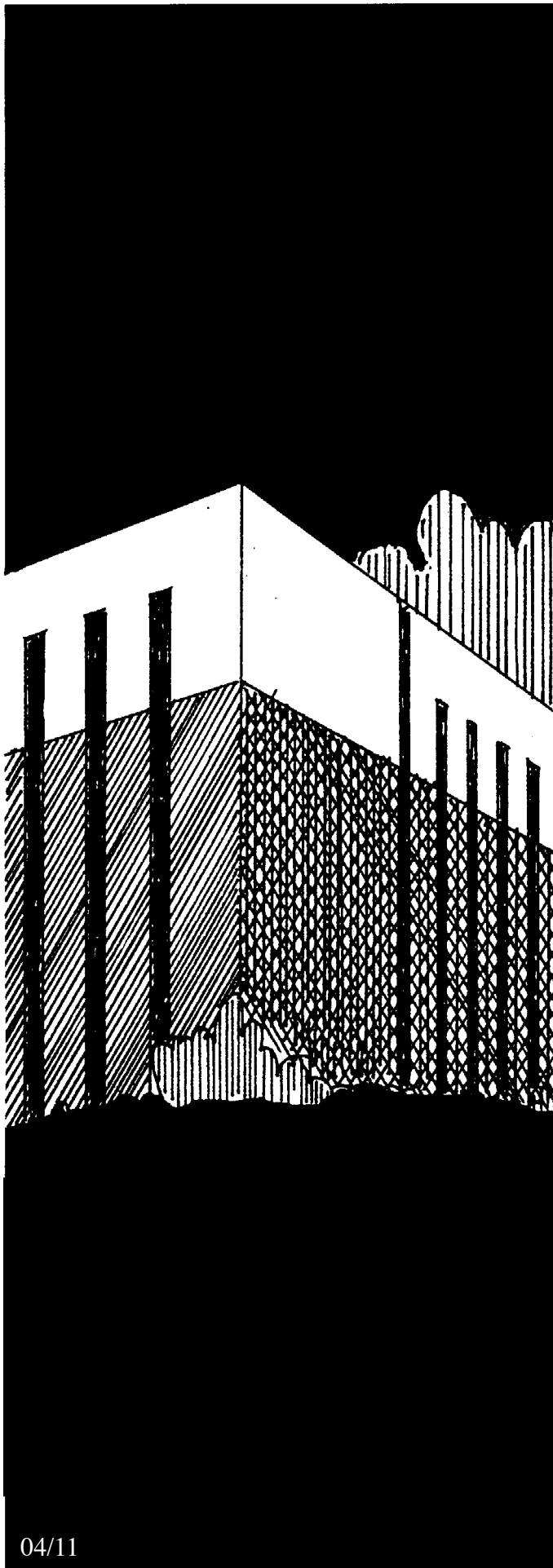


# Dorm Handbook



**Fort Scott Community College**

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# COLLEGE DORM HANDBOOK

## INTRODUCTION

This handbook is provided as a guideline for cooperation among the student residents, resident assistants and the dorm director. In order for the dorm staff to communicate information regarding your whereabouts to those seeking you, it will be necessary for you to keep the dorm director informed as much as possible. A two-way communication between students and the dorm staff will be the objective of the program.

## RESIDENCY STATUS

Residents will be admitted and allowed to live in college-owned housing under the following conditions:

- They have a completed Dorm Contract and the \$100 security deposit is on file in the FSCC Business Office. They are paying for the dorm according to the Dorm Contract dorm payment plan.
- They are in good standing with regard to school discipline. They follow all guidelines of the Dorm Contract and Dorm Handbook.
- They are enrolled in and paid full tuition and fees for a minimum of twelve (12) credit hours.

## DORM GUIDELINES

The following guidelines are established to facilitate the functionality of the dorms.

### 1. ABSENCES FROM THE DORM:

Extended absences from the dorm should be reported to a dorm director's office (extension 726).

