

chapter 4: developing friends for life



“Traveling with a Cedarville ministry team has given me the unique opportunity to see how amazing and diverse the body of Christ is, while using my talents and abilities for His glory. My team has become some of my closest friends; we’re a family.”
— Jill Forsberg Vestal, New York

God uses the Christian community to encourage and shape our walk with Christ. One of the most valuable parts of your experience at Cedarville will be the lifelong friendships that start and grow while you are here. This chapter addresses many of the issues related to living within the Cedarville University community.

All members of the Cedarville community are encouraged to be people of refuge, ready to listen and quick to forgive and encourage. As members of this community, we commit to love each other and to serve one another with humility and personal sacrifice. Sometimes this involves shared times of celebration. Other times it requires the courage to lovingly confront, rebuke, or correct another member of the community. It also requires that we be sensitive and avoid causing others to sin — especially those who are weaker in their faith. Sometimes this might even involve giving up a personal freedom in order to avoid

tempting a brother or sister in an area where he or she is weak. As stated in the following passages, to enjoy the rich benefits of this or any community, all of us voluntarily sacrifice some of our personal freedoms.

Residence Life Experience

The experience of living on campus in a residence hall is one of the most powerful parts of your Cedarville experience. Cedarville is unique among institutions of higher education in that most of our recent growth has come from attracting traditional-aged, on-campus residential students. More than 80 percent of our students live on campus. In fact, other than students who already live in the area, all underclassmen are required to live on campus. Upperclassmen can request special permission to move off campus, and some choose this option during their junior or senior year. Students 25 years of age or older may not live in the residence halls.

Community Life Principles

The standards outlined in this chapter are designed to help us carry out our covenant to love God and to love each other. We try to address many of the common issues that come up in this type of community. We trust that these standards will reflect the following four Community Life Principles.

1. Above all, glorify God. The highest objective of this community is to encourage one another to love God with all of our hearts, minds, and souls (Deuteronomy 6:4–7).
2. Next, love your neighbor as yourself. For centuries the “Golden Rule” of loving others like we love ourselves has been one of the highest ethical standards. Jesus singled out this rule as one of the two most important principles in the Bible (Mark 12:31).
3. Value community. Community is the context in which we love, support, and encourage each other. We should avoid all behaviors that damage the community or threaten our unity.
4. Think about our testimony. In addition to considering the effects of our actions on each other, we should always be mindful of their potential impact on lives of people in our surrounding community, particularly those who are outside of the faith.

“In humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:3–5).

Residence Life Staff

Each residence hall has a full-time resident director (RD) who serves the students living there. In addition, every group of 15–30 students is served by a resident assistant (RA), a fellow student who lives in or near the hall or unit. The residence life staff members serve as mentors and role models and provide a sense of accountability to the lifestyle standards of the University. They are responsible for maintaining an atmosphere that is conducive to spiritual growth and academic success. Their goal is to help each student experience success spiritually, socially, and academically.

Roommate Selection

Most new students are matched with a roommate by residence life staff for their first year. We are usually able to accommodate students who have a preference for a specific roommate. New students are also allowed to request a specific residence hall, but they often do not get their first choice, as first choice goes to continuing students and upperclassmen. Students may contact residence life (937-766-7872) with specific requests or questions.

Continuing students submit room/roommate requests each spring. While we attempt to honor as many requests as possible, final authority for room assignments rests with the residence life staff. Occasionally, students will request to change rooms or roommates at the end of the fall semester. Such changes must be approved by the respective RD(s), and, if granted, the move must be completed before

leaving for the Christmas break. Generally, students are not allowed to move or switch roommates mid-semester.

Moving In and Moving Out

Students may move in during Getting Started Weekend on dates that are announced in advance. Students are asked not to arrive before this date; however, special arrangements can be made for those coming early for University-related activities or those with unusual travel needs. Students who arrive early for any term without proper advance approval will be charged \$50 per night. Approval for early arrival should be requested in advance by calling residence life. Students who arrive early are subject to all University standards, including “all-in” hours.

