

# RESIDENCE LIFE CODE

*Briercrest College and Seminary*

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## RESIDENCE LIFE

Living in dorm residence can be one of the most significant college experiences you have. Residence living offers a unique opportunity to apply biblical truths learned in the classroom, functioning as both a testing and a training ground. Residence living also presents opportunities to develop extremely valuable interpersonal skills and develop friendships that can last a lifetime. It is important to realize that in residence living no person is an island and that attitudes and actions in this context affect others as well as yourself. One foundational truth to keep in mind regarding all aspects of community life is found in Philippians 2:4: "Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."

### Senior dorm rebate

College students with 90+ credit hours or 6+ previous semesters in residence and Seminary students living in dorm may be eligible for a \$400/semester dorm room fee rebate. Turn completed applications in at the Student Development office.

### Living out of residence

All single Briercrest students are required to live in residence unless they have been approved to move into community housing. Approval in this area is limited to students who are 23 years of age or older, or students with fourth-year status. Applications must be submitted to the Student Development Office for processing and approval.

### Meal plan requirements

All students living in residences other than Sundbo Place must purchase one of the five formal meal plan options each semester. Students can choose either the 12, 14, or 18 meals/week, 160 meals anytime, or 320 meals anytime plans. Sundbo Place residents may choose a meal plan or cook for themselves.

## RESPECT AND CONSIDERATION

For the next eight months, your dorm room will be your home. We want your residence to be a secure, attractive, comfortable, positive, and supportive environment that will help you succeed academically, spiritually, and socially. In order for this to be fully realized, it is important that all residents observe some common expectations. Each resident must treat others and the facility with respect. Mutual respect for one another is the foundation on which good community is built. If you encounter a problem with another resident, approach that person directly and gently seek a solution. If a

satisfactory resolution cannot be reached, then discuss the matter with a hall leader or your Residence Director (RD).

## Quietness

All students are expected to observe the designated quiet times. Quiet hours are in effect between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. (midnight–8 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights). During this time, your music must not be audible outside of your room. Inner residence traffic should be kept to a minimum, and there should be no socializing in the hallways. Any student returning to the residence after the designated quiet time must do so without disturbing other residents. Students using laundry facilities or vacuuming should plan to do so outside of the designated quiet time. In-room socializing must be responsible and sensitive to the noise it may be generating. Roommates must show consideration and sensitivity for one another with their own in-room noise, use of phones, and other late evening activities.

*NOTE:* There may be quieter hall options available for students who would prefer such an environment. See your RD for more details.

## Maintaining reasonable hours

Dorm students will maintain reasonable personal scheduling hours. Students will refrain from getting into a "backward" schedule where they sleep during the afternoon and stay up extremely late at night. In all situations, students who are still up after the designated quiet time need to respect completely the rights of those who are trying to sleep (see **Quietness** section).

## Privacy and property of others

All students will respect the privacy and property of their fellow residents. The personal property of others should not be used without their expressed permission. Residence rooms should not be entered if the inhabitants are not there. Respect and sensitivity must be shown towards another's schedule, workload, and desire to study or sleep. Confidentiality of personal information must be exercised. While true of your interactions with every resident, this is especially necessary and important in the case of your roommate. This respect must also be extended beyond the residence to school offices, community homes, and other private properties on campus.

## Contribution to overall atmosphere

Every student will endeavor to make a positive contribution to the overall atmosphere in their residence as well as to the quality of life in general on our campus and in our community. We expect you to live in harmony and unity with your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. As such, we anticipate

such things as tolerance, acceptance, self-control, kindness, mutual support, positive talk, respect of authority, spiritual sensitivity, healthy and mature conflict resolution, etc.

### **Room and roommate assignments**

Any changes to existing residence, dorm room, and/or roommate assignments can be made only with PRIOR permission from your RD.

### **Roommate conflicts**

We expect that students will not hastily declare a roommate conflict without first trying to communicate and resolve existing differences together. Get potential problems out into the open and talk about them. Deal with small issues immediately rather than letting them fester and grow in magnitude. Approach the situation with a tolerant mindset. Realize that a shared space requires compromise by both parties and be open to making some personal adjustments yourself. Seek the counsel of your RA if necessary, but be careful about talking about your roommate behind his or her back indiscriminately. Pray about the situation and give it a chance. If you encounter something unusual or extreme, though, by all means approach your RD immediately.

