As a living-learning community, the Residential Life program at Soka University of America, plays a significant role in campus life. The cooperation which exists within the community between students, Residential Life staff and the Faculty in Residence effectively fosters a culture which values development and the advancement of knowledge. As important are community members who share a common concern for individuals as well as their growth and development. Consequently students are expected to recognize and respect the principles and standards set forth in the policies listed for community living. As community members, community citizens are accountable for any action which is in conflict with the policies outlined and would be subject to disciplinary action, including confiscation, fines. When a community policy is violated, there is an impact upon the community. The enforcement of policy becomes necessary when citizens of the community operate outside of the community’s welfare.

The following information represents an abbreviated segment of residence hall policies at Soka University of America. Residence hall policies may be subject to change.

**Residence Hall Alcohol Policy**
Soka University of America complies with California state laws concerning the consumption of alcoholic beverages by minors (under the age of 21). The University encourages campus citizens who are 21 and older to act responsibly in the consumption of alcoholic beverages. The Residence Hall Policy is in accordance with the University Drug and Alcohol Policy. Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages on the campus of Soka University of America conforms to the laws of California and Orange County. In consideration of the laws of California, the Residence Hall Alcohol Policy is outlined below:

**Alcohol-Free Floors and Wings – Designated primarily for freshman and Extended Bridge residents**
Alcohol may not be transported, possessed, or consumed on alcohol-free designated floors and wings of the freshman and Extended Bridge residence halls. Students assigned to non designated floors and wings may possess alcohol in a residence hall room strictly in accordance with the California state laws and this policy. All students will be advised of the designated alcohol free areas and will sign a contract stating their understanding and adherence of these expectations, online and/or upon check in.

- **Residence Hall Student Rooms**
Possession and use of alcoholic beverages by students may occur in student rooms and in accordance with California state laws and this policy. Students 21 years of age and older may NOT possess alcohol if underage students are present and may be subject to disciplinary action.

- **Outside the Residence Halls**
  Public possession and use of alcoholic beverages is strictly prohibited outside the residence halls including but not limited to terraces, balconies, walkways, entrances and the basketball court.

Residents are expected to act responsibly and be accountable for activities taking place within their living space. The consumption of intoxicating beverages is not an excuse for irresponsible behavior including signs of and manifestations of intoxication. Residents are expected to conduct themselves in a manner best reflecting the highest regard of self, others and the institution. Residents are expected to adhere to state laws and regulations pertaining to alcohol. Likewise, the Residential Life staff will enforce all California state laws and regulations as expressed in this policy.

**Drugs Policy**
In compliance with federal and state law, the University prohibits the solicitation, procurement, sale or manufacture of narcotics or controlled substances except as expressly permitted by California law. Medical marijuana is strictly prohibited at Soka University of America. Additionally, the possession of drug paraphernalia is strictly prohibited. Any student known to be possessing, using, manufacturing, selling or distributing drugs or drug related paraphernalia is subject to University disciplinary action and arrest under federal and state laws. Any student suspected of using drugs due to odor, disruptive behavior, or by information brought to the attention of staff, will be documented and subject to disciplinary action.

**Weapons, Fireworks and Explosives Policy**
The university strictly prohibits the use or possession of any firearm and weapons or implements that may be used for violent purposes, including knives and swords. The use, possession, or storage of any firearm and weapons (including, but not limited to, BB, air pellet guns, and decorative weapons) are strictly prohibited. Fireworks and any other explosive materials are also prohibited.
Smoking / Burning Policy
Smoking or the burning of any substance is not permitted inside any campus building including the residence halls. Residents who desire to smoke cigarettes and cigars may do so on-campus only in designated smoking areas. Within the residential community, designated smoking areas are located outside the building structure, 25 feet away from the residence halls. Patios and terraces are considered part of the building structure and are not included as designated smoking areas. Students who wish to smoke are responsible for the proper disposal of their cigarette and cigar butts in the provided urns. Smoking or burning any substance in non-designated smoking areas, including inside the residence halls, poses a both a physical danger as well as a community disruption. Therefore, smoking or the burning of any substance is not permitted in any of the residence halls, including patios and terraces. Hookahs and water pipes are not permitted and may not be stored in the residence halls. Use of electronic cigarettes is not permitted inside the halls. The tampering, including obstruction or covering of a smoke detector or fire equipment is strictly prohibited.