When students move out of the residence hall at the end of the year, all personal property must be removed and an RD or RA must inspect the room. A minimum charge of \$50 is assessed for rooms that have been damaged and/or are not clean. Students are encouraged to promptly report damage that occurs during the semester to their RA or RD so that repairs can be made. Students must leave the residence halls within 24 hours of the end of final exams. Any student with unique travel needs who may need an extension should contact his or her RD. Room refunds are not granted when a student leaves prior to the end of the semester, unless the student leaves because of an illness or similar reason beyond the student’s control.



Living With Your Roommate

For some students, this may be the first time you have ever had the opportunity to share a room. The quality of roommate relationships runs the gamut from delightful to disappointing, with most falling somewhere in between. Even great roommates have conflicts occasionally. Here are some principles to help you build a strong relationship.

- Talk about your likes, dislikes, and frustrations.
- If you have a problem, go to your roommate first. Don’t talk to your RA or other friends until you have talked things out with your roommate.
- Accept differences in tastes and preferences as a part of life.
- Give it some time. Good friendships don’t occur overnight, and some roommates never become the best of friends.
- If you continue to struggle in your relationship, get some help! Talk to your RA or RD about ways that we can provide you with some extra help.

A Few Good Questions for Roommates

All good relationships require time, effort, and communication. Here are a few suggested questions for new roommates.

1. What time do you prefer to go to sleep?
2. How quiet do you need it to be to sleep well?
3. How much noise can you tolerate in the mornings?
4. What are your tastes in music? Do you mind the kind of music I enjoy?
5. How often would you like to do things together as roommates?
6. How clean/neat do you prefer to keep our room?
7. How do you want me to let you know if something is bothering me? If you're upset, how do you want me to respond?
8. Can you study with people in the room or do you need it pretty quiet?
9. How do you feel about borrowing things from each other?
10. What things irritate or annoy you?
11. Would you be open to praying together once a week and/or doing a Bible study together?

“The life of virtue properly understood requires [community], for true virtue is not something we have or do alone.”

— Hauerwas and Pinchas, *Christians Among the Virtues*

All-In and Quiet Hours

“All-in” and quiet hours help to provide a strong sense of community and a good study environment within the residence halls. “All-in” also provides a strong sense of accountability and helps to ensure our students’ safety. “All-in” hours start at midnight Sunday through Thursday nights and at 1 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights.

Students returning to the residence hall after “all-in,” without prior arrangements with their RD, will receive a \$1 fine for each minute late up to two hours. Two or more hours past “all-in” is considered out overnight without permission and may result in a short-term suspension. If students have an unanticipated difficulty (car trouble, bad weather, etc.) getting back to campus on time for “all-in,” they should call their RA or RD. Students must get permission from their RD if they need to leave the residence hall before 5 a.m. Students leaving without special permission after “all-in” or before 5 a.m., or attempting to enter a residence hall after hours or assist others in such, are subject to a \$25 fine and/or other discipline.

Off-campus students must leave campus by scheduled “all-in” hours.

Occasionally individuals or groups of students will receive special permission from residence life staff to return late after a concert or special out-of-town event. Permission should always be obtained 24 hours in advance and is only considered under special circumstances.

Quiet hours are designed to encourage the virtues of courtesy and respect for others and to help each student do his or her best academically. At all times, students should be sensitive to ways their behavior affects those around them. This is a practical way that we live out our commitment to love our neighbors.

We ask students to be especially attentive to noise levels from 11 p.m.–7 a.m. each night. During those hours, noise should be confined to individual rooms and designated recreation areas. It should be quiet enough for those around you to sleep or study without interruption. At all times, students should respect the rights and needs of their fellow students and maintain an atmosphere that is conducive to study.

Guests in Your Room

The University schedules supervised open houses several times each semester when students are allowed to visit friends of the opposite sex in their rooms. These times are supervised by residence life staff, and doors must be fully open if members of the opposite sex are present. In addition, many residence halls have public lounges with posted hours for co-ed visitation.

