Break Closing

With Thanksgiving and Winter Breaks fast approaching, the Office of Residential Community Life wanted to let you know about our closing procedures and what will take place while the building is closed for the breaks.

Each student should unplug all electronic devices (i.e. lamps, computers, refrigerators) and any surge protectors that are plugged in. Once the refrigerators are unplugged, place a towel underneath them and leave the door open so mold and other bacteria do not grow inside. Next, each room should double pane all of your windows to help regulate heat in the building.

Each student should then make sure they take anything they might need over break home with them, because once the halls close from November 25th to November 29th and again on December 23rd to January 17th, respectively. Finally, each student should make sure to take their key home with them over break because both the bedroom and common area doors need to be locked before the student leaves. Residential Community Life Staff will do a visual inspection of each room to make sure these guidelines have been followed.

Fire Safety Reminders

As the seasons for decorating quickly falls upon us, we would like to let you know about some items that are not allowed in the residence halls as they have proven in the past to pose some safety concerns. We have provided a list of restricted items as well as other safe alternative decorating ideas.

**Items not permitted in the residence hall:**
- Candles, incense, live Christmas trees, door coverings, unsprayed curtains, unsprayed wall tapes-

**Recommended Alternatives:**
- Reed diffusers or flameless candles
- Silk flowers/leaves
- Decorate a floor bulletin board with staff permission
- Curtains must be flame retardant and RD must have paperwork on file.
- String lights.
Talking To Your College Student About Grades

Starting a conversation with your student about grades may be completely natural for some parents and more awkward for others. But talking to your student about their grades is important. Don’t take them for granted or assume that all is well if you don’t hear anything. Remember that in college, grades go to the student rather than parents. Your student has ultimate responsibility for their grades, but it is reasonable for you to ask to talk about them. This is especially important if your college student is a new college student in his first or second semester. Help them consider what their grades may mean and what they can learn from them.

Here are a few suggestions to help you with that all important discussion about semester grades.

- Set a careful tone when you ask to talk about grades. You are not going to make judgments, but rather help your student use grades as a measure of progress, to keep track of accomplishments or difficulties, and to understand and interpret what grades might mean.
- Take time for a real discussion. A “How are your grades?” in passing will probably get a “Fine” in response. Set aside a time when you both have at least a few minutes for a real conversation.
- Remember that first semester grades for new students are often lower than expected. They will probably be lower than high school, and the first semester is a time of tremendous transition for most students. This doesn’t mean that you should dismiss them, but don’t panic if they do not look like high school grades.
- Don’t take good (or great) grades for granted. Congratulate your student on high grades and remind them that you recognize that good grades are usually the result of hard work and successful transitions.
- Look at the entire picture provided by grades. Are they generally good with one bad grade? That may indicate a particularly difficult subject (not all students do well in all subjects), a particularly difficult professor, or some other special circumstance. This is very different than grades that are all low.
- Help your student understand that the purpose of good grades is not to please you, but to accomplish the learning necessary to do well in college. Although there is often a vast difference between grades and actual learning, overall, grades are seen as an indicator of classroom success. Your student needs to accomplish their goals educationally, not worry about pleasing you.
- Help your student look for patterns. Are they receiving good grades only in their major? Are their poor grades all early morning classes, evening classes, once a week classes? Do they do better in classes with many papers or many tests?

New Student Services

The Office of New Student Services works with new freshman and transfer students as well as their parents during their first year at the College. We are here to provide all new students with assistance as they transition to SUNY Oneonta, whether from high school or from another college. We want you to thrive at the College.

Our services for new students begin with Orientation; at Orientation, new students are introduced to SUNY Oneonta’s academic and behavioral expectations; exposed to College values, traditions, and social opportunities; as well as connect with other new students, returning students, faculty and staff members.