### 2. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES/DRUGS/TOBACCO USE:

The possession, use, or sale of alcoholic and cereal malt beverages or illegal drugs in the dorm or on any College property is prohibited and a violation of FSCC Policy and the Laws of the state of Kansas. Violation may result in expulsion from the dorm and arrest by Law Enforcement. Smoking/tobacco use is not permitted anywhere in any campus-owned buildings, including dormitory rooms.

### 3. AUTOMOBILES, BICYCLES, AND MOTORCYCLES:

FSCC provides parking spaces for dorm residents on the north side of Greyhound Hall and the west side of Boileau Hall. Automobiles or motorcycles must have a parking permit properly displayed on the vehicle. Permits will be issued during dorm check-in. All vehicles are to be operated in a safe manner and should be parked with security precautions. Bicycles and motorbikes are not permitted in the buildings or rooms for storage or repair. Vehicles should be taken home during vacation breaks. The College is not responsible for unattended vehicles during this time. Unauthorized vehicles parked in the

fire lane and/or handicap spaces will be towed at owner's expenses.

### 4. BURNING OF SUBSTANCES:

The burning of any substances, including candles, incense, cigarettes/pipes/cigars, and/or oil lamps, is prohibited in housing units or buildings. (Spray and stick air fresheners may be used instead of candles.)

### 5. CLOTHES WASHING AND DRYING:

College owned washers and dryers are installed for use by dorm residents. Students are to provide their own laundry products. Cost per washing is 75 cents. Cost per drying is 50 cents. Price is subject to change without notice.

### 6. CONDUCT OF RESIDENTS:

The dorm director, resident assistants, the College campus security staff and the maintenance personnel are employed by the College and are responsible for maintaining order in the college housing. The student residents are expected to be responsible individuals and conduct themselves in a manner that shows respect for the rights and privacy of others. Any vandalism to property, excessive rowdiness, insubordination to employees, or infringement on the rights of other residents will be subject to disciplinary action.

### 7. COOKING:

For the safety of the dorm residents, electrical appliances, such as electric skillets, hot plates, toaster ovens, or griddles, are not permitted. Medium to small-sized microwave ovens are allowed in student rooms.

### 8. DAMAGE TO THE DORMITORY ROOMS OR EQUIPMENT:

Each resident will be held responsible for all damage to the facility and furnishings. If individual responsibility cannot be determined, the cost of repair or replacement, along with possible monetary fines, will be assessed to all occupants in the hall or unit. Any damage to the facility or its furnishings should be reported immediately to the dorm director. If there is no damage to the room or areas, no outstanding debts owed the College, and check-out procedures have been followed, the \$100 deposit will be refunded to the depositor upon the termination of the room assignment at the end of the contract year.

### 9. DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES:

The College has identified some specific behavior that is considered a violation of dorm policy. Included in this behavior is burning of candles/incense in your room, possession of alcohol, possession of illegal drug or drug paraphernalia, and possession of weapons. A more complete list of violations and a description of the related disciplinary action(s) are explained in the Fort Scott Community College Violation Report.

Disciplinary action(s) for violations outlined in the Fort Scott Community College Violation Report are listed below:

