



## Off-Campus Living Policy

The College of the Holy Cross is an integral part of the College Hill neighborhood and the City of Worcester. Maintaining amicable and considerate relationships between the College and local residents is essential to the College's mission. (Note: This policy shall not apply to students who are married or commuter students (living with a parent or legal guardian) or those who are the parents of dependent children. Students who do not meet these criteria but may have special circumstances should contact Student Affairs).

- Students must complete an application and receive permission to reside off-campus. This process generally occurs during the fall semester prior to the academic year that the student plans to reside off campus. Approval is only granted for one year before eligible students must reapply.
- The College reserves the right to limit the overall number of students approved for off-campus living.
- Students who are not approved to live off campus will automatically be contracted for campus housing and will participate in room selection held during the subsequent spring semester.
- The College reserves the right to assign a heightened degree of responsibility and accountability to every tenant who lives at an off-campus residence, in instances where a violation of College policy may have occurred at the property. This includes, but is not limited to, being considered the "host" of a prohibited gathering, regardless of other factors such as the role a student may or may not have played in the active planning and/or facilitation of a prohibited gathering.
- A student's disciplinary history is a factor in the approval process. Students with any history of College Probation are not eligible for off-campus living. Permission may be revoked at any time if a student's disciplinary status adversely changes.
- Only students who have completed four semesters of study at Holy Cross are eligible for off-campus living. Student transfers must be a junior or senior by the time they apply to live off-campus.
- Staff from the Offices of Housing and Residence Life and Student Integrity and Community Standards will review a completed application when all materials are submitted before the deadline.
- Students are discouraged from entering into a lease or other binding agreement if they have not received permission to reside off-campus. If a student is not approved to live off-campus, the student will be required to live on-campus even if the student has entered into a binding legal obligation with a third party. The College is not responsible for costs of third party leases, and the student remains responsible for the costs of residential housing.
- Students are required to provide the College with accurate off-campus contact information to include their address, apartment number and landlord contact information. Failure to do so will constitute a violation of College policy and may result in a loss of off-campus living privileges.



- Student-athletes should confer with the Division of Athletics to determine if additional conditions or criteria apply above and beyond what is outlined in this policy.
- Students determined to be in violation of any federal, state or local or City ordinance, and/or College policy, rule or regulation can have their off-campus permission revoked immediately regardless of the financial impact of a lease or other legal obligation. Students who have their permission revoked will be required to return to on campus housing with its attendant expense, or move to another agreed-upon housing arrangement.
- The College maintains a list of available off-campus properties as submitted by property owners. The College does not inspect, review or otherwise recommend off-campus apartments or landlords and therefore cannot ascertain whether such properties are safe, sanitary or in compliance with local ordinances. This list is maintained for student convenience only. Students are encouraged to investigate living conditions, landlord practices and quality of dwellings prior to entering into a lease agreement or any other binding agreement. The College does not mediate landlord / tenant issues.
- Student tenants are expected to fully cooperate with City officials carrying out their official duties; this includes permitting members of the City's Property Review Team access to their off-campus units to ensure compliance with housing codes and local ordinances.
- Students are expected to be aware of and adhere to housing ordinances that limit occupancy to no more than three unrelated persons per single living unit. The College will cooperate with City officials in compliance with applicable law. Students who violate this ordinance can and have faced eviction.
- Students are expected to keep their properties free of trash and debris. Students should also be aware of and adhere to the City's trash and recycling policies.
- The City of Worcester prohibits chimineas, fire pits or other outdoor open burning.
- The application process and interpretation of this policy is under the authority of the VPSA/DOS.