

WESTERN NEBRASKA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

RESIDENCE HALL MANUAL 2024-2025



OFFICE OF RESIDENCE LIFE

RESIDENCE LIFE OFFICE, **SCOTTSBLUFF CAMPUS** (308) 635-6050

Residence Life Mission Statement

The office of residence life provides opportunities for residential students to grow, explore, and discover themselves while cultivating rich learning experiences while providing a welcoming safe and inclusive environment for all students.

This manual supports and affirms the student Community Standards & Expectations and outlines the expectations of student housing. Western Nebraska Community College, (hereinafter, "College") reserves the right to make necessary changes to this manual at any time. The College agrees to provide the contracted individual, (hereinafter "Student") with student housing under the following terms and conditions. The College Catalog, the Student Handbook, the Residential Contract for Housing, and the Student Community Standards & Expectations should be consulted as additional official references. Please contact the Residence Life Staff if you have questions.

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1 Student Rights

As a WNCC Student, you have the following basic rights:

- The right to be treated with respect.
- The right to have and express your own feelings and opinions without infringing on the rights of others.
- The right to be heard and taken seriously.
- The right to set your own priorities.
- The right to say "no" without feeling guilty.
- The right to make a request or ask for what you want (knowing that others have the right to refuse).
- The right to ask for information from professionals or people in authority positions.
- The right to make mistakes.
- The right to choose not to assert yourself.

1.1 Basic Roommate Rights

As a Student living in WNCC College-owned Housing, you have the following rights:

- The right to read and study free from undue interference in one's residence.
- The right to sleep without undue disturbance from noise, guests of roommates, etc.
- The right to expect that a roommate will respect one's personal belongings.
- The right to a clean environment in which to live.
- The right of free access to one's residence and facilities without pressure from a roommate.
- The right to personal privacy.
- The right to host guests with the expectation that guests are to respect the rights of the host's roommate.
- The right to address grievances and concerns. (Residence Hall staff will be available for assistance in settling conflicts.)
- The right to be free from fear of intimidation, physical, and/or emotional harm.

Roommate Contracts should be filled out with Residence Life Staff.

2 Student Conduct & Expectations

2.1 Alcohol (Beverages, Containers, and Powder)

WNCC ALCOHOL AND ILLEGAL DRUG POLICIES

WNCC promotes learning by engaging students, advancing scholarly inquiry, cultivating critical

thought, and creating knowledge. To foster an environment in which this mission can be realized, certain expectations must be placed upon each member of the college community. These expectations are non-negotiable and are monitored diligently.

Individuals have the right to their own beliefs and values, but they share a responsibility to accept the consequences for failing to live up to the standards of the institution. All students bear a responsibility to understand the policies governing their behavior as set out in the Student Handbook. The college's policies on alcohol and illegal drugs are defined below; however, all students should be familiar with the entire code. (Board Policy 500.3900.14)

Drug & Alcohol Policy - The College affirms its responsibility and commitment to maintain a drug-free campus. The College is obligated to provide a drug-free, safe, healthy, and secure campus for students and employees. (Board Policy 500.4000.79 & Board Policy 500.4050.07)

The college prohibits the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of controlled substances on College property or while conducting College business off-premises. Any employee convicted of a criminal drug offense under the above conditions is subject to appropriate personnel action up to and including termination or satisfactory participation in a drug rehabilitation program.

In accordance with Nebraska State Law (§ 53-186) the College prohibits the use, possession, or sale of alcoholic beverages in any form on college property, whether leased or owned. This includes but is not limited to disruptive conduct that directly results from the usage and consumption of alcoholic beverages or alcoholic based substances. This policy also includes students who are of legal drinking age, and they will be held accountable for violations of this policy.

Individual students and groups are responsible for their actions. College policy follows Nebraska State law, violations of the alcohol policy or disruptive conduct resulting from the use or College authorities, civil authorities, or both will deal with suspected use of alcoholic beverages.

Alcoholic beverages or containers found in student residences will be confiscated by authorized College personnel (hereinafter "ACP"). If a resident or visitor is found in possession of an alcoholic beverage or container, a notice of violation concerning the offense will be issued.

Please note:

Students in or near the area where alcohol is being possessed or consumed may be cited and held accountable for possession of alcohol.

Regardless of whether the student is consuming the alcohol.

A student or guest in violation of the WNCC Alcohol Policy may face the following sanctions:

2.1 1st Offense

- Documentation for the violation of College Policy (Alcohol)
- A written warning
- Potential referral to local law enforcement, which could include additional sanctions through the judicial system.
- Project or paper on the impacts of alcohol on self, goals, and community
- Community service
- Required to complete an **Alcohol education/assessment** course

2nd Offense

- Documentation for the violation of College Policy (Alcohol)
- Probation
- 25 hours of community service on campus
- Referral to Counseling Services to set up an **alcohol dependency session**
- Potential referral to local law enforcement, which could include additional sanctions through the judicial system.
- Referral to the Office of Student Life to meet with the Dean of Students or designee
- A letter may be sent to the resident's parent(s) or legal guardian.
- Student could face suspension and eviction from College Housing for multiple alcohol violations or failure to comply with sanctions
- A \$250 fine

Students who are of the legal drinking age will be held accountable for action, which violate the College Alcohol policy and will be subject to disciplinary sanctions.

College policy prohibits the consumption, possession, and distribution of alcoholic beverages on College Owned property. This action is also a violation of Nebraska State Law. ([Board Policy 500.3900.14](#))

2.2 Drugs and Illegal Chemicals

College policy prohibits the consumption, possession, or sale of controlled substances and/or the presence of persons under the influence of controlled substances on College property, whether leased or owned, and on the specific premises of College sponsored or supervised off-campus functions.