Type of Violations	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense	Each Add'l
Illegal Drug Paraphernalia	Suspension/expulsion**			
Illegal Drug possession	Suspension/expulsion**			
Possession of weapons (as defined under <b>FIREARMS/WEAPONS</b> section)	Suspension/expulsion**			
Termination of Agreement	See Dorm Contract			
Alcohol-possession	\$100	\$150	Suspension/expulsion**	
Burning Candles/Incense	\$100	\$100*	Suspension/expulsion**	
Dorm Property Damage	Cost of repairs*	Cost of repairs *	Cost of repairs *	Suspension/ expulsion**
Improper Checkout	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
Improper use of fire exits/fire extinguisher	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
Parking- fire lane/handicap	Cost of Towing	Cost of Towing	Cost of Towing	Cost of Towing
Posing a general threat to the safety of others (including assaults/fighting)	\$100* & possible suspension/expulsion**	\$150* & possible suspension/expulsion**	Suspension/expulsion**	
Smoking/Tobacco Use	\$100*	\$100*	Suspension/Expulsion**	
Trespass Violation	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
Dogs/Pets	\$50	\$100	\$100	\$100
Lost/Stolen Room Key (replace lock)	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
Open Windows for entrance/exit	\$50	\$100	\$100	\$100
RA/Dorm Director/ Campus Security Verbal Abuse	\$50*	\$100*	Suspension/Expulsion**	
Unauthorized room change	\$50	\$100	\$100	\$100
Excessive Noise	Warning	\$50	\$100	\$100
Littering	Warning	\$50	\$100	\$100
Lost/Stolen Access Card	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15
Lost/Stolen Mailbox key	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5
Room Inspection	Warning	\$50	\$100	\$100
Theft of Food Service (cafeteria) items				
Boileau Hall	Warning	\$100 per suite	(Maximum of \$25 per person)	
Greyhound Hall	Warning	\$ 50 per room	(Maximum of \$25 per person)	
Unregistered Guest	Warning	\$50	\$100	\$100
Violation of Quiet Hours	Warning	\$50	\$50	\$50
Visitation Curfew	Warning	\$50	\$100	\$100

\* Referred to the Dean of Student Services.

\*\* Students who are expelled from the dorm are restricted from visiting the dorms and/or using the dorm parking lots. Violators are subject to trespassing charges. Additional disciplinary action (including suspension/expulsion from school) may be administered by the Dean of Student Services.

Additional disciplinary actions are listed below:

• **ADMONITION:**

An oral statement that a student or group is violating the Rules of Conduct, and that further instances of misconduct may result in additional disciplinary action.

• **LETTER OF APOLOGY:**

A requirement may be made for a formal letter of apology, either public or private, to an individual, an outside agency or the College.

• **WRITTEN WARNING**

A written warning to the student filed with the dorm director noting that further violations may result in additional disciplinary action.

• **RESTRICTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:**

This sanction may involve specified conditions to be performed or completed at the expense of the student including, but not limited to:

Removal from or administrative withdrawal from class.  
Removal from and/or restriction of access to specified facilities and/or programs.

Loss of privilege, including, but not limited to, loss of:

- Participation in and/or attendance at any or all public events sponsored by the College.
- Representation of the College in specified capacity.
- The right to hold office in any or all approved organizations.

Institutional employment termination.

Required attendance at meetings and/or completion of projects.

Required participation in certain groups and/or programs.

A requirement of a counseling assessment or a recommendation for counseling.

• **RESTITUTION:**

A full and complete reimbursement for damage, destruction, or misappropriation of the property of Fort Scott Community College or of others. This restitution may take the form of appropriate service, financial payment, or other compensation. Failure to make arrangements for restitution within the specified time may result in further sanctions.

• **COMMUNITY SERVICE WORK:**

A student may be required to complete work projects to improve the College or the community.

- **DORM PROBATION:**

For students residing on campus, this is a serious warning status from the dorm director, which involves a written record being filed with the Dean of Student Services. Further misconduct during the probationary period may result in suspension or expulsion from the Dorm. Probation may also include other sanctions.

- **SUSPENSION FROM DORM:**

This is the termination of the student's dorm contract for a specified period of time. A permanent notation of the suspension is filed with the Dean of Student Services. The student may apply in writing to the Dean of Student Services for re-admission. A student who is suspended from the dorm must vacate the dorm no later than the deadline set by the dorm director or designated representative. Students who violate these restrictions are subject to the disciplinary action described in the TRESPASS section of the dorm handbook. A cancellation fee will apply as stated in the Dorm Contract under the TERMINATION BY COLLEGE section. If granted re-admission, the student may be subject to any of the other sanctions outlined in this section.

- **EXPULSION FROM DORM :**

This is a permanent severance from the College dorm and termination of the student's dorm contract. A permanent notation is placed on the student's record as recorded with the dorm director and the Dean of Student Services. A student who is expelled from the dorm is required to vacate his/her residence no later than the deadline set by the dorm director and/or designated representative and is no longer permitted to use or enter the dorm or the surrounding grounds including the dorm parking area. Students who violate these restrictions are subject to the disciplinary action described in the TRESPASS section of the dorm handbook. A cancellation fee will apply as stated in the Dorm Contract under the TERMINATION BY COLLEGE section.