### **Music in residence**

Music must not be audible outside your room after 11:00 p.m. (midnight on Fridays and Saturdays). Volumes must be considerate at other times as well. Students must ensure that their music choices (content and volume) do not have a negative influence on themselves or on other residents around them.

### **Electronic media and gaming in residence**

Students are expected to make healthy choices in all media and online viewing habits. This applies both to content as well as to volume: it is a community goal to spend less hours watching TV or movies than the societal norm. Each resident is invited into this endeavour. Content restrictions stated in the Briercrest College *Student Responsibilities & Expectations* apply to all dorm viewing as well.

Due to space limitations, computer monitors/TVs shall must not exceed a maximum screen size of 32". An exception to this may be possible in the mature student Sundbo Place residences (discuss this with your RD in advance, if applicable).

We expect students to make good decisions in their gaming choices and habits in residence. Again, this includes both content as well as the amount of time devoted to this activity. Do not let video gaming become an inappropriately high priority during your time as a student here. Moderation and self-control are key areas of your personal development.

*NOTE:* Individual residence communities may develop unique protocols for their residents that outline more specific procedures in these areas.

## **Use of phones**

Consideration for others is expected in the use of phones in dorm. No one should ever use another student's unattended phone without their expressed permission. Phone calls made during quiet hours should be the exception rather than the rule. During these times, attention must be given to the location and volume of the conversation so as not to disturb those around you.

## **Modesty**

Appropriate clothing must be worn in the residence at all times (especially in the washrooms, walking to and from the showers, etc.). Also, remember to close your curtains/blinds appropriately. Realize that light or movement automatically attracts the eyes if the curtains are open. Any intentional act of immodesty (i.e. acts of exhibitionism, "mooning", "streaking", etc.) will be dealt with in a serious manner.

## **Male and female residence policy**

Men are not allowed to enter women's residences and women are not allowed to enter men's residences. This applies to non-student campus visitors as well. The only exceptions to this are supervised, campus-wide open dorm events; scheduled open dorm lounge times; maintenance staff appropriately entering a residence to conduct repairs; the occasional guided campus visits with parents of prospective students; and other such situations where prior permission has been granted in advance by the appropriate RD. Violations in this area will be dealt with seriously.

## **Mandatory residence meetings**

Dorm/hall meetings are mandatory for dorm residents to attend. It is expected that all students will attend these meetings with a positive attitude and will refrain from any disruptive or disrespectful behavior. If someone is absolutely unable to attend, they must inform one of their residence leaders (RA/RD) in advance.

## **Dorm-specific standards**

Occasionally, a hall or residence may have standards that differ from the norm (e.g. an earlier enforced quiet time on one hall). Such a variation must be cleared in advance with the appropriate RD before it is implemented and the input of all residents will be considered.

## BUILDING USE

### Personal belongings insurance

Personal belongings are not insured by the school. All students will be responsible to maintain their own insurance policy for damage or theft. Check to see if you are covered under a parent's home policy (if applicable). If not, a small renter's insurance package would be a very wise investment.

### Use of lounges and common facilities

Common areas such as kitchens, lounges, washrooms, hallways, storage rooms, grounds around the residence, etc. must be used with respect and all residents will work together to keep these areas clean. If you make a mess, clean it up. Dorm leaders may formally schedule cleaning responsibility to ensure that it is happening. In such cases, all residents are expected to fulfill their assigned duties on time and with a positive attitude. Hallways and entrances **MUST** be kept clear at all times. Furniture of any kind must not be moved out of, or brought into, the dorm common areas at any time. It is further expected that furniture and appliances in these areas will be used wisely and respectfully in order to prevent unnecessary damage and expense.

### Operating a business

Students are allowed to provide services like cutting hair and proofreading, however they are not allowed to set up a 'store' or otherwise sell food/beverage items etc. out of the dorm.

### Residence laundry facilities

Laundry facilities are billed at a common, non-refundable fee for all students. Students will be responsible and mature in their use of residence laundry facilities. This involves keeping the laundry area clean; removing clothing from machines immediately after usage; not overloading the machines; refraining from any other abuse of the machines; and reporting any problems immediately to a residence leader.