Occasionally, students have guests of the same sex on campus who wish to stay overnight in their rooms. Overnight guests should be at least the age of 12 and under the age of 25, unless they are serving as a chaperone for a

group of visitors. During Li'l Sibs Weekend, the minimum age is lowered to age six to accommodate younger siblings. Younger children should always be accompanied and supervised by their host.

Babysitting in the residence halls is not allowed. Overnight guests are not allowed during Getting Started Weekend or during the week of final exams.

All overnight guests should register in advance with the guest coordinator in the admissions office, or their CU host can register them online by going to the student life menu on CedarInfo and clicking on "Submit overnight lodging request." Guests who are registered appropriately may stay on campus for up to seven nights each semester and will be charged \$25 for every night over three. Students can be fined \$25 for failing to register a guest.

Generally speaking, residential students are discouraged from staying overnight in another student's room on campus. When unique circumstances make it appropriate to stay in a friend's room, be sure to obtain advance approval from your RD.

Weekends and Overnights Away From Campus

Students are allowed to leave campus for overnights under a variety of circumstances. To keep track of students' location and safety, we ask them to sign out anytime they will be away from campus overnight. We ask that students let us know where they are going and whom they will be with. Students who forget to sign out before leaving should call their RD or log in to CedarInfo and complete the sign-out form online as soon as possible before "all-in." Failure to sign out or in will result in two demerits each.

Because we place such a high value on sexual purity and our testimony, we ask students to be especially careful when staying off campus in groups that include members of the opposite sex. Men and women should always have separate sleeping accommodations (separate bedrooms, campsites, etc.), adult supervision (e.g., parent, faculty/staff member), and advance approval from RDs or deans.

When visiting the home (or lodging) of a friend of the opposite sex, we ask students to provide an invitation (note, e-mail, or phone call) from the host family prior to each visit.

Because time on campus is so important to a student's adjustment to college life, we limit freshmen to 10 nights away from campus during their first semester. Official holidays and breaks are not included.

Juniors and seniors (by credit) may sign out for overnights or a weekend in the Cedarville area to stay with a friend a maximum of five nights per semester. (The "Cedarville area" is defined as the area within a 25-mile radius of the University.)

Accommodations for Scheduled Breaks

The residence halls remain open for all breaks except Christmas. There is limited food service available during fall and Easter breaks. However, the dining hall is closed during Thanksgiving, Christmas, and spring breaks.

Over all breaks, students are expected to maintain high standards of moral purity. Students in co-ed groups must have separate accommodations (separate bedrooms, campsites, etc.) regardless of the number in the group. We also ask students to notify their parents of their travel and lodging plans over breaks.

"'Everything is permissible' – but not everything is beneficial.

'Everything is permissible' – but not everything is constructive.

Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others."

– 1 Corinthians 10:23–24





“Our culture is driven by entertainment ... every entertainment expression belies a worldview. How equipped is our generation to recognize and identify the worldviews lurking in the hearts of movies, [television shows], and music?”

— Dr. Bill Brown,
Where Have All the Dreamers Gone?

Music, Movies, and Television

Entertainment plays a huge role in our culture and in the lives of most university students. Our choices in entertainment have the potential to both reflect and shape our character. We encourage students to think carefully about their entertainment choices in terms of content and in terms of the stewardship of their time and money.

Guidelines to Evaluate Media

We ask that students use the following specific questions to evaluate the potential impact of all media choices:

- Does the primary theme encourage or celebrate vices like sensuality, selfishness, or violence?
- Does the music, movie, or show help you to ask meaningful questions about life?
- Is sexual promiscuity promoted, encouraged, or used for the sake of humor?
- Does the message of this media show a respect for humanity and human life or is violence used gratuitously?
- Does it glorify the use of profane and demeaning language or include excessive crude or obscene language?
- Does it contain imagery that incites lustful or evil thoughts? Scripture advocates modesty and protecting our eyes from images that promote lust. As Jesus said in Matthew 5:28, “But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”
- Ultimately, what would Jesus Christ think of your choices in the area of entertainment?