Candles, Incense and Other Substance Burning Policy
Candles and incense are strictly prohibited inside the halls. Burning of any other substance is also prohibited.

Gambling Policy
Gambling is prohibited by California state law. Gambling therefore is not permitted anywhere on campus.

Appliances Policy
The hall pantry/ kitchenette area makes it possible for residents to prepare snacks and light meals. While these areas were not designed for general cooking, residents are able to use some electrical appliances which have an approved “U” rating. The following appliances meet the health and safety standards in the residence halls:

Community areas:
All residence hall pantry/kitchenettes are equipped by the university with the following appliances:
- Refrigerator
- Microwave
- Stove top burner (Sunrise and Sunset Halls only)

**Student Rooms:**
The following cooking appliances are permitted in resident rooms:

- Automatic shut off coffeemakers
- Micro (mini) refrigerators are permitted in individual rooms if they are UL – approved and not larger than 2.9 cubic feet which minimizes energy consumption.
- Specialized micro refrigerator/ microwave combination units are permitted. For details, contact the Office of Residential Life at (949) 480-4134.

*Note: Residence Hall staff reserve the right to remove any unauthorized, problematic, or dangerous electrical appliances.*

Micro refrigerators are allowed in residents’ rooms if they use less than 1.5 amps of electric current. Irons equipped with an auto-shutoff feature may be used in your room. A clothes iron with an auto-shutoff feature is available for check out.

For safety concerns, electrical cooking appliances such as coffee pots without an automatic shut off, toasters, hot plates, stoves, sandwich makers, rice cookers and popcorn poppers, and other similar appliances, are not allowed in rooms. Cooking appliances fueled by propane, butane, or any other type of gas are strictly prohibited in the residence halls. Appliances with exposed elements such as toasters are not permitted in rooms but may be used and stored in the pantry/kitchenette area. Halogen floor lamps are not permitted due to potential fire hazards.

**Windows and Screens Policy**
For safety reasons, residents are not permitted to exit or enter the building via a window. To protect residents and maintain the environment, windows screens **must not** be removed.

**Personal Items Policy**
Out of concern for safety, hallways and common areas should remain free of personal belongings. All personal belongings must be contained inside a resident’s room. Students who leave personal items in the hallway or public areas of the residence hall will be fined.

**Pets Policy**

Pets in residence halls can present a number of problems from safety concerns for the pets and residents, to challenges with sanitation and pests. Other residents may also feel uncomfortable around pets. Due to these potential problems, pets are not allowed in any of the residence halls. Fish tanks for fish only, are permissible if the tank or container is no larger than 10 gallons. For regulations pertaining to service animals, please contact the Disability Services within the Student Affairs Office. Violation of this policy will require the immediate removal of the animal and possible disciplinary action and fines.

**Windows and Screens Policy**

For safety reasons, residents are not permitted to exit or enter the building via a window. To protect residents and maintain the environment, windows screens must not be removed.

**Evening Admittance Policy**

Students are welcome to invite guests to campus in the evening however, the security gate must be notified if you expect a guest to arrive after 10:00pm as the campus closes to the community at 10:00pm daily. To ensure the safety and security of all residents, non-residents must be registered at the hall they are visiting. Resident hosts must meet their guests on the 1st floor or 2nd floor entrance. Registered guests are to be accompanied by their resident host at all times. Unregistered guests are not permitted to proceed beyond the lobby area. Further details on guest check-in procedures will be provided upon check-in/ orientation.

**Guest Visitation Policy**

Taking into consideration the desire to entertain friends, family, and other guests within the residence halls and at the same time protecting the right to privacy and security for all residents, residents’ guests* who visit the residence halls at any hour, are required to identify themselves upon request by University personnel in the residence halls.
**Overnight Guest Policy:**

The right of a student to live in reasonable privacy takes precedence over the right of his/her roommate to entertain guests in the room. In the practical application of determining when guests should be invited to the room, common sense and mutual respect should prevail.

The Soka University of America Guest Policy allows enrolled students who are residing on campus (residents) during the academic year, the privilege of hosting guests* in the undergraduate residence halls. The educational mission of the university is first and foremost in the consideration of the following guest policy. Guests will be allowed in the residence halls at Soka University of America under the following conditions:

All guests (daytime and overnight) are required to be registered by the hosting resident.

