in disciplinary action and possible confiscation.

## Lock-Out Policy

In the event of a lockout, contact your Resident Assistant. If you are unable to locate your Resident Assistant, contact the hall director of the On-Call Resident Assistant at the number posted in your hall. An SPC ID or valid photo ID must be presented to establish your identity. If your ID card is not available, you will be asked to provide personal information that will be verified against our roster. It is our expectation that you take your ID access card/keys/fobs with you when you leave your room and/or hall.

In the event the On-Call Resident Assistant is called for lock outs, the Resident Assistant on duty will do their best to unlock doors in a timely manner. However, please realize that they have additional duties and responsibilities that may come first.

While waiting for the Resident Assistant, Hall Director or On-Call Resident Assistant to respond, no student should attempt to open the door. This can include the use of lock-pick sets, coat hangers, credit cards, or any other device or item used to force the door open. Students who attempt to open the door without Hall Staff present will be subject to disciplinary action and fees for any damages.

Excessive lock-outs will follow the disciplinary action and/or fines listed below.

1. Students receive one "free" lock-out per semester.
2. 2nd lock-out \$10.00
3. 3rd lock-out \$20.00 per lockout and possible disciplinary action.

Lock-out records and charges for each student will accumulate throughout the semester and will start over at the beginning of each semester. Students with seven or more lock-outs may receive a dean referral for disciplinary intervention.

## **Mandatory Meetings**

At various times throughout the semester, residents are required to attend mandatory hall or floor meetings to receive information pertaining to living on campus. The meetings are for the benefit of the residents and they are responsible for any and all information presented or discussed. Non-attendance or failure to contact the hall staff in advance to explain why the meeting will be missed may result in a \$25 fine and disciplinary action.

## **Motorcycles**

Motorcycles parked on campus require a parking permit and should be parked in designated parking areas. Motorcycles are prohibited in buildings and courtyard areas.

## **Offensive Odors**

An offensive odor is any odor or aroma of such intensity that it becomes apparent and is offensive to others. Any odor can become offensive when it is too strong. Some examples are: perfume, air freshening spray, food, or large amounts of dirty laundry. Hall staff will address offensive odors when complaints are received. Residents identified as being responsible for the offensive odor will be asked to eliminate the cause of the odor.

## **Painting of Rooms**

Residents are not permitted to paint their individual rooms. Students may be assessed a fine for painting any portion of their room and/or charged the cost of the repainting.

## **Personal Furniture and Items**

Students are permitted to bring personal items from home for their rooms. Furniture items may not contain any wood and/or cloth (recliners, futons, mattresses, desks, shelves, etc.). Furniture constructed purely of plastic and/or metal is permissible. All of these items should be kept in their room and should not be stored in any other location. No college furniture may be removed from the rooms to accommodate personal items.

Waterbeds are not permitted in any student rooms due to safety and maintenance concerns.

## **Pranks**

Pranks which result in disturbances or distress to others, or cause damage to College or personal property, are prohibited.

## **Projectiles**

For reasons of health and safety, propelling devices such as rockets, paint guns, water balloons/launchers, catapults, slingshots, or any homemade device for the purpose of launching an object are prohibited.

## **Quiet Hours**

Quiet areas in all residence halls are from 12:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. This includes common areas and individual rooms. Daily quiet hours will be enforced to facilitate sleeping and studying. During non-quiet hours, noise should be kept at a

reasonable level. If you are having difficulty sleeping or studying due to noise, report it first to your resident assistant, then to the Hall Director.

## **Repelling**

Repelling off of any College building is prohibited and can result in disciplinary action.

## **Rooftops**

Students are not allowed on the roof of any College building for safety reasons. Any student found on a roof of any residence hall or college building will be subject to disciplinary action.

## **Room Use**

Students are not permitted to sublet, assign their rooms, or to use their rooms for commercial purposes. No student should move rooms without the permission of the Hall Director. Residents are not permitted to remove equipment or furnishings from their room.