- **TRESPASS:**

A student who receives a trespass sanction restricting them from the dorm or other facility is totally restricted from use of and entrance to any dorm or facility and the surrounding grounds. Failure to abide by a trespass sanction may result in other disciplinary action and/or criminal charges, including criminal trespass, and the appropriate fine.

- **HOLD ON STUDENT RECORDS:**

The College reserves the right to "hold" student records for failure to pay bills due to the College. Under such conditions, students may be prevented from registering for courses, copying or transferring transcripts, or participating in other campus activities. All dorm students will be placed on a temporary dorm hold between semesters. This hold will be removed following the twentieth day of the new semester.

- **SUSPENSION FROM THE COLLEGE:**

This is the termination of a student's enrollment at Fort Scott Community College for a specified period of time. A permanent notation is placed on the student's record as recorded in the Office of Student Services, and the Registrar's Office. In cases of serious misconduct leading to suspension, a student's records may be frozen and may not be copied, transcribed or transferred for external parties or institutions during the suspension period.

- **EXPULSION FROM THE COLLEGE:**

This is a permanent severance of a student's enrollment and association with Fort Scott Community College. A permanent notation is placed on the student's record.

## **10. DORM CHECK-OUT PROCEDURE:**

If you do not check out properly and follow the steps below, you will be assessed a fine as described in the Fort Scott Community College Incident Report.

1. Arrange a time with the dorm staff to make a final check of your room. Rooms are not to be occupied after they have been checked.
2. Unplug all desk lamps and floor lamps.
3. Clean room to include:
  - a. Sweep and/or mop floor just before leaving
  - b. Empty all trash and deposit in trash unit provided outside of your dorm
  - c. The dorm director and staff will be the sole judge of cleanliness and of necessary charges.
4. Remove all personal property from room. Personal items not taken will be discarded as described in the LIABILITY section of the Dorm Contract
5. Make sure all room furniture is in your room in its original location and not stored anywhere else.
6. Turn out lights.
7. Lock door.
8. Sign the Room Condition Report provided by the dorm director or designated representative (unless otherwise directed) to show that you checked out properly.
9. Turn in your dorm room key, mailbox key and access card to the dorm director or designated representative (unless otherwise directed).

10. Residents of the Dorm are expected to vacate and remove personal possessions no later than the deadline set by the dorm director or designated representative, upon withdrawal from College, upon termination of the Dorm Contract, or after the end of the semester.

### **11. DORM CONTRACT**

A student entering the Dorm at the beginning of the fall semester is obligated for the entire school year which ends in May. In all cases, this contract is terminated at 5 p.m. on the last day of the spring semester. Terms for cancellation are described in the Dorm Contract. It is recommended that all residents acquaint themselves fully with the terms and conditions of the contract. Payment shall be made to the business office in the administration building at the time agreed upon in the contract. Terms for termination by the College are described in the TERMINATION BY COLLEGE section of the Dorm Contract.

### **12. DORM COUNCIL:**

The Dorm Council shall consist of resident assistants, the dorm director and selected dorm students. This council shall represent the students in the dorm in matters relating to all aspects of on-campus living at Fort Scott Community College.

### **13. DORM HOURS:**

The students will be expected to maintain dorm hours that are conducive to successful study and education procedures. FSCC has “open hours” for its residents. You may come and go as you please. **Visitors are allowed from 9 a.m. to midnight, Sunday through Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 1 a.m., Friday and Saturday. The hours from 11 p.m. to 9 a.m. will be observed as “quiet hours”.** Noise (including stereos) will be kept to a minimum so that students may study or obtain rest. If you are out of the dorm after quiet hours, you will be expected to return without disturbing the other occupants. Any disruption in the privacy of others may result in disciplinary action.

### **14. FIRE DRILLS:**

The fire alarm system is a critical safety measure. Anytime the alarm sounds you are expected to vacate your room immediately and get away from the building. Know where your fire extinguisher is in your complex. Fire drills will be held at least once each semester.