Conduct covered by this offense includes but is not limited to:

- Manufacture, distribution, sale, offer for sale, possession, or use of any illegal drug or narcotic, including but not limited to barbiturates, hallucinogens, amphetamines, cocaine, opium, heroin, or marijuana;
- Misuse or abuse of legal drugs or narcotics;
- Possession of a device (drug paraphernalia) that has been used to ingest an illegal drug or narcotic.
- Violations of this policy will be referred to law enforcement and the Students/guest(s) will face disciplinary sanctions or both. Residents are in possession of a drug or illegal chemical if they are in a room where the items are discovered, regardless of whether the Student is consuming the chemical.

If drugs or drug paraphernalia are found in any room the Student(s) responsible may be removed from College Housing.

Residents who have guests in violation of this policy may refer to the “visitation” section of this manual for guest liability.

2.3 Discrimination (Bullying /Hazing/Acts of Intolerance)

WNCC is committed to providing a college environment free from illegal discrimination. Specifically, College students and/or employees, shall not participate in any harassment, discrimination or retaliation based on any protected class status of individuals as covered by College policies.

As such, no College student or employee shall engage in discrimination, harassment, or retaliation toward a College student or employee of the College.

Examples of prohibited conduct include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Sexual harassment, defined to include unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, physical or visual unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature.
- Harassment or discrimination is defined to include verbal, physical, or other conduct of a nature, which is offensive to a person on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, sex, and age.
- Retaliation against any person for filing a charge or complaint of prohibited conduct.
- Retaliation against the respondent in a charge or complaint of prohibited conduct.

Prohibited harassment or discrimination includes any conduct or behavior of an inappropriate nature where:

- Submission to the conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly, a term or condition of academic success or employment advantage/benefit, or
- Submission to or rejection of the conduct by an individual is used, threatened, or suggested to be used as the basis for academic or employment decisions; or
- Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with a student's or employee's performance or creating a hostile, intimidating or offensive atmosphere.

Persons violating this policy will face strict discipline up to and including suspension, expulsion, or termination. Any person believing that they have been subject to prohibited harassment, discrimination or retaliation as set forth in this policy may file a complaint utilizing the College's Discrimination, Harassment, or Retaliation Complaint Operating Procedures.

WNCC will not condone or tolerate any actions which could be considered bullying or hazing regardless of if it is physical in nature or not. College policy defines Hazing "as an act which endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student, or which destroys or removes public or private property, for the purpose of initiation, admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in, a group or organization. The express or implied consent of the victim will not be a defense. Apathy or acquiescence in the presence of hazing are not neutral acts; they are violations of this rule." (Board Policy 405.0100.14 & Board Policy 500.3800.14)

2.4 Drones

It is not permissible for individual students, faculty, staff, or outside entities to operate unmanned aircraft/drones on the WNCC campus, interiors, or exteriors without the express written consent of WNCC. This is due to both Federal Aviation Administration requirements and risk management/liability issues. Requests to operate such a device will be managed through the office of the Dean of Students. Local, state, and federal certified law enforcement agencies and first responders are exempt from this provision.

2.5 Due Process

A Student who has been documented for a violation of College policy has the right to be heard concerning the violation. The Student may appeal the decision from the College. The purpose of the appeal is to provide the student with the opportunity to bring forward questions regarding substantive or procedural errors that occurred during the process. Note the appeal process is not intended to grant a new hearing at a higher level; additionally, dissatisfaction with a decision is not grounds for an appeal. Please reference the Student Handbook for the full student conduct process.

2.6 Candles/Incense

Candles and incense are fire hazards and may not be burned in College owned housing. Any heat-producing units (plug-in, Scentsy's, etc.) are not permitted. Unauthorized items will be confiscated, a \$15 fine will be assessed, and Disciplinary action will be taken.

2.7 Electrical Equipment and Appliances

The use of small electrical appliances and equipment in the Student's room is permitted if the appliance adheres to federally recognized standards. All appliances must be Underwriters Laboratory (UL) approved.

The College permits students to possess a microwave in their room as long as the microwave does not exceed 900 watts. A student can have a mini refrigerator in the room as long as the refrigerator is a "dorm sized" unit. If either the microwave or refrigerator does not comply with the established standard, the item will not be allowed in the residential environment or could be confiscated by Residence Life Staff. If you live in the Pioneer Tower, a Micro Fridge unit is provided additional personal microwaves and refrigerators are not permitted. Appliances that use 900 watts or less are permitted.

Residents may have personal televisions in their residence. Internet is available in each residence; however, students must bring their own HDMI cables.

The following items are not permitted under any circumstances and will be confiscated and removed from the residential environment if discovered due to the fire hazard:

- Hot plates
- Space heaters
- Instant pots/Pressure Cooker
- Air fryers
- All other electrical equipment with open coils
- Permission to have any electrical appliance, other than TV, stereo, microwave, small refrigerator, and hair appliances must be obtained from Residence Life Staff

2.8 Firearms

Firearms, weapons, archery equipment, ammunition, and explosives are not permitted in or around the residence halls. Prohibited weapons include, but are not limited to: paintball guns, airsoft guns, tasers, slingshots, brass knuckles, blowguns, dart guns, arrows, or marital arts weapons.

Hunting knives and knives (other than kitchen utility knives) with blades longer than 3 inches are prohibited. Residence Life Staff will confiscate any blade that exceeds the length of 3 inches, which includes and not limited to; switchblades, swords, machetes, brass knuckles, or any other device viewed as a weapon are prohibited and will be confiscated by Residence Life Staff.