Additional Guidelines for Music

- Be considerate with volume.
- Possession of music labeled “Sexually Explicit” or “Parental Advisory” violates the spirit of this community and is inconsistent with our covenant to embrace the virtue of moral purity. Music with these labels or other inappropriate content is not allowed on campus.
- Attendance at concerts that violate the principles noted above is also inappropriate and could result in up to 10 demerits. Feel free to ask one of the deans or your RD about a specific concert before attending or purchasing tickets.

Additional Guidelines for Movies

- Students are expected to avoid movies that violate the principles noted above. Consider using a website such as www.screenit.com to evaluate movies in advance.
- Pornography represents a serious threat to the Christian community. It devalues beauty, sexuality, and humanity and victimizes men, women, and families. Attendance at pornographic movies will result in 20 demerits and a suspension. Subsequent offenses may result in dismissal.

Additional Guidelines for Video Games

- Video/computer games with ratings of “M” (Mature) or “A” (Adults only) may not be used or possessed in the residence halls.



Additional Guidelines for DVDs, Internet Movies, and Television

Additional guidelines are provided for on-campus viewing because of the effect that one student's choices have on others in the residence life community.

- TV shows with an "MA" rating may not be viewed in the residence halls.
- Only movies rated "G," "PG," and "PG-13" are allowed for personal use on campus without prior approval by the media review board.
- Use of appropriate DVDs in your room is allowed. Be aware that the use of private DVDs in a group setting (more than 10 people) is a violation of U.S. Copyright Fair Use Guidelines. DVDs should not be used in groups of more than 10 unless you have paid the royalty for group use and had the movie approved by your RD.
- Internet movies and TV shows are only allowed if obtained legally in accordance with copyright laws.
- Televisions are provided around campus and in dorm lounges; students are not allowed to have TVs in their rooms or unit lounges.
- Violations of community standards in this area could result in 5–10 demerits and fines of \$15–\$30, based on the nature of the violation and the content of the movie or show.

Media Review Board

A media review board is available to consider questions about the appropriateness of any form of media in the residence halls. One purpose of the board is to promote a higher degree of consistency across campus in decisions about use of media. The dean of students will appoint a media review board consisting of at least one dean, two faculty members, and two students appointed by SGA to review any questions that arise about the appropriateness of a movie, show, video game, or selection of music. The media review board may uphold demerits that have already been given, replace the demerits with a warning, repeal previous demerits/fines, or increase the penalty. A list of shows, movies, or music that they have made decisions on will be posted on a campus webpage (see www.cedarville.edu/reslife) for internal access only in order to provide guidance and greater consistency across campus. Any student who is penalized for inappropriate use of movies, TV, or music may request that his or her case be reviewed by this board. The media review board may also evaluate media prior to any disciplinary incident and post warnings about material that is inappropriate for campus use. The primary focus of the media review board will be the evaluation of media for on-campus use.

"But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality. ... Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk, or coarse joking."

— Ephesians 5:3–4

"I will set no worthless thing before my eyes."

— Psalm 101:3, NASB

Reasons Why Cedarville Prohibits Alcohol

Alcohol-related problems pose a major threat to college students. Alcohol use is clearly linked to hazing, date rape, injuries, and fatal accidents among students. Listed below are several principles that support and guide our approach to alcohol.

- Nearly 70 percent of our students are under the legal drinking age. For these students, drinking is not only unwise, it is also illegal (1 Peter 2:13–17).
- Both Testaments instruct leaders to avoid the use or abuse of alcohol (Leviticus 10:9, Numbers 6:3, Proverbs 31:4, 1 Timothy 3:3, Titus 1:7).
- Abuse of alcohol is not consistent with a spiritually mature lifestyle (1 Corinthians 6:9, 1 Peter 4:3).
- Alcohol use reduces a person's ability to make good decisions about sex and is associated with various forms of sexual immorality (Romans 13:13, Galatians 5:19–21).
- Alcohol makes us less alert and diminishes our self-control (1 Thessalonians 5:7–8).
- Use of food and drink is listed by Paul in a discussion of "disputable matters." We are advised to be careful not to place stumbling blocks in a brother's way. We are also warned to be careful about what we approve and to seek each other's mutual edification (Romans 14).