### **FIRE DRILL PROCEDURES**

Your cooperation in following the procedures listed may be important in saving your life and the lives of other residents if a fire or similar disaster should occur. It is the responsibility of every resident to be familiar with these procedures and observe them carefully.

### **WHEN THE ALARM SOUNDS-**

1. Close the windows.
2. Raise the blinds.
3. Leave only the overhead light on.
4. Wear hard-soled shoes and during cold weather wear a coat.
5. Carry a towel to be placed over your face in case of smoke.
6. Close and lock the door.
7. Check the room on either side of you to make sure your neighbors are up.
8. Go, without talking, to the nearest exit. Walk swiftly. Do not run or push.
9. When outside, face away from the building in case of an explosion.
10. Do not return to your room until the signal is given by an authorized official.

### **15. FIRE EXTINGUISHER:**

A fire extinguisher is designed to put out a small fire, not a big one. The fire extinguisher in your living unit is a multipurpose, dry chemical one, labeled ABC, which puts out most types of fire – wood, paper, cloth, flammable liquid, or electrical fires.

This is how your fire extinguisher works:

1. Pull the pin. Some units require the releasing of a lock latch, pressing a puncture lever, inversion, or other motion.
2. Aim the extinguisher nozzle (horn or hose) at the base of the fire.
3. Squeeze or press the handle.
4. Sweep from side to side at the base of the fire. Watch for re-flash. Discharge the contents of the extinguisher.

### **16. FIRE SAFETY:**

Fire extinguishers and smoke detectors are installed in all complexes in compliance with state regulations. These fire extinguishers can be used to put out small fires, such as trash receptacles or burning mattresses. Misuse of fire equipment, theft, damage, or making equipment inoperative for immediate use is considered a “breach of college and state regulations,” and can result in suspension, expulsion from the dorm and an appropriate fine. Burning any substance indoors i.e. candles, incense, etc. is prohibited.

### **17. FIREARMS/WEAPONS:**

The use or possession of any weapon or firearm (pistol, rifle, shotgun, pellet gun, BB gun, knives, etc.) or any explosives (fireworks, ammunition, etc.) on the FSCC Campus is prohibited and is a violation of Federal Law Title 18, U.S.C., Section 922. Violations will result in dismissal from the Dorm and may result in prosecution in Federal Court and dismissal from the College. The use or possession of paintball guns is also prohibited.

**18. GROUNDS CARE:**

Trash receptacles are provided on the grounds of the Dorm. Students are to utilize the receptacles in disposing of paper and trash, and to maintain the Dorm as a temporary home by keeping the areas clean and presentable for the residents and their guests. Individual wastebaskets are to be emptied in the outside trash receptacles on the college grounds.

**19. KEYS:**

Upon arrival and during check-in, the residents are issued their keys. The room should be kept locked at all times. The College cannot assume responsibility for personal belongings if they are lost or stolen. If your key is lost and/or stolen, a charge of \$50 will be made to your account for the replacement of a new lock. Students are not to loan room keys to other residents or to outside guests. Loaning your room key and access card to anyone is a violation. There will be a charge of \$15 for each replacement access card and a charge of \$5 for each replacement mailbox key.

**20. MAIL:**

Each on-campus dorm room is assigned a locked mailbox located in the lobby of the dorm. Mail is sorted into the boxes once a day, Monday through Friday.

**21. PETS:**

Residents are not permitted to keep pets of any kind in the rooms or on the college-owned property. Violations will result in appropriate fines.

**22. QUIET HOURS:**

Quiet hours are from 11 p.m. to 9 a.m. daily. Room doors should remain closed during quiet hours, and noise inside the room should not be audible outside the room.

**23. REFRIGERATORS:**

Mini refrigerators are allowed in student rooms. They are to be defrosted, cleaned out, and unplugged during vacation breaks.

**24. REQUESTS FOR REPAIRS IN YOUR ROOM:**

It is suggested that students make requests to the dorm director, dorm staff or members of the housekeeping staff by 10 a.m. daily.