Self-defense items, including tasers, mace, and pepper spray, or similar items will be considered weapons when used for any reason other than the items self-defense purpose. A violation of this policy is punishable under this policy.

The illegal possession, concealment, discharge, storage of, use or sale of firearms, ammunition, major or minor explosives, archery equipment or any lethal weapon is forbidden and subject to College disciplinary actions as well as criminal referral. The College prohibits permit holders who are authorized to carry a concealed handgun from carrying a concealed handgun into or upon the property of Western Community College Area, which operates WNCC. This includes but is not limited to replica firearms of any type; BB/pellet guns; paint ball guns; flare guns; stun guns, and cap guns.

Residence Life Staff or the local Police Department will confiscate any weapon. Students in possession of firearms will face immediate eviction from college housing. Possession of any weapons will be adjudicated through the student Community Standards & Expectations process.

Motorcycle and Bicycles

Motorcycles are not permitted inside any residential environment. Motorcycles are to be parked only in the areas designated for vehicles. Bicycles are to be parked either outside in the bicycle rack or stored in the resident's room, but not in any common/public area. For the safety of all residents, staff and visitors, riding bicycles inside College owned housing is strictly prohibited. Individuals who have a bike on campus must register it with Residence Life Staff.

2.9 Pets

The only pets permitted in College Housing are non-dangerous fish that lives completely underwater. Aquariums must be less than five (5) gallons. No other pets can live in or visit College Owned housing.

If an animal is found, there will be an initial \$50 fine. If the animal is still present within 1 hour, the fine will increase to \$100. If you confiscate a stray animal, it must always remain outside the Residence Halls. Animal Control, Animal Services, or the local Police must be contacted to come retrieve the animal.

2.10 Public Areas

Furniture and equipment in common areas are not to be moved from the intended area of use. If any of the furniture is removed from the common's areas, a \$50 assessment will be added to the student's account.

2.11 Quiet Hours

Quiet hours are from 10:00 PM to 10:00 AM Sunday – Thursday and 12:00 AM (midnight) to 10:00 AM Friday and Saturday. During quiet hours, conversations should be kept low, and stereos, televisions, and radios kept low or listened to on headphones.

At all other times, 24-HOUR COURTESY HOURS are in effect.

During all hours of the day, you are expected to be sensitive to the fact that your neighbors may not want to hear your noise.

During the week of finals all College Housing will maintain 24 hours Quiet Hours to allow students

to prepare and to take finals without noise disruptions.

Failure to comply with these regulations can result in a housing violation, which can result in removal from College Housing.

Residence Life Staff reserves the right to limit or change quiet hours throughout the semester.

2.12 Waterbeds

The possession and use of waterbeds are NOT permitted.

2.13 Resident Decorations

The use of transparent tape, nails, screws, or tacks on or in the walls, furniture, doors or fixtures are prohibited. Painter's tape may be used on all surfaces and non-oil plastic may be used on all surfaces except brick walls. Residences cannot be physically altered; however, students are permitted to hang pictures, posters, etc.; residents will be charged for damage to the walls, room, or college-owned property.

2.14 Tobacco Smoke and Vape Free College

WNCC's Tobacco-, Smoke-, and Vape-Free policy prohibits the use, sale, advertising, and sampling of all tobacco products by all persons on all three WNCC campuses (Alliance, Sidney, and Scottsbluff). This includes all buildings, vehicles, grounds, sidewalks, patios and parking lots, and other outdoor areas owned and/or operated by Western Nebraska Community College. Areas of campus that were previously designated as tobacco use areas are now 100% tobacco, smoke and vape-free.

The College is not requiring faculty, staff, and students to quit using tobacco products, but does expect the policy to be adhered to by all individuals on College property. Products used for cessation of tobacco use approved by the U.S. Drug and Food Administration, including alternative nicotine products, such as nicotine patches or medication, shall be allowed on College property if the product does not produce smoke or vapor emissions. (Board Policy-311)

2.15 Soliciting, Advertising, Petitioning and Selling

Canvassing or solicitation of funds, sales, membership, literature, signatures, or subscription is prohibited in College owned buildings without written permission from the Dean of Students or designee. This policy applies to outside agencies, commercial enterprises, student organizations, and individual students. If commercial salespersons, agents, or solicitors are found, they should be reported to the Office of Student Life immediately 308.635.6050.

2.16 Visitation

The College encourages socialization and a friendly, congenial atmosphere. However, to respect the rights of all students and to provide a measure of privacy and security, there is a limitation placed on visitation and open hours. The College believes that the guiding principle in establishing and regulating open hours is rationality.

Students who live in the residence halls are allowed and encouraged to visit one another. Each residential student must scan their ID to enter the residence hall. Residential students are *not* required to sign in at the desks.

Students who live off campus and non-student visitors are required to sign in at the desk, leave a valid ID, and be always escorted during their visit to the residence halls. If no one is working the desk, the visitor must call the on-call phone to sign in at the desk and leave their ID.

The following regulations are to be observed:

1. Visitors are permitted to stay overnight for 3 nights consecutively and 9 nights total per semester.
2. People on college visits must have pre-approval to stay in residence halls.
3. A resident's guest who is a family member and is under 18 years of age may visit that resident only with the prior approval from the Office Residence Life. The visitor is to specify a resident and room where they will be visiting and leave a government issued identification. This identification will be held until the visitor leaves the premises.

All other visitors must be at least 18 years old with a government issued ID with date of birth as verification.

The Residence Life Staff reserve the right to ask a visitor to leave based on presumed, intended, or expected violation of any College or civil regulations.

1. Unescorted visitors will be asked to leave. Repeat violations will be referred to the Dean of Students or designee and may be trespassed from campus.
2. Residents are responsible for the behavior of their guests. If resident's guests violate WNCC policies, the resident under which these guests are signed in will be sanctioned for the conduct along with the guest themselves.
3. Visitors are NOT allowed over vacation periods.