### YQ room sharing

During YouthQuake, students in residence are required to accommodate guests in their rooms for the weekend.

### Care of room environment

All students will be required to keep their rooms in a state of reasonable cleanliness and order throughout the year (as defined by the residence leadership). Students may be asked to clean up rooms that are deemed to be unacceptable.



## Dorm speakers and events

Students must clear in advance with their RD any speaker, presentation, or event that they wish to bring into/conduct within the dorm facility.

## Room decorations/alterations

Room decorations must be tasteful, wholesome, and put up in such a way as to not cause any damage or potential fire hazards (see **Decoration/Modification Safety Limitations**). Refrain from posting anything that violates a biblical principle or a Briercrest guideline (e.g. an alcohol or tobacco advertisement, an "R" rated movie poster, music group paraphernalia whose music falls into the anti-biblical category, suggestive or crude subject matter, dark or death themed, etc.). Residence leadership retains the right to require that inappropriate decorations are removed. In addition, any room renovations or building projects MUST be cleared with your RD BEFORE you begin. Painting, construction of bunk beds, platforms, or room-dividing bookcases is not allowed. Any hard wire computer networking between rooms must be cleared in advance with the RD and must follow specific guidelines.

## Maintenance needs

Students are to report any maintenance concerns in their rooms or in their residence to their RA or RD immediately. This is especially critical in cases involving safety equipment such as smoke detectors or emergency lighting and in situations involving water leaks.

## Mattress care

Each room (with the exception of those specifically designed as a single) is equipped with two beds and two mattresses. Mattresses are to be used exclusively in-room for their intended purpose only. A mattress pad must be used on your mattress at all times. One will be provided at cost if students do not bring their own. Mattresses are not to be removed from the room for any purpose. If you are residing alone in a double room you are fully responsible for the mattress on the second bed. Do not lend it out within the residence without taking full responsibility for its return.

## Water damage

There are to be no water fights or use of any liquids in the residence for the purpose of a practical joke or other potentially damaging or careless activity. Abuse is subject to fine.

## Furniture

Dorm furniture cannot be moved out of the dorms or from common areas into individual rooms. Care for walls must be taken when moving any personal furniture into or out of the dorm.

## Window screens

Students shall not remove their window screens except in the case of an emergency exit. Doing so may result in a fine.

## Pets in residence

Residence students are not allowed to keep pets in their room/dorm, with the exception of fish held in a moderately-sized aquarium (45 liters max.). Any student choosing to keep fish must clean the water and container regularly to avoid odors or unsightly appearance.

## Energy stewardship

Out of concern for both economy and ecology, students are asked to be responsible in their use of electricity. Any purposeful wasting of energy is prohibited. Lights and electrical components should be turned off when leaving your room. Students should be in the habit of closing their windows in the winter, and students who are the last to vacate a common area (lounge, kitchen, laundry, etc.) should turn off the lights and close the windows.

## Lost room keys

Students will report lost room keys to their RD as soon as they have exhausted their search for the missing one. A new key will be issued and there will be a \$5.00 replacement charge applied to the student's account. Failure to replace the key or to turn it back in by the end of the school year will result in a \$25.00 fine.

## Damage deposit

Upon registering, all new dorm students will be charged a \$125 damage deposit. The registered occupant(s) of each room will be held responsible for all damage found at year-end that was not indicated on their Student Residence Contract when they moved in. It is important that students fill out these forms accurately as it is their insurance that they will not be charged for existing damage. If the room is left clean and in good condition then the damage deposit is refunded to students who are graduating or not continuing. If the student is returning to dorm. Their deposit will be carried over to the next year. If the room is left damaged or not properly cleaned at year end, and the student is planning on returning, appropriate charges will be placed on the student's account.

## Year-end residence responsibilities

At the end of the school year, each student will be responsible for bringing their room up to the standard of cleanliness that will be communicated. Each room will be inspected to ensure that it is clean and undamaged. It is the student's responsibility to book a time with their RD to have their final

yearend room inspection done. In addition, all members of the residence will be required to work together in giving the common areas a thorough cleaning.

### **Unaccounted residence damages**

When damage is caused on a residence hall and nobody is willing to step forward and take responsibility, all the residents of that hall will be jointly responsible for covering the repair costs. The total charge will be divided equally among all residents at year-end.