These are among the reasons why Cedarville University maintains a policy of total abstinence in the area of alcohol. This policy exists to protect our students and to promote the virtues of sobriety and self-control. We believe that such a policy is beneficial and constructive for our students (1 Corinthians 10:22–24).

Alcohol and Illegal or Harmful Substances

Because we value virtues like sobriety, self-control, and stewardship of our bodies, and because we recognize the harmful effects of substances like alcohol, tobacco, and inappropriately used drugs and medications, Cedarville prohibits the use or possession of alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, and all illegal drugs. Students are also prohibited from abusive use of otherwise legal substances such as prescribed medications.

To create a healthy environment, and in some cases to comply with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989, Public Law 101-226, Cedarville University adheres to the following guidelines:

- Students are notified that there are significant health risks associated with the improper use of certain substances, including those mentioned above. These risks include, but are not limited to, physical and mental dependency, damage to the heart and lungs, and, in some cases, death.
- Students are not allowed to use, purchase, or possess alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, or any illegal drug on or off campus. Students are also prohibited from misusing legally prescribed medications. Violation of these prohibitions may result in probation, suspension, or dismissal (see Chapter 6, Community and Accountability).
- In addition to University prohibitions, state and federal law prohibits the unlawful sale, use, or possession of drugs

and alcohol. Penalties may include fines and/or imprisonment. Students are also reminded that underage drinking is a violation of federal law. Students who engage in underage drinking may be subject to legal sanctions in addition to University penalties.

- Students struggling with drug or alcohol use may obtain confidential counseling at counseling services and at University Medical Services.
- Students should not attend bars. In addition, they should not attend student/local parties where alcohol is present.

Eating in the Dining Hall

The dining hall, commonly referred to as Chuck's, is located in the Stevens Student Center (SSC). The Hive (the campus snack shop) is located in the lower level of the SSC.

A variety of meal plans are available to all students. Students living on campus must purchase either the full meal plan or the partial meal plan. Both plans are offered in a variety of formats to best meet your individual dining needs and preferences. The block plans allow you to use your ID card for a few guests to eat with you (ID card owner must be present). Some plans include a cash balance that can be spent in The Hive for things like late-night snacks. All of the plans entitle students to 25 transfer meals per semester in The Hive. This allows students to order individual meals in the snack shop 25 times each semester at no additional cost, rather than dining upstairs at Chuck's. Details about all plans are available online

(www.cedarville.edu/mealplans) or at the cashiers office.

During fall break and Easter break, the dining hall remains open on an abbreviated schedule. For Thanksgiving, Christmas, and spring break, the dining hall is closed. The residence halls remain open for all breaks except Christmas.

Because Chuck's serves meals cafeteria-style, students who have not purchased a meal plan or an individual meal are not allowed to be in the dining hall. Attempting to enter or eat in any dining facility without appropriate payment violates our covenant to be people of integrity and typically results in an official warning (see Chapter 6) and appropriate fines. There are several locations around campus where commuters may eat bag lunches, such as the vending lounge in the Apple Technology Resource Center and The Hive.

Dress Code

Our dress code seeks to provide a balance of community guidelines and room for individual taste. In addition, our campus culture supports professional development of students and allows faculty to communicate additional dress guidelines for class that are consistent with the course objectives. We acknowledge that some of these specific standards reflect community preferences and in no way attempt to equate them with levels of spirituality. In fact, students are warned not to judge

others based on appearance. Such practice violates the spirit of God's Kingdom and is clearly condemned in the Scriptures (James 2:1-4).

The main principles governing our guidelines are modesty, courtesy, and avoidance of extremes that some might find offensive. Factors that contribute to modesty can include clothing style and fit. The following guidelines deal with a number of issues related to appearance. In most cases, these standards are designed to ensure that student appearance, both on and off campus, reflects the culture and values of the institution.

- Clothing should not be excessively revealing or tight and should not have slogans that are inconsistent with University values and standards.
- Skirts and dresses (including slits) should be no higher than the top of the knee. Shorts should extend to at least mid thigh.
- Spaghetti strap and off-the-shoulder tops or dresses should be worn only when accompanied by a jacket, sweater, or blouse. Exposed midriff styles are not allowed.
- Clothing worn to class should be clean and well-kempt. (Clothing, including jeans, should not be ragged or have holes.)
- Shoes should be worn in class, chapel, and the dining hall.
- As an expression of respect, men are expected to remove hats or caps before entering class or chapel.