2.17 Room Occupancy

To ensure safety in the event of an emergency, residents may have a maximum of 10 people present in a room at a time, including the assigned resident(s) of that room. For the Conestoga Hall single rooms (also known as the Quads), a maximum of 12 people, including the assigned resident(s) of that space, may be present in the suite as a whole.

3 Accommodations

WNCC recognizes the importance of providing reasonable accommodations in its housing policies and practices where necessary for individuals with disabilities to use and enjoy College housing.

The Disability Services Office is responsible for evaluating whether to grant or deny requests for reasonable accommodation in College housing. In evaluating the request, Disability Services Officer (DSO) will determine whether the requested accommodation is necessary and reasonable. Individuals with a disability who reside or intend to reside in College housing who believe they need a reasonable accommodation must contact Disability Services.

If a request for accommodation is made fewer than 30 days before the individual intends to move into College housing, WNCC cannot guarantee that it will be able to meet the individual's accommodation needs during the first term of occupancy.

Service Animals

Service animal accommodations need to be requested via the Director of Counseling and Accommodations at the time of application to Residence Life. The resident will be responsible for caring for, grooming, and cleaning up after the service animal, as well as any damages to the room caused by the animal. If the resident is unable to physically clean up after the service animal, they should contact the Director of Counseling and Accommodations, Dean of Students, or other appropriate staff to make arrangements for the clean-up. The resident is also responsible for clearly explaining their expectations of how others are to interact with the service animal and communicate this to the campus community.

Assistance Animals (Emotional Support Animals)

All requests for assistance animals (emotional support animal/ESA) must go through the Director of Counseling and Accommodations first. Residents must turn in all proper documentation for justification for the request through the office of Disability Services along with the proper request for information form. The Director of Counseling and Accommodations will work with Residence Life to make sure all documentation has been provided and approved before the resident can bring the animal to campus or have the animal in campus housing. Once approval is granted, the Director of Counseling and Accommodations and Residence Life will notify the student of the approval to have their ESA on campus. Residents may not bring their animal to campus prior to approval from both offices. The resident will be responsible for caring for, grooming, and cleaning up after the animal, as well as any damages to the room caused by the animal. The resident is also responsible for clearly explaining their expectations of how others are to interact with the animal and communicate this to the campus community. Residents approved for an ESA must follow all policies, procedures, and guidelines within the assistance animal agreement they sign with Disability Services. ESAs are only allowed in the resident's personal room and outside; they may not be in common areas or other residents' rooms.

4 Safety & Security

4.1 Authorized Entrance to Student Residence

The right to privacy is of paramount importance. However, the entry into or search of the living quarters of a student may be conducted by the following people, including Approved College Personnel (ACP), for the following purposes and under the procedures detailed below:

- Law enforcement officers in the performance of statutory duties and in accordance with legally defined procedures governing search and seizure.
- ACP for institutionally vital purposes which are set forth in the Residential Contract for Housing.
- ACP to ensure adherence to health, fire, and safety regulations are maintained. The College will attempt to give a 24-hour notice prior to entering but may be unable to give notice depending on the urgency of the situation.
- ACP or agents to provide routine maintenance service or repairs and to provide for the replacement of furniture, doors, or other College property. Notice will be provided for these activities.
- ACP responding to emergencies to protect the health and welfare of the Student or to make emergency repairs to prevent damage to the property of the student and the College.
- ACP where it is reasonably believed a student is using the assigned space in a manner contrary to the provisions of the Residential Contract for Housing or College or Residence Hall policies.
- Without notice when a condition is observed that is prohibited by the Residential Contract for Housing or by College or Residence Hall regulations.

When it is necessary for ACP or their agents to enter a Student's room with the occupant(s) not present, there should be two persons present, if possible. The Student(s) will be notified of the entry and its reason upon return.

4.2 Building Security

Scottsbluff Campus Housing

Western Nebraska Community College monitors its facilities Monday-Friday from 3P.M to 7 A.M. and Saturday and Sunday from 11P.M. to 7A.M. by an on-duty Security Detail. Doors leading to Students living areas are secured twenty-four (24) hours a day. A Student may unlock the hall entrance door by utilizing their ID badge. Please be advised the room doors do not lock automatically. It is the Student's responsibility to assure the room door is secured.

Sidney Campus Housing

The Sidney Police Department routinely monitors campus. Doors leading to Students living areas are secured twenty-four (24) hours a day. A Student may unlock their residence hall by utilizing their room keys. Please be advised the room doors do not lock automatically. It is the Student's responsibility to assure the room door is secured.

4.3 Fire Alarms (Fire Alert System and equipment abuse)

Residence Life Staff will conduct inspections (approximately once per month) to test the smoke detectors. A notice will be posted at least 24 hours in advance for your convenience.

State law requires the College to observe every precaution to prevent the threat of fire and to provide adequate protection to detect and fight fires. The fire detector system and fire extinguishers have been installed for the residents' protection in compliance with the law.

In the event of a fire, notification will be made by the fire alarm system. When the fire alarm system is activated (sounds), all persons in the building must find the nearest exit and evacuate the building. Evacuate to predetermined areas:

- Conestoga – Southwest lawn
- Pioneer Tower – Williams Building Bus Stop
- Horizon – Williams Building Bus Stop

Any student and/or guest(s) who does not adhere to the activated fire alarm system, and/or fails to comply with the instructions of the Residence Life Staff (obstruction), will face disciplinary action, which can include but not limited to: monetary fine, referral to law enforcement, removal from College Housing, or suspension/expulsion from Western Nebraska Community College.