The New Student Services Team collaborates with the Residence Life Department on our First Year Residence Halls. We program specifically for freshmen in those living areas. These residence halls focus on the social and academic transition that freshmen will make as they enter the College. These halls offer outlets for social activities, as well as programs on topics that range from the every-day skills that students need to the esoteric.

The New Student Services Team also works with the faculty members who teach the First Year Seminar. This is a one credit class that is taught by a full-time faculty member and a student peer educator (Very Influen
tial Peer). First Year Seminar is not a required class, however, it assists new freshman in making the transition to the College.

Office of New Student Services
101 Wilsbach Hall
SUNY Oneonta
Oneonta, NY 13820
(607) 436-2255
newstudents@oneonta.edu
http://www.oneonta.edu/development/firstyear/

For more information go to:
http://www.collegeparents.org/resources/articles/talking-your-college-student-about-grades

Article provided by collegeparents.org
Consolidation: What does it all mean?

Students who are left without a roommate in the Spring semester and want to continue to pay for a double room must move in with another student. ALL students will receive general information of their responsibilities and options if they lack a roommate. These options include:

A. Your student can request a specific individual to be reassigned to the room in which they reside. If this person resides in your student’s residence hall, they should contact their Residence Hall Director immediately. If this person lives in a residence hall different from your student’s, they should go to the Residence Life Office immediately.

B. Your student can move in with another individual to another room.

If your student does not utilize one of these options additional charges WILL BE ADDED TO THEIR ACCOUNT.

Mid Year Room Process

While many students change rooms during the course of a given semester, the busiest time for room changes in the residence halls is between the fall and spring semesters.

The following are frequently asked questions and steps that should be followed to complete each process.

How does your student change rooms within the same residence hall?

- Students should see their residence hall director.

How does your student move into a different residence hall?

- Students should go to the Residence Life Office at 106 Wilsbach Hall.

What does your student need to do if he/she is graduating, transferring, or withdrawing?

- Students must remove all belongings from their rooms before they leave campus.

- Students must complete the Room Condition Report form with their Residence Hall Director. Individual responsibility for damage to the room or its contents must be settled with the RHD, not the RA.

- Students must turn in their keys before leaving the residence hall.

- The room must be put back in its original condition and set up.

What does your student do if he/she is moving into another residence hall room?

- Students must move all belongings into the new room before the winter break.

- Students must have the former room inspected by the Residence Hall Director.

- Students must return the key to the Residence Hall Director so that the $125 lock change fee will not be assessed. Students will receive their new keys upon their return in January.

- Students should notify all correspondence about the new residence hall address.

What if my student’s roommate is the one moving out?

There are several options in this situation, which include:

1. Request a roommate who already lives in the same building.
2. Request a roommate who lives in another building.
3. Request to “buy out” the other half of the room and live in it alone.
4. Request to reserve the other half of the room for a specific incoming transfer or freshman student.
5. If one of the above options is not chosen, students might be randomly assigned a new roommate.
Students have basic needs which affect their ability to succeed and develop at SUNY Oneonta. They need an environment conducive to healthy living and learning. They need a sense of safety and security within the student community. They need to learn life skills to complement their academic progress and assist them in becoming well-balanced individuals. They need opportunities and encouragement to grow.

Everything we do in Residence Life relates to students and our goal to respond to their basic needs. Residence Life maintenance and custodial efforts, food service, hall facilities (i.e. laundry, vending machines, desk operations), grounds maintenance and building renovations are all responses to a student’s need for an environment conducive to living and learning. The hall and university policies, emergency procedures and resources, conduct system and hall staff coverage of buildings respond to the safety and security needs by providing a structure for the living environment. Hall Governments and committees, corridor meetings, intramurals and hall/campus activities provide opportunities to satisfy a student’s desire to become involved in the community. Programming in the hall or on campus involves many of the life skills students need to develop, (i.e. communication, career development, research, time management or relating to others.) Personal growth opportunities are also provided in hall and campus programming as well as through the many resource centers on campus.

Our hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8am-4:30pm.