- Shorts, sweatpants, and pajama pants should not be worn to class, chapel, or in academic or administrative buildings. Modest shorts and sweatpants are permitted in the Centennial Library and the SSC at all times.
- T-shirts may not be worn to chapel or classes except those after 4 p.m., on Fridays, or during finals week.
- Hairstyles and fashion should avoid extremes that call undue attention to appearance. For example, hair dyed an unnatural color, shaved heads for females, hairstyles below the neck for males, and makeup or nail polish for men are not allowed.
- All forms of facial jewelry, other than earrings for females, are prohibited. This includes tongue and nose piercings.
- Clothing worn for exercise or recreational activities or in the Callan Athletic Center should be modest. If spandex or tights are worn, shorts should be worn over them.
- Other than in the residence halls, shirts must be worn everywhere on campus, including the Callan Athletic Center.
- Certain events like the Junior/Senior Banquet may call for more formal attire. Since modesty is the overriding principle, exposed midriffs, plunging necklines/backlines, and hems or slits more than two inches above the knee are not allowed. Students who violate these may be denied entrance to the event and/or assessed up to five demerits.

What Is Modesty?

To be modest means to be "orderly and decent." Plato said that a modest person was someone who fulfilled his duties in an orderly fashion. Paul associates modesty with decency (1 Timothy 2:9). The modest person is one who voluntarily limits his or her own freedom as an expression of self-control and moderation. To be modest is to be a person of unearthly grace and dignity. It is synonymous with another Greek word which means "fits with holiness." Modest dress is dress that reflects a commitment to a holy lifestyle, avoiding things like sensuality, pride, and materialism. Above all, modesty is ultimately a reflection of the heart. Our outer appearance should reflect the inner reality of our relationship with Jesus Christ and our desire to honor Him.

“The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord ... Flee from sexual immorality ... honor God with your body.”

— 1 Corinthians 6:13–20

Dancing

The Bible provides both positive and negative examples of dancing. We recognize that appropriate styles of dance can be a valuable part of art, worship, celebration, and exercise. Unfortunately, many contemporary forms of dance are closely associated with things that undermine godliness. Contemporary dance is often sexually provocative, occurs in unhealthy environments, or accompanies lyrics that do not reflect our commitment to a pure and godly lifestyle. This type of dance is prohibited both on and off campus. Students may not attend bars, nightclubs, or dance clubs. Those who choose to dance at family or church events, such as weddings, should avoid all inappropriate expressions of sensuality.

Out of respect for the convictions that some Christians have in this area, dances will not be sponsored on campus or at University-sponsored events. The University also prohibits students from attending or organizing such dances on or off campus. This reflects our commitment to both purity and unity within the Cedarville University community. This policy permits appropriate expressions of celebration at concerts, athletic events, and worship services. It allows for appropriate use of dance in exercise and choreography and recognizes the value of artistic dance forms like ballet, folk, or ethnic dance. These expressions of dance are allowed when performed in an appropriate manner that honors God and promotes holiness.

Commitment to Purity

We are committed to healthy male–female relationships between all members of the Cedarville University family, including students, faculty, and staff. Affectionate or sexual behavior that is inconsistent with the Word of God and/or Cedarville University standards will not be tolerated, even though consensual. Students are reminded of our covenant to moral purity. All behavior should reflect a desire to build

each other up spiritually and honor Christ. The following specific guidelines are intended to help students achieve this goal.

- Public displays of affection should be limited to holding hands or a brief embrace.
- Male and female students should avoid spending extended time together in any private area where there is not a healthy level of accountability. For example, couples should not be in an off-campus apartment or home without a third party, nor should they ever be alone in an off-campus bedroom. Violation of this policy may result in suspension.
- Students are not to share the same bed.
- Off-campus students who are visiting an apartment belonging to a person of the opposite sex must leave the apartment no later than one hour after “all-in.”
- Students may not spend the night in an off-campus apartment, hotel room, etc., with a member of the opposite sex, regardless of the number of students involved. Violating this standard could result in dismissal.
- Sexual intercourse and many of the behaviors leading up to it are reserved exclusively for the context of heterosexual marriage. Sexual activity outside of such marriage is prohibited. This includes oral sex and other intimate forms of touching.