If you activate the alarm, please notify your Resident Assistant and/or Residence Life Staff immediately. Remember to keep low to avoid smoke inhalation.

The College views UNAUTHORIZED USE AND TAMPERING WITH LIFE SAVING DEVICES including AS A SERIOUS OFFENSE. Devices include extinguishers, alarms, smoke detectors or AEDs, water sprinklers, or emergency exits. Offenders are jeopardizing the lives of other persons. Under state law, violators are subject to a penalty of \$500 and up to 6 months in jail. All violators will be reported to the proper authorities. Any person found responsible for sprinkler tampering will be responsible for the cost of damages.

4.4 Health and Safety Checks- Confiscated items

Throughout the semesters, Health, and Safety Checks (HSC) will take place within the individual rooms and living quarters to ensure that proper cleanliness guidelines are being met. When HSC are planned, a notice will be placed in the halls with 24-hour notice of the check. Resident Life Staff will perform the check. The check can take place any time throughout the day and the resident(s) does not need to be present.

If the resident(s) fail the initial HSC, a list of what needs to be fixed will be provided and the resident(s) will have 24 hours to meet the requirements. Residence Life Staff will then recheck the room in question. If the resident(s) still do not meet cleanliness guidelines a fee will be charged to the resident(s) at a rate of \$25.00 per day until requirements have been met.

Residence Life Staff will confiscate prohibited items. Items will be available for pick up prior to the end of the semester. Items must be taken off campus at that time. Possession of prohibited items will result in a housing violation.

All students residing in the halls are responsible for their respective commons area. This area will be included in the HSC. If common area fails the initial HSC, all residents in that respective hall will be charged a fee of \$25 per day until cleaning takes place.

4.5 Personal Property

The College does not assume responsibility for theft, loss, or damage of, valuables or personal property of any student or guest(s). Students are urged to mark all personal items with permanent identification; avoid leaving valuables and large sums of money in unattended rooms; and lock rooms during any absence. Students are encouraged to acquire personal renters' insurance. All losses should be reported immediately to Residence Life Staff.

4.6 Maintenance and Repairs

Fix My Home is allocated by WNCC for Students with maintenance request. The Student will log into their portal and click on "Fix My Home" provide a detail explanation of what needs to be repaired, then submit. The request is sent to the Maintenance and Residence Life Staff. If there is an emergency, the student is encouraged to let the Residence Life Staff know immediately so steps can be taken to resolve the issue.

4.7 Housekeeping (Building Services)

Students are expected to cooperate in the upkeep of public rooms/areas and are responsible for the proper disposal of garbage. Residents shall not remove equipment or furnishings from their assigned residences or public areas. Fines/written warnings or closure of certain areas may be enforced if housekeeping policies are violated.

4.8 Law Enforcement

WNCC cooperates fully with local, state, and federal law enforcement officials subject to applicable state and federal laws.

4.9 Residents Entry – (Other than your own)

No person shall be admitted entry into another's residence without direct consent of the occupant(s) of that residence. Residence Life Staff will give consent only after consultation with the individual assigned to that residence.

4.10 Missing Person(s)

In accordance with the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (34 CFR 668.46(h)), Western Nebraska Community College has implemented a Missing Person Notification Procedure to respond to reports of a missing student.

Notification of Missing Person: If a member of the WNCC community has reason to believe that a student who resides in on-campus housing has been missing from campus for 24 hours, he or she should immediately notify:

Scottsbluff Campus: Dean of Students (308) 635-6123
Sidney Campus: Student Services Coordinator (308) 254-7441.
For all campus locations: Executive Vice President (308) 635-6104 or Dean of Students (308) 635-6123

Report: The individual will notify the Dean of Students or designee and initiate an investigation.

For Scottsbluff campus: Scottsbluff Police Department
1801 Avenue B
Scottsbluff, NE 69361
(308) 630-6261 during Business Hours M-F 7am-4pm; and
(308) 632-7176 after Business Hours

For Sidney campus: Sidney Police Department
1715 Illinois Street
Sidney, NE 69162
(308) 254-5515

Contact Procedure:

If the missing student is **under the age of 18 and is not an emancipated** individual, WNCC will notify the student's parent or legal guardian immediately after the College has determined that the student has been missing for more than 24 hours, in addition to any additional confidential contact person designated by the student.

Contact Information Form:

In addition to registering an emergency contact, every student who lives in on-campus housing, regardless of age, has the option to identify confidentially, an individual to be contacted by WNCC in the event the student is determined to be missing for more than 24 hours. The contact person can be anyone chosen by the student. If a student has identified such an individual, WNCC will notify that individual no later than 24 hours after the student is determined to be missing.

Students who wish to identify a confidential contact may do so by contacting the Dean of Students at (308) 635-6123.

4.11 Tornado Information

Tornado watches and warnings are issued by the National Weather Service. Tornado watches are for wide areas exposed to a rapidly developing storm threat. Not every issued watch will result in a severe weather during a tornado watch, you should be prepared to shelter in place.

DO:

Stay close to the floor, cover your head with pillow/blanket, and shield yourself from flying debris. If immediately available, take a flashlight when you move to the place of shelter for a source of light in case the electricity fails.

AVOID:

top floors, cafeteria, and activity center areas. IF YOU ARE OUTSIDE:

Seek shelter if possible. Parked motor vehicles are unsafe.

Remain in a place of shelter until you hear the all-clear signal or until you are sure, the tornado has passed.