### **Appropriate Storage Area Use**

All items left in storage rooms are left at the owner's own risk. The college is not responsible for items lost or damaged while in storage (see **Personal Belongings Insurance**). At no time are the following items to be stored in residences: bicycles\*, tires, car batteries, any large, bulky items or any dangerous and/or flammable items or substances (see **Flammable Material Storage and Use**).

For fire safety reasons, hallways and entrances/exits must be left completely clear at all times. All items stored in designated storage areas must be properly secured and labeled, with the student's name clearly visible on the exterior.

Summer storage is an option only for students planning on returning the following year. All personal items must be removed from storage when a student is leaving permanently. In special circumstances, permission may be granted in advance through the appropriate RD to store items for a brief period of time after permanent departure. In all cases, though, personal items **MUST** be removed within one semester (four months) of when the student vacated the premises. Items left in violation of this standard may be disposed of at the discretion of Briercrest.

\*BIKE STORAGE: Indoor bike storage is not available or allowed in student residences.

## **SAFETY CONSIDERATION**

We take the security of our students and Caronport community family seriously. This is especially true in the area of fire prevention. Our facilities are evaluated not only by our own maintenance staff, but also by outside safety professionals such as a fire marshal. As such, while some safety requirements may seem strict or excessively cautious, they are binding and non-negotiable to us as well as to you. Students will respect these guidelines and support them in both actions and attitudes within the residence. Monitor your own behaviour in this area, and do not hesitate to confront someone else whose actions hold potential for accident or danger. Intentional safety violations will be dealt with in a serious manner.

## Emergency procedure in residence

In the case of a fire alarm, or suspected fire, phone 911 immediately; activate the residence fire alarm; and vacate the building in the manner posted. In emergency situations involving violent or criminal behavior, students should phone 911 immediately. For other types of residence emergency situations students should immediately contact an RA of their RD.

## Flammable material storage and use

Under no circumstances are any dangerously flammable materials to be brought into, used, or stored in any Briercrest residence. The use of these or any other potentially dangerous substances in any prank or unwise activity will be dealt with in a very serious manner.

## Candle and incense use

While candles, oil lanterns, incense, etc. may be used for decorative purposes, they must never be lit. Open flame is not allowed in the residence. In cases where such paraphernalia is being lit, dorm leadership reserves the right to confiscate the item(s) and apply a \$20 disciplinary fine.

## Portable heaters

Generally speaking, the use of portable heaters in our residences is not allowed. We will do our best to provide a controlled environment where these are not necessary. In unusual cases, though, the student may approach their RD for permission to use a portable heater. This must be done in advance before a heater is actually put into use. For safety reasons, certain styles or older models may not be allowed.

## Electrical appliances

Electrical appliances that generate direct heat (irons, popcorn makers, electrical frying pans, toasters, toaster ovens, hot plates, etc.) may only be used in the residence kitchen or other designated area. Coffee makers and hot pots are not included here. Mini fridges are allowed in residence rooms. Briercrest reserves the right to confiscate any appliance that is deemed unsafe or that is being misused/abused. Microwaves are provided in dorm lounges.

## Decoration/modification safety limitations

Nothing is to be posted or suspended from the ceilings of rooms or hallways. No objects, paint, marker, or materials are to be used to cover light bulbs/tubes or fixtures. No auxiliary electrical lights (including strings of Christmas lights) are to be situated in an unsafe location in close proximity to potentially flammable materials. At no times are these lights to be left on when the room is unattended. No modification or replacement of electrical switches, wiring, outlets, or light fixtures is

allowed. According to the fire marshal, posters or other such flammable material should cover no more than 50% of a wall. All decorating must be done in accordance to the policy distributed at the beginning of the year.

### **Tampering with safety equipment, lighting or electrical wiring**

Under no circumstances are students to tamper with any safety equipment, lighting, or electrical wiring. This would include removing fire extinguishers or using them for any unintended purposes, intentionally setting off smoke detectors or fire alarms, disconnecting smoke detectors or fire alarms, or disabling any emergency or hall lighting (unscrewing bulbs to turn off the light or otherwise). If a smoke detector malfunctions and needs to be disconnected, it is critical that you inform your RA immediately. Violations will be dealt with in a serious manner. Stiff monetary fines are in order in such instances.