Guidelines for Off-Campus Living

Off-campus students are an important part of the University community, accounting for up to 20 percent of the student body. Because we value the University mission and our testimony within the community, each student who lives off campus is subject to all University regulations.

Students who are married, 23 years of age or older by August 1, or living with family in the surrounding community do not need to obtain special permission to live



off campus. Such students are designated “true commuters” and should notify the student life dean’s office prior to their first semester so that they are not assigned rooms in the residence hall.

Students who do not meet the qualifications listed above may request permission to move off campus under special circumstances. If granted permission to live off campus, these students are classified as “Permission Given” off-campus students.

Students who take fewer than six credit hours generally live off campus and do not need permission to do so; however, such students are not permitted to add additional hours at any time during the academic year without going through the complete off-campus approval process. This policy is strictly enforced, with the help of academic services, and is designed to prevent students from attempting to circumvent the approval process. Our goal is to provide a process that treats all students fairly and gives students with the highest number of completed credit hours and the highest financial need the first opportunity to live off campus.

How to Request Permission to Live off Campus

To request permission to live off campus, students must complete the Off-Campus Request Form, which is available via CedarInfo. Requests for fall must be submitted to the student life dean’s office before leaving for the summer break. While we desire to notify students as early as possible, these decisions are based in part on enrollment trends that are difficult to predict in advance. We believe that there is tremendous educational value in a good residence life experience for most traditional-aged university students, and we seek to maintain full occupancy in the residence halls.

We assume that students who live on campus in the fall will stay on campus until the end of the academic year or until they finish their programs. Requests to move off campus for



spring semester are unlikely to be approved unless warranted by unique circumstances. Students who wish to apply to live off campus mid-year may submit an Off-Campus Request Form via CedarInfo prior to finals week of fall semester.

Students who have been approved for off-campus housing must meet all registration and deposit deadlines to maintain their approval status.

Students are strongly advised not to enter into lease agreements until they have received official written notification of their housing status. Having signed a lease will not be a factor in the decision to grant off-campus approval. Permission to live off campus is limited only to the academic year for which it was granted. Being granted permission to live off campus one year in no way guarantees that a student will be granted permission to live off campus the following year. Students who are not “true commuters” (i.e., married students, students ages 23 or older by August 1, or students who will be living with family) must reapply to live off campus for each academic year.

Living off campus may be a means of reducing the cost of education. However, moving off campus also means the forfeiture of the privileges of residence hall life, including such amenities as free residence hall laundry facilities, easy access to CedarNet, etc. Residence hall students cover the cost of these benefits with their room charges. Because the resident student room fee underwrites the cost of the free laundry facilities, off-campus students who use the residence hall laundry facilities are subject to a \$25 fine.

The decision to move off campus should take into account the inconvenience and potential added cost of obtaining these services in the community.

“We covenant together to express our love for others through acts of kindness, wholesome and uplifting speech, redemptive expressions of confrontation and forgiveness, merciful acts to those in need, and loving proclamation of the Gospel.”
— Community Covenant

Testimony/Behavior in the Community

Within the community, Cedarville students are known for their service, maturity, and sense of responsibility. We value this reputation and trust students to take all steps necessary to uphold it. For example:

- Students living in off-campus housing may be held responsible for conduct that occurs in their homes or apartments. Allowing one’s place of residence to be used for behaviors that violate University standards may result in discipline appropriate for the standard violated.
- Off-campus students are expected to be especially considerate of neighborhood expectations in the areas of noise control and parking.
- All students are expected to fulfill their financial obligations.

Failure in these or similar responsibilities violates the spirit of the Community Covenant and may result in student life discipline, including forfeiture of off-campus approval.