Pioneer Tower - interior hallway on first floor or restrooms
Horizon - Laundry room or under stairs
Conestoga – interior hallways on first floor
Sidney – move to the main building

5 Check-in/Check-out

Before a Student can take possession of their room assignment, a Room Condition Report (RCR) must be completed and returned. Equally, at checkout, the Student's RCR (which was completed at check-in) will be utilized to assess the condition of the Student's space before leaving the residence hall. Student space includes common areas, bathrooms, and rooms. The College views both student occupants as liable for any damages, which occur to the room and its contents (furniture, and computer equipment, etc.). If the Student fails to leave the residence in satisfactory condition, there may be a service charge assessed to the Student's account. Charges will be assessed based on a damage chart. When checking out of the residence hall, students must use the following procedure:

- Provide notice to Residence Life staff or resident assistant to assure a housing representative is available to inspect the room.
- All personal effects and possessions must be removed from college housing.
- The Student is responsible for assuring the room is thoroughly cleaned before returning the room key.
- The Student must sign the RCR before leaving the residential environment.
- Return all assigned keys. Failure to return keys will result in a charge to the Student's account.
- Any Student who does not adhere to the checkout procedures will be assessed an improper checkout charge in the amount of \$50 per semester.

Charges may be made unless all the steps of this procedure are followed.

5.1 Hall Closing

Students may occupy their rooms during contracted dates. This does not include the time between fall and spring semester, or spring break. Notice will be provided to inform all residents how to request permission to stay during hall closing. Students will be required to pay an additional fee for staying during vacation periods. Contact the Office of Residence Life for Housing Break Policy. Students are expected to check out of College housing at the end of fall semester and at the end of spring semester. All keys must be returned to the Office of Residence Life or designee.

Contract Days:

Fall Semester

August 15 – New Student Move In

August 17/18 – Returning Student Move In December 13 – Final Check Out – before 5:00 pm

Spring Semester

January 10 – New Student Move In January 12 – Returning Student Move In Spring Break – March 10-14, 2024 - halls closed

May 11 – Final Check Out before 5:00 pm

Summer Semester

May 25 – Move In – all students

August 1 – Final Check Out before 5:00 pm

The Office of Residence Life must approve any deviation from the above dates and times.

Notice will be provided to inform all residents how to request permission to stay during hall closing. Students will be required to pay an additional fee for staying during vacation periods. Students are expected to check out of College housing at the end of fall semester and at the end of spring semester. All keys must be returned to the Office of Residence Life or designee.

5.2 Damages

When damages are discovered in a Student's allocated space, the damage will be reported to the Residence Life Staff. A charge will be levied in accordance with the assessed cost of repairs as outlined in the RCR.

Office of Residence Life reserves the right to assess for damage in common spaces or shared spaces to individuals or to the residential environment for damages incurred. The Student(s) will be responsible for damages exceeding the housing fee. **Students who do not clean their room during check out or over winter break may be charged an additional fee of \$50/hr. for room cleaning.** Additionally, damages caused in other areas of the residence hall by the Student will be assessed to the Student's account.

6 Eligibility for Room Assignment

To be eligible to live in College owned housing the applicant must be at least 17 years of age at the time of occupancy, registered for and attending classes. In the event a Student is under the age of 18, written permission must be obtained through Student Services. Spouses or children of eligible applicants are not permitted to reside in College owned housing unless they meet eligibility requirements.

WNCC reserves the right to deny or cancel a housing application or contract if WNCC, in its reasonable discretion, determines a student's past/current behavior or a student's criminal conviction(s) indicate a possible risk to the safety, health, or life of any person, or a possible risk to the safety and security of any property, or presents a serious disruption to the WNCC housing community or living-learning environment. (Reference the Residential Contract for Housing).

Students who enroll full-time (a minimum of twelve (12) credit hours per semester) will have priority in receiving rooms up until the 5th day of classes; however, all residence hall Students must maintain a minimum load of six (6) credit hours per semester to reside in College Housing. The Student must notify Student Services if one can only register for six (6) credit hours due to course offerings, completion of program or transferring to another institution.

In the event, the Student fails to meet the minimum credit hour requirement without cause (course offerings, program completion, graduation, transfer, or withdrawal from the College) will result in a breach of contract thus terminating this contract.

Summer housing, students must be enrolled a minimum of three credits or receive authorization from the Office of Student Life. Student employees and interns may also apply for summer housing.

Athletic Spaces

Students who identify as "Student athletes" are assigned spaces in College Housing as part of the reserved space agreement between the Office of Residence Life and the Athletics Department. The Athletics Department will collaborate with the Office of Residence Life to assure all student athletes applying to live in College Housing have completed all required materials, which includes the \$150.00 Housing Fee, proof of immunization, a completed Housing Application, and a signed Housing Contract. Under no circumstances will the Athletic Department issue a room assignment. The Office of Residence Life will affirm to the Athletic Department the number of beds for each athletic team. It is the responsibility of the Office of Residence Life to oversee all room assignments or reallocation of room assignments. The Athletic Department will notify the Office of Residence Life if a Student athlete is no longer part of a WNCC sport team within (48) hours of the player being released. If a Student athlete is no longer part of a sport team, they will not be allowed to remain in a reserved space unless approved by the Office of Residence Life with no exceptions.

Gender Inclusive Roommates If two students want to live together who are not the same gender, both should select "Gender Inclusive" housing. Then, write the preferred roommates name in the space provided on the housing application.

6.1 Keys

Residents are assigned a key to enter their respective residence hall, individual room, and mailbox. Students are responsible for securing personal space. Duplication of College issued keys is prohibited.

If a resident loses or misplaces a key, the door may be re-cored, and a replacement key will be provided. A charge of \$55 will be assessed for the re-coring of the room door. If a student wishes to have the key replaced a signed affidavit is required, which indicates the Student takes responsibility and acknowledges this act.