**25. ROOM ASSIGNMENT:**

Room assignments in the Dorm are made without regard to race, color, creed, or national origin. The College, through the dorm director, reserves the right to change student room assignments as necessary. All changes in room assignments must be approved by the dorm director or designated representative. Any request for change of room assignments will be made in writing to the resident assistant or the dorm director and signed by all parties

involved. Students changing rooms without proper approval are subject to a fine as specified in the Fort Scott Community College Violation Report. Change of room assignment is permitted when it is in the best interest of the residents.

**26. ROOM CLEANLINESS AND INSPECTION:**

Students are responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of their room/unit. Random inspections will be conducted by staff. Failed inspections could result in warnings and/or fines.

**27. ROOM EQUIPMENT:**

The condition of each room is recorded before residents move into the dorm. If any discrepancies are found, they should be reported to the resident assistant or designated representative within twenty-four hours of your initial occupancy. The student will provide his/her own blankets, bedspreads, pillows, towels, washcloths, soap and other personal items. Sports equipment, such as weights, is not permitted in rooms.

**28. ROOM INSPECTION:**

Thorough inspections will be conducted randomly. cursory inspections of rooms may be done on a daily basis. If living area is unmannerly, needs cleaning, or is damaged, the resident will be asked to rectify the situation. Your living area is expected to be clean and orderly at all times. Failure to maintain a clean room may result in a fine. Records of inspections are kept for this purpose. The lobby and other building areas are expected to be clean each day.

**29. RULES OF CONDUCT:**

Students are expected to behave responsibly and to respect the rights of others. Loud or profane language is inappropriate. Radios and CD players, as well as conversation, should be kept quiet enough so that persons wishing to study may not be disturbed. Noise, such as stereos or radios, should not be easily audible out of student windows at any time.

**30. SEARCH OF STUDENT ROOMS:**

Fort Scott Community College maintains the right to enter a student's room for health and safety reasons or when school officials suspect violations of FSCC Policy or local, state, federal Laws exist. Room searches may include, but shall not be limited to, searches for contraband, firearms, alcohol, drugs, or other illegal substances or items. Searches may include a search of luggage, backpacks, clothing cubicles/drawers or any other container or location within the room, hall, or unit. Regular searches of public areas of the Dorm will be conducted using a Canine Unit.

### **31. SICKNESS OR ILLNESS:**

If any resident becomes ill at any time, he/she, or a roommate should notify the resident assistant or the dorm director immediately. If a dorm staff member is not available, then they should contact a local physician to ensure the proper attention is given. A resident assistant should also be notified of any chronic illness.

### **32. TELEPHONE/INTERNET SERVICE:**

Telephone service is the student's responsibility. Wireless internet access is available in each dorm room. A computer lab is also available in each dorm.

### **33. THEFT OF COLLEGE PROPERTY:**

The taking of appliances, chairs, tables, lamps, etc., from college facilities for use in private housing facilities, residence hall rooms, and/or other purposes, is considered an act of theft. Persons guilty of taking such property for their own use are subject to prosecution and may be subject to additional disciplinary action by the College.

### **34. THEFT OF STUDENT PROPERTY:**

The College is not liable for the theft of, loss of, or damage to the personal property of the student. The protection of personal property is the student's responsibility and can be enhanced by keeping doors locked. FSCC Security personnel monitor the Dorm area and assist with security issues. Students are encouraged to carry renter's insurance.

### **35. TORNADO DRILLS:**

#### **WHAT TO DO WHEN A TORNADO STRIKES**

Here are a few things to keep in mind if a tornado warning is sounded:

- \*\* If time permits, residents will take shelter in the basement area of the Administration building. Otherwise, take shelter in a closet or bathroom in the middle of the building under sturdy furniture. Outer walls are the first to go in a tornado, often leaving inner walls intact.
- \*\* If you are in your car, drive away from the tornado if possible. If there is no time to escape, lie flat in a depression on the side of the road away from the tornado and well away from your car.
- \*\* If a tornado does strike, be extremely cautious around tornado or wind-damaged structures because they could collapse or contain broken glass, live wires or leaking gas.
- \*\* Unless you are a nurse or physician, stay away from tornado-damaged areas because you might hinder rescue efforts. Limit telephone use because lines can become overloaded, delaying emergency calls.