Pranks and Disturbances

Pranks have the potential to damage University or personal property, harm our testimony, and hurt potential victims. To prevent damage to property, water fights or disturbances involving other damaging substances are not permitted in or around the residence halls or other campus buildings. Students who participate will receive five demerits for the first offense and could be suspended or placed on probation for subsequent violations. Students involved in any prank will be responsible financially for any damages that occur. Out of respect for one another, students should not interfere with, or alter in any way, another student’s room or its contents. Tampering with another’s personal possessions, including his/her automobile, is also inappropriate.

Prohibitions Against Harassment, Hazing, and Assault

Acts of harassment, hazing, and assault severely violate the spirit of this community and our covenant to treat one another kindly, upholding the highest standards of purity and self-control. The consequences of poor judgment in these areas could include dismissal from the University and other significant legal sanctions.

Racial Harassment

Cedarville University affirms its belief that interpersonal relationships are to reflect the biblical principle that all people are made in God’s image and are equal in value. Therefore, racial harassment (which includes, but is not limited to, racial/ethnic slurs and otherwise intimidating communication) or promotion of racist attitudes will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to, electronic communication. Any student in violation of this policy is subject to disciplinary action that may result in suspension or dismissal.

Sexual Harassment

Cedarville prohibits all forms of sexual harassment. Such harassment not only violates our Community Covenant, but it is also a violation of federal and state law. Examples of sexual harassment include unwelcome sexual advances and requests for sexual favors. A person’s statements or behaviors (of a sexual nature) can also be construed as sexual harassment when they:

- Interfere with your work, study, or living conditions by creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment in your place of study or employment.
- Attempt to coerce you into performing a sexual act as a requirement for employment, part of an academic class, or some other University-sponsored program.



- Make your grades or educational progress contingent on engaging in a sexual activity.
- Use your submission to a sexual request as a basis for some other academic or employment-related decision.

Sexual harassment can occur between a student and a faculty or staff member, between two or more students, or between a student and anyone else associated with the University. It can occur between members of the opposite or same sex.

Specific examples of sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:

- Sexually explicit statements, questions, or jokes that are unrelated to legitimate subject matter.
- Unwanted contact including touching, patting, brushing against a person's body, and hugging.
- Pranks that involve sexual contact or content.
- Repeated and unwanted staring.
- Derogatory remarks about a person's gender or alleged sexual activity (including statements about a person's sexual orientation).
- Display or distribution of inappropriate sexually oriented material (including online display or distribution).

Though any University official who observes or knows of sexual harassment is required to report it according to the guidelines of the University Sexual Harassment Policy, reasonable effort will be made to protect the privacy of all parties involved. The University also maintains the right to discipline any individual who intentionally and knowingly files a false report of sexual harassment. Failure to prove an allegation of sexual harassment is not equivalent to filing a false allegation.

Any student who wishes to notify the University of an alleged incident of sexual harassment may contact the vice

president of student life, the dean of students, or any associate dean. Students may also report allegations of sexual harassment to any other academic or administrative official at the University, including other vice presidents, managers, or supervisors.

A complete copy of the University Sexual Harassment Policy is available online at www.cedarville.edu/departments/hr/sexualharassment.htm.

Sexual Assault

Sexual assault is any unwanted sexual contact. It is an extreme form of sexual harassment and will be considered a serious offense by the University. Any use of threat or force to obtain such sexual contact is illegal and will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement officials. The University strongly encourages any person who has been sexually assaulted to contact a University counselor, the dean of students, or any of the student life deans.

Hazing

Hazing is defined as subjecting a student to abusive or humiliating pranks. Hazing is not permitted at Cedarville University. It is often difficult to distinguish between hazing and an "innocent" prank among friends. Therefore, RDs and/or student life deans will make all determinations relative to hazing. Any student participating in either an "innocent" prank or in a deliberate hazing activity will be held responsible for his or her behavior. Regardless of motive or intent, any student participating in a hazing/prank-type activity that potentially endangers or adversely affects the physical and emotional well-being of another student can expect immediate and serious disciplinary action. This includes the possibility of suspension or dismissal from the University.