A \$25 fee will then be assessed for the first key replacement. Each subsequent key replacement will result in a \$50 fee. Each resident of the Scottsbluff Campus Residence Halls is given access to their residence hall via their student ID. There is a \$25 fee for replacing a lost or broken key. There is a \$25.00 fine if a resident allows a non-resident to use his or her electronic key.

Problems with door locks should also be reported immediately to the Residence Life Staff.

7 Dining Services (Scottsbluff Campus)

Students residing in College Housing are required to participate in the food service program as part of their Residential Contract for Housing. Dining Services serving schedule will be posted. Regular food service schedules will be posted.

Students utilizing the Bishop Dining Hall must adhere to the following expectations:

- **Attire:** WNCC expects students to be properly attired while utilizing the Bishop Dining Hall. Appropriate attire consists of apparel and footwear, specifically, pants/skirts/shorts/ and shirt/top. The following items are not appropriate in the Bishop Dining Hall: swimsuits/swim wear, sleepwear that includes but not limited to lingerie, boxers, thongs, or other clothing, which could be viewed as inappropriate for public or common area attire. Students who do not adhere to the attire expectation will not be permitted into the Bishop Dining Hall.
- **Dishes and Utensils:** Dishes, glasses and utensils are provided with each meal served in the Bishop Dining Hall; additionally, no dishes or flatware shall be taken from the Bishop Dining Hall. Students in violation of this expectation will be subject to disciplinary action, which could include fines, community services, or exclusion from the Bishop Dining Hall.
- **Guests:** Guests are welcome during any meal, but they must pay for their meal. Sharing a meal from a student with a meal plan is not acceptable and violation of this expectation will result in a referral to the Office of Student Life
- **Food Service Policies:** Compliance with these policies while in the cafeteria is expected.
- No food may be brought into or taken out of the cafeteria without the permission of the WNCC Dining Services Personnel.
- No containers are to be brought into the cafeteria.
- Students must wear appropriate clothing.
- Only ice cream cones are allowed to be taken from the cafeteria during mealtimes.
- At the conclusion of each meal, residents need to take their dishes to the designated area and clear them as indicated.
- Sick trays are available with verification from the Office of Residence Life.
- Special diets or requests need to be referred to the Dining Services Director.
- Arrangements for sack lunches or hot meals may be made if employment or education obligations interfere with mealtimes. These arrangements must be made ahead of time with

the Dining Services Director. Please bring class or work schedule for verification of schedule conflict.

Meal Plans: During the first week of classes each semester, a student may change their meal plan. However, after the first week, the only meal plan change eligible is from the 14-meal plan to the 19-meal plan, not the reverse. The Dining Service Staff will record the number of used meals. This process of recording used meals is final. If a discrepancy should occur with the number of meals used, please bring this to the attention of the Dining Services Personnel.

The Dining Services Team recognizes the appetites of patrons vary and for this reason, additional portions are available on certain food items. Please do not abuse this privilege by wasting food.

Sack lunches are available upon request to all contract holders who are unable to attend scheduled meals (lunch and dinner) due to class or employment conflicts. Students must sign up for their sack lunch the day before it is needed.

The Residence Life staff, and Dining Hall staff reserve the right to deny admittance to the cafeteria due to behavioral issues. In such an instance, a boxed dinner will be provided to you.

WNCC Dining Services is available to work with students, faculty, staff, and guests individually regarding one's dietary needs. Please feel empowered to complete the Request for Accommodation form www.wncc.edu/webform/disability-request-for-accommodations. Students requiring "Special meal arrangements" will be made when feasible for those who have irresolvable class conflicts during meal serving hours.

8 Kitchenette

There is a small kitchenette located in each hall. Residents will have access to a microwave, refrigerator, and stove. To utilize the kitchenette, students must check it out with their student ID card. Hours of operation will be posted in the kitchen areas. Residents are responsible for cleaning up their own messes within the kitchen and the equipment utilized. Failure to keep the kitchen clean will result in the kitchen being closed and a loss of kitchen privileges.

9 Room Lock-out

Students should always carry room key and/or electronic key. Residents will be assessed a fee of \$10 each time Residence Life Staff is called to unlock rooms, which will be charged to the Student's account.

10 Mail

Residents will be assigned a personal mailbox in their respective hall. Business Office staff are responsible for the distribution of packages from the United States Postal Service, UPS, FedEx, or other mail services. Mail is distributed Monday through Friday after 2:00 p.m. The College does not receive or distribute mail on Saturday, Sunday, or holidays.

Materials advocating one political position or commercial solicitation may not be placed in the mailboxes unless received through U.S. Mail and addressed by sender to the specific student or room number.

Residents are expected to use the combination or assigned key to access one's mail. Correspondents should be notified that mail should be addressed as follows:

Name	Name
Pioneer Box # OR Conestoga Box #	Unit A OR B
1409 E. 27 th Street	2450 College Circle
Scottsbluff, NE 69361	Sidney, NE 69182

Any mail sent by a resident need to have a complete return address including the resident's first and last name.

11 Residence Furnishings

Double rooms are furnished with two single beds and mattresses, two study desks, two dressers, two desk chairs, and window blinds. Students are to provide their own pillows, linens, blankets, wastebaskets, dishes, etc. Window screens are to always remain in place. Removal of screens for any purpose other than a fire will result in a fine assessed against the assigned residents. Furniture may not be removed from any room at any time under any circumstance.

*Furnishing may change based on needs for housing space.

12 Residence Governance

Hall Council provides an opportunity for students to participate in Residence government. The Residence Hall Council membership is comprised of officers and representatives elected by the students. Two representatives are elected from each floor. It is concerned primarily with the improvement of living, with emphasis on the coordination of activities and the development of a residence program.