## **Running and Roughhousing**

Residents may be asked to refrain from running, rollerblading, skateboarding, skating, roughhousing, scuffling, use of water guns, and the throwing, bouncing, or kicking of objects in halls, and other common areas for safety reasons.

## **Solicitation**

Solicitation of commercial products or services within the residence halls is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to solicitation/sales within student rooms, common areas, and entry areas (inside or outside) of the halls. Students and campus organizations desiring special consideration should contact the Student Life Office. If sales personnel approach you, do not allow them to enter your room and inform your Hall Director immediately.

## **Street/Road Signs**

Street/Road signs are considered the property of the respective government agencies where located and any inappropriate taking or possession by unauthorized individuals may result in judicial or legal action. Individuals possessing street/road signs may be requested to provide proof of ownership.

## **Syringe Disposal**

All individuals using injection needles are required to properly dispose of them to prevent students, visitors and College staff members from accidental needle sticks and injury. This means placing needles in a red biohazard sharps container, available through Student Health Services upon request. Biohazard containers should be returned to Student Health Services for disposal: do not attempt to personally dispose of these items. Please contact Student Health Services, ext. 2376 for further information.

If a student finds any discarded needles, they should contact Campus Police immediately.

## Trash

Trash dumpsters are provided outside each building for residents' trash disposal. Personal trash left in the halls, laundry rooms, kitchens, or in the restrooms will be considered improper trash disposal and subject to disciplinary action. Personal trash must be deposited in the dumpsters, this includes PIZZA Boxes. Trash that is not disposed of properly will be searched to locate contents which can identify the owner, who may be charged a \$25.00 per bag fine. Any trash, including food substances, not discarded inside the dumpster or receptacle is considered illegal dumping and is subject to criminal charges according to state law.

## Tunnels/Crawl Spaces

Students are not allowed in tunnel or crawl space areas and should never attempt to access these areas.

## Visitation

Residents and their guests are responsible for knowing and observing the visitation hours established for the residence halls. Visitation hours are enforced for the safety of residents and for the consideration of roommates' rights to privacy, studying, and sleep.

### Visitation Hours in Residence Halls:

#### 10:00 AM - 1:00 AM

Visitation by students in the same hall is permissible outside of regular visitation hours provided quiet hours are observed, noise is kept to a minimum, roommates have given permission for such visitation, and the visitation does not infringe on another student's (roommate, suitemate, or any neighboring rooms) right to privacy, studying, and/or sleep. For information about overnight guests, see Guests and Quiet Hours.

Each resident reserves the right to choose their own guests. Residents may not force or coerce their roommate to claim guests.

Residents whose guests are found to be in violation of the visitation policy may be assessed a fine and be subject to disciplinary actions. Non-residents may be asked to leave if they are not complying with housing policies. Repeated violations may result in suspension of visitation privileges, larger fines, and/or more serious disciplinary actions.

All guests must be escorted at all times. (See Guests and Quiet Hours)

## Windows

Windows are not to be used as a room exit unless residents do so for emergency reasons. Window screens should not be removed. Residents will be charged for damages to screens and for the installation of any removed screen. Throwing, hanging, or spitting objects from windows is prohibited. Excessive window coverings are not allowed (may include paper or foil). Windows should not be opened.

## Resident Code of Conduct

When a student enrolls at South Plains College, it is assumed that the student accepts the rules and regulations prescribed by the College. It is the student's obligation to be familiar with the standards of conduct. Rules and

regulations are also contained in, but not limited to, the following SPC publications: General Catalog, Student Guide, Residence Life Handbook and SPC Parking and Traffic Regulations.

When you enroll as a student at South Plains College and fill out your residence life application, you are agreeing to abide by the rules and regulations of SPC as outlined in the Residence Life Handbook and the Student Guide Code of Conduct. As a student, you are responsible for becoming familiar with the contents of these publications.

## Student Conduct

Each student in the residence halls is expected to exercise self-discipline and to respect the rights of other students. Each resident must realize that in a group living experience, certain rules should be observed by all in order to maintain a safe and educational environment. Individuals in violation or in the presence of a violation of the rules established by the College, or State and/or Federal government will be handled appropriately. Questions related to appropriate and inappropriate behavior should be addressed to the Hall Director or the Associate Dean of Students. Students should refer to the Student Conduct section of the Student Guide for additional information.