### **Firearms/weapons**

There are to be no firearms, bows, crossbows, arrows, explosive devices or material, air guns, spear guns, swords, machetes, military/assault/hunting style and sized knives, martial arts paraphernalia, or any other device designed to be utilized as a weapon brought into or stored in the residences. All of the above items should be left at home. Non-functioning replica items must be cleared through your RD. Paintball or air soft guns must be stored with your RD or with an approved sponsor on campus. Any abuse of such items will result in disciplinary action and possible confiscation. Any student who uses such paraphernalia in violation of provincial law or town bylaws is liable to prosecution.

### **Guests in the residence**

All overnight guests in the residences must be cleared IN ADVANCE with your RD. There will be a \$10.00 per night charge for weekday stays (Sunday–Thursday). Unless cleared in advance, all visits will be less than one week in duration. Visitors will be expected to comply fully with all Briercrest guidelines and expectations while a guest here. Failure to do so will result in the immediate loss of guest privilege. For security reasons, no unknown individual (e.g. a hitchhiker or transient) may be invited to enter or stay in a Briercrest residence without the express approval of the RA and the Residence Director.

### **Campus Safety**

Students must cooperate fully with campus safety personnel. The safety of student residences and other campus buildings must not be compromised by propping open doors that are supposed to be left locked or closed. To contact Campus Safety, call 306.756.3327. In a true emergency situation, call 911.

## CAMPUS LEAVES AND CURFEWS

Due to the dynamics of residence living and the nature of our community, it is important that there be a common standard and a level of accountability in this area.

### Curfew times

First- and second-year students are expected to be back IN their residences by:

- Sunday–Wednesday: 12:00 midnight
- Thursday–Saturday: 1:00 a.m.

There is no formal curfew for third- and fourth-year students; transfer students who have completed at least two full years of post-secondary education elsewhere; or students 21 years of age and older. Abuse of this freedom (e.g. causing others to violate their curfew, excessive noise upon return to the residence, repeated morning chapel skips, etc.) will result in loss of privilege and the application of a curfew for a designated period of time. These curfew times apply when returning from weekends or break periods as well. It is further expected that students will show respect for those who may be trying to sleep when returning. This includes walking/driving quietly on our community streets as well as entering the residences in a respectful manner. Any exceptions to the above curfews must be cleared in advance with your RD/RA. If something unforeseen arises to delay you after you have left campus we ask that you phone the hall or dorm and inform them. If a phone is just not accessible, you will be responsible to inform your RD the following day with a note or a phone call. Please be sensitive to these procedures as failure to return on time without informing anyone can result in unnecessary concern and energies being expended looking for you.

### Residence sign-outs

All students who will be away from the residence overnight, or who are out of the residence with permission past curfew, must either sign out on the courtesy sheet provided on the hall or inform one of their RAs of their plans in advance.

### Mixed group leaves

Any overnight leave involving a mixed group or couple requires that all students involved get permission from their respective RD IN ADVANCE.

### Visiting other dorms

When visiting another dorm, full respect for its residents and leadership must always be shown.

## Visiting private residences

All students are expected to show respect and common courtesy when visiting private residences on or off campus. Do not presume on the hospitality of the host or overstay your welcome. Couples must refrain from visiting such locations when no occupant from the home is present. All Briercrest student standards and expectations are in effect in these locations.

## Modular week, extended breaks, and semester end

Students remaining on campus are subject to all campus expectations during the break. Adjusted curfew hours may be communicated, but all other guidelines are still in full effect (e.g., females are still not allowed in male residences and vice versa).

## Christmas Break

Over the Christmas break, college residences will be closed and secured for the time period beginning one day after the last day of final exams in December through until one day before students are scheduled to return in January. It is our expectation that students will want to be elsewhere during this time. If this is not your situation, then it may be possible to make alternate housing arrangements in advance through Student Development or with your RD. Students remaining on campus during extended breaks (in other than dorm accommodations) are still subject to all student guidelines during that time.

## Off Campus Conduct

Students will conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on their faith and their school at all times, whether on or off campus. This includes both during the formal school year as well as during the summer months when planning on returning as a student in the fall. During these times it is expected of students to live in obedience to Scriptural standards as well as to Briercrest *Student Responsibilities and Expectations* (SRE).