The Residence Hall Council function is to:

- propose and implement, with the approval of the WNCC administration, policies, and procedures for the improvement of living;
- coordinate and promote activities;
- maintain two-way communication between the students and the College;
- evaluate environmental factors, which influence the general welfare of the residents;
- provide a liaison between the residents and Student Government;

Students are encouraged to develop their own system of governance to attend to the affairs of residential life. However, such governance must be consistent with WNCC rules, regulations, and civil law. Disregard of or disrespect for the policies listed in the Handbook or other behavior incompatible with the maintenance of order and propriety in housing may result in disciplinary actions.

13 Resident Assistants

Resident Assistants are students representing the College, assisting Residence Life professional staff in the overall supervision of the residences and are the people most readily available to assist the residents. They have the authority to maintain the regulations of WNCC that affect the college and the welfare of the residents. They are concerned with the academic, social, and cultural development of the residents and are available for information, advice, and assistance. The RA on call can be reached at:

Pioneer/Horizon RA: 308-631-7270

Conestoga RA: 308-631-4738

14 Residents' Temporary Leave

Students should inform Residence Life Staff of any extended temporary leaves.

15 Sexual Harassment (Title IX)

WNCC is committed to providing an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sex and provides resources and services to assist students, faculty, and staff in addressing issues involving sex discrimination. The College strictly prohibits any form of sexual harassment, which includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and retaliation.

Sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking are against the law and are prohibited under WNCC policy. All reported incidents will be thoroughly investigated and those found responsible dealt with as necessary, whether criminally charged or handled through the College's sexual harassment procedure. Persons violating this policy will face strict discipline up to and including suspension, expulsion, termination from employment, or be subject to legal proceedings. Any person believing that he or she has been subject to any form of prohibited sexual harassment, should file a complaint utilizing the College's Sexual Harassment Grievance and Investigation Procedure.

16 Vaccinations

All on-campus residents must complete and submit an Immunization Form to the Office of Residence Life. This form must be on file on or before a student will be allowed to move into an on-campus housing unit. In 2003, the State Legislature passed a law mandating all entering postsecondary students receive information on the risks associated with the potentially fatal meningococcal disease. Students are strongly encouraged to be properly vaccinated against meningococcal disease prior to beginning college. WNCC will provide students with information documenting the risks of the disease and vaccination information upon check-in. A confirmation shall be signed by the student, parent, or guardian that the information regarding this issue has been received and reviewed.

17 Vehicle Identification/Parking Permit/Parking Expectations

Residents are required to register their vehicles with the Office of Residence Life. Plate numbers will be kept on file so that students may be notified regarding their vehicle if necessary (i.e., lights left on, accident, etc.).

Vehicles left outside of the academic year without approval from the Office of Residence Life, may be towed at the owner's expense. All abandoned, unused vehicles in disrepair or any parts thereof that are parked in the same place for a period of five (5) days will be towed at the owner's expense.

It is an expectation that students parking on the property owned by the College will adhere to all policies governing parking. The following expectations include but is not limited to the following:

- **Reserved Parking:** Reserved parking is depicted by signage on the campus of Western Nebraska Community College.
- **Designated Parking:** The parking lot adjacent to College Housing is reserved parking for residential students. Guests are empowered park in open parking spaces in the general parking lots near the residential environment.
- Parking at WNCC has designated spaces for students residing in College Housing
- **Snow Removal:** Students may need to move their vehicles at times for snow removal purposes. Communications will be sent from College personnel (Administrative Services or Residence Life) to inform students of the snow alert. Students who fail to adhere to snow alert can be subject to ticketing and towing at the owner's expense.
- **Reporting Accidents:** All motor vehicles on property owned, rented, or leased by the College must report vehicle accidents on campus

Campus Safety is responsible for law enforcement and security on the campus of Western Nebraska Community College. The function of this office is to enforce State and College policies and to assist the campus community. This office focuses on the prevention of crimes on College owned property. Campus Safety encourages members of the campus community to "Step up," if you see something, hear something, or feel something is not right with a situation to report it immediately.

18 WNCC Contracts/Appeals

Every resident in student housing is required to sign a contract for the entire academic year WNCC Housing. If a student is requesting to leave student housing, they must complete the appeal process with the Office of Residence Life.

Refund Policy for housing /dining below:

The Western Nebraska Board of Governors allows the following refund policy (BP500.2100.01) for all room and board fees.

Dining Services Refund Policy

Week one: 100% (dining services minus meals consumed)

Week two: 50%

Week three: 25%

Week four: 0%

WNCC Appeal Procedure BP500.4300.83 refer to the WNCC Student Community Standards & Expectations

All students residing in campus housing must comply with all regulations outlined in the Residential Contract for Housing, Residence Life Manual, and the Community Expectations & Standards. All students who choose to reside in College Housing in Scottsbluff must choose a meal plan (14 or 19 meals).

WNCC reserves the right to deny residency to any student who may create an unreasonable risk of harm to the health, safety, welfare, or prosperity of the College, members of the College, community, or themselves.

Western Nebraska Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex or gender, age, disability, marital status, military veteran status, sexual orientation, gender expression/identity, or political affiliation, in its policies, practices, and activities related to employment, admissions, educational services/programming, student services/activities, or financial aid; as expressly prescribed by Institutional policy, state and federal laws, regulations, and executive orders. Inquiries concerning the application of these policies, laws, and/or regulations to the College may be directed to the College's Compliance Officer for the Civil Rights Act(s), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Americans with Disabilities Act(s), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Kathy Ault, Human Resources Executive Director, 1601 East 27th Street, Scottsbluff,