## Dean Referrals

Dean referrals are issued for a number of reasons including code of conduct violations or as a part of an active investigation. Any student issued a Dean Referral by the Campus Police Department or a Hall Director is expected to report to the Dean of Students or Associate Dean of Students office the next business day by 8:30 AM. If you have class at 8:00 AM, you are expected to schedule a time for later in the day. This can be done by talking to the administrative assistant in person or calling 806-716-2379. Failure to appear may result in a resident being removed from student housing or increased sanctions.

## Procedures for Disciplinary Action

All offenses of misconduct in residence halls shall be dealt with by the Dean of Students or Associate Dean of Students and will follow due process procedures. All offenses that may lead to suspension or expulsion shall be regarded as major offenses and be dealt with by the due process procedures detailed in the Student Guide.

## Penalties for Misconduct

Penalties for misconduct include, but are not limited to the following:

- Warning or Reprimand
- Referral to Health & Wellness
- Restriction
- Community Service
- Fines
- Disciplinary Probation
- Disciplinary Suspension
- Expulsion
- Removal from College Housing

Residents and their guest(s) are required to abide by the rules in the Residence Hall Handbook and the Student Guide. When residents or guests violate a rule or procedure, the Hall Director will report the event to the Dean of Students or Associate Dean of Students via an incident report and dean referral for investigation and/or due process proceedings.

## **Areas of Misconduct**

**In addition to the Student Code of Conduct, residents are expected to abide by all items outlined below.**

### **CANDLES and OPEN FLAMES**

No items that have open flames, flammable fuels or open coils may be used in a residence hall. Candles, candle wax, Scentsy warmers, candle warmers, potpourri pots, oil burners, incense and scented plug-ins are prohibited in the residence hall rooms, lobbies, and storerooms due to possible fire hazards. This rule includes decorative candles with burned or unburned wicks and wickless candles. Violation of this rule may result in immediate relocation and disciplinary action. These items will be confiscated immediately.

### **PROFANITY OR OBSCENITY**

The use of rude, vulgar, indecent or obscene verbal or written expressions, while protected by the First Amendment, are considered detrimental to the community residence hall environment and are not condoned. The College reserves the right to refuse postings, which contain rude, vulgar, indecent, or obscene expressions. Residents will be asked to refrain from this type of language when in hall common areas.

### **TOBACCO**

The use of any tobacco product (including smokeless tobacco), electronic cigarette, or vapor device throughout all indoor areas and within a 25-foot perimeter around all facility entrances, exits and HVAC air intake vents under the control of SPC, including sporting facilities and in SPC vehicles, is prohibited. Smoking or vaping in a room will result in disciplinary measures and possible a fine. The legal age to use tobacco is 21.

### **UNAUTHORIZED POSSESSION OF KEYS**

The possession by students of keys or access cards/fobs to college buildings or facilities that have not been issued to the student by an authorized college official is strictly prohibited.

### **USE OF COLLEGE PROPERTY**

Items belonging to the College (couches, lounge chairs, tables, etc.) are not allowed in student rooms. College property other than furnishings assigned to the student's room will be removed, and students may be referred for disciplinary action. No College property may be moved or taken from the hall without written authorization from the Hall Director.

Furniture must remain in its designated space. Room furnishings are to remain in the rooms at all times. Common area furniture that is removed by a student for their private use will be considered stolen and disciplinary action may be taken. No additional locks may be installed. Students may not leave any type of furnishings or property outside of their room or in the hallway. No College furniture should be moved to an outside location.

### **VERBAL ABUSE**

Frequently, staff members must confront residents and/or their guest in order to remind them of various rules. Unfortunately, residents sometimes persist in being argumentative, respond by shouting, or make rude, vulgar, indecent or obscene comments and/or gestures to the staff members. Anytime this is done within earshot of the staff member, it is considered verbal abuse. This type of interaction could lead to additional disciplinary sanctions.