1. Any student who wishes to bring an overnight guest* into his or her room is required to obtain consent *in advance* from their roommate/suitemate, in the form of a co-signature on the Residential Life Guest Form and submit it to their respective Front Office by 10:00 pm on the 1st day of any overnight guest visit.
   a. If a resident has guests staying in their room without the consent of his or her roommate/suitemate, guests will be asked to leave the room.
   b. The roommate/suitemate must also consent to the duration of the guests’ stay.

2. Residents are allotted a total of (4) four nights per month to have an overnight guest. Overnight guests are only permitted to overnight in their resident hosts’ room. No one guest may stay for longer than (4) four nights per month within the residence halls.

3. No more than (1) one guest at a time may stay overnight with a resident.

4. Hosting residents are responsible for their guests. If a guest causes any damages, the hosting resident will be responsible for the damages.
* A “guest” is defined as any person a resident allows entry into the residence hall and is not enrolled or in session as an SUA student and resident. This includes but is not limited to family, friends and, alumni. “An overnight guest” is defined as a person who is being hosted by an SUA resident in their room after 12:00 midnight.

Violation of this Guest Policy may result in a fine for the hosting resident. Repeated abuse of the policy may result in the resident being stripped of their guest privileges.

**Noise Policy**

On a residential campus a reasonable level of noise is to be expected. Within the residence halls, it is expected that common noise not impede the ability of others to live comfortably and function effectively. In respecting the residential community, the belief that the right to quiet supersedes the privilege to make noise, will be upheld. Residents have the right to request any other resident or group of residents to cease any activity that is interfering with their ability to study, sleep or quietly enjoy the residence halls.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respectful Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday – Thursday (School Nights)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday – Saturday (Non-School Nights)</td>
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Respectful Hours are the hours where the noise level is kept down to a level where others will not be disturbed. Residents are encouraged to communicate with their neighbors when there is a noise concern.

**Bicycles and other Vehicles Policy**

We encourage students to enjoy their bicycles both on and off campus. Bicycle Rooms in the residence halls located on the first floor of each hall are available for the safe convenience of storing. The campus also provides other outdoor designated areas for locking bicycles.

**Blading, Skating, Boarding and Scooting Policy**
Due to the potential danger these activities pose to others and the possible damage to the facilities, rollerblading, roller skating, skateboarding and roller scooting is limited on campus to specific designated areas. Please refer to the Student Handbook for details.

**Motorized Vehicles Policy**

On campus parking for students is free with the required parking decal. Parking decals can be secured through Campus Security. All motorized vehicles including mopeds and motorcycles must be parked, stored or driven only in the designated areas and not in any campus buildings. Vehicles may park in designated parking spaces on campus. Parking is not permitted in front of the residence halls and the emergency lane leading to the interior of the residential community and is subject to towing. Designated parking is available for disabled individuals with the proper parking placard. Specific policies related to motor vehicle use and parking can be obtained through Campus Security.

**Right of Entry**

The University respects the right to privacy of individuals. However, authorized University personnel may enter student rooms in the following situations:

- For scheduled or emergency maintenance repairs or cleaning
- Reasonable suspicion of a threat to safety or well-being of the room’s occupants or other residents
- Reasonable suspicion of imminent hazard to property
- Reasonable suspicion of policy violation
- Scheduled Safety Check

**Safety Checks**

During the year, university officials may conduct safety check of student rooms. Residents will be notified in advance of the checks. These checks are to ensure that fire safety equipment is in proper condition, that maintenance needs are addressed in a timely manner, and that room conditions do not pose a health risk to residents.
**Violence, Abuse and Hazing Policy**

Direct and indirect forms of verbal and written abuse, threats, physical harassment and abuse, intimidation, or violence against another person or their property, as well as conduct that threatens the health and safety of self (including threats or attempts of suicide), are not tolerated on the campus. Hazing will not be tolerated. Those involved in hazing will face disciplinary action and will be referred to the Dean of Students. Violation of this policy can result in action by the University as well as criminal charges.

**Harassment Policy**

The university does not tolerate sexual harassment, and harassment based on race, religious creed, color, gender, national origin or ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, or ability. All such harassment is unlawful.

**Sexual Assault Policy**

Soka University of America (SUA) will not tolerate and prohibits rape, acquaintance rape, and sexual assault in any form. These acts are against California State Law. Rape and other sexual assaults also violate the University’s policy prohibiting sexual harassment. If there is reason to believe that SUA campus regulations prohibiting sexual assaults of any kind have been violated, on or off-campus, the administration will pursue disciplinary action through the appropriate University procedures.