## **WEATHER WORDS**

### **Tornado Watch**

This means local atmospheric conditions are ripe for severe thunderstorms and tornadoes. This alert is usually issued for an area about 150 miles wide by 200 miles long for a period of three to six hours.

### **Tornado Warning**

This means a tornado has been sighted or weather radar indicates that a tornado is forming. This alert is usually issued for counties or parts of counties in the path of a possible tornado. You should head for shelter immediately.

### **36. VACATING OF/AND ADMITTING TO ROOM:**

Room accommodations are available on the Friday prior to the official opening date of each semester. Check in hours will be published on the website. Students who arrive early due to classes that commence will check in with permission from the dorm director or designated representative. There will be an additional charge per night for those staying in any dorm.

Rooms must be vacated by 5 p.m. on the last day of the semester or as required by the dorm director or designated representative. The Dorms will be closed between the semesters, during holidays, and Spring Break.

### **37. VISITORS/GUESTS:**

Visitors are allowed from 9 a.m. to midnight, Sunday through Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 1 a.m., Friday and Saturday. Quiet hours will be from 11 p.m. to 9 a.m. daily. Residents of the Dorm are responsible for the actions of their visitors/guests. Guests whose behavior is unacceptable will be required to leave the dorm and/or the College premises. All visitors are expected to vacate the Dorm prior to the closing hours as described in this section. Baby sitting is not permitted.

There are limited provisions for overnight guests. Overnight guests may be allowed in the dorm under two (2) circumstances:

1. Recruits brought in by college staff.
2. Guests of residents of the Dorm (who have been checked in by a resident assistant or the dorm director).

If a staff member of the college brings in a potential student as a guest of the College, then the College will absorb the cost of the room.

If a student resident of the dorm brings in visitors or parents, then the college has established a minimum cost of \$15 per night.

It should be understood that guests in the dorm are allowed only on a space available basis. All guests will be checked in through the dorm director or designated representative.

### **38. WINDOWS:**

Windows of the rooms are not to be used for entrance or exit of the buildings.

### **39. ELEVATORS:**

Elevators will be closed to students. Exceptions for special circumstances must be made through the Dean of Student Services.

## **GETTING ALONG WITH YOUR COLLEGE ROOMMATE**

When people live in the close community of a dorm, some disagreements and conflicts are bound to arise. Knowing something in advance about group living can help you ease these situations before they become problems.

**1. Room keeping:** You and your roommate may differ on standards of neatness, and these should be discussed early on. With busy schedules, it may not always be realistic to expect perfect tidiness from your roommate (or from yourself, for that matter), but it is reasonable, for example, that your room look neat when friends visit. You and your roommate should inform each other in advance when you plan to have guests so that the other can straighten up or do whatever you agree is acceptable.

**2. Sharing of personal possessions:** At the beginning of the school year, clearly express your preferences about sharing of clothing, cosmetics, sports equipment, food, appliances, or other possessions, with your roommate. When in doubt, always ask permission to borrow or use someone else's belongings. Remember, it is perfectly okay if you decide not to share your things with others.

**3. Developing friendships:** As the school year progresses, it is natural for strong friendships to develop between students who are not roommates. Although you and your roommate may become close, you are encouraged to seek out different people and build a variety of friendships. If you and your roommate do not become good friends, you can still be friendly and respectful toward each other.

**4. Visitors to the room:** There may be times when your roommate wants to entertain and you want to study at your desk, or go to sleep. By discussing these needs, you can reach compromises that allow each of you to have your way at least some of the time. Planning and informing each other in advance will make it easier for both of you to adjust to each other's habits.

**5. Study habits:** Some people study better with music in the background; others need total quiet to concentrate. Some students like to study in their rooms; others prefer

the library. Some study late into the night; others work best during the day or early evening. You and your roommate will have definite preferences, and you can expect that they will not always be the same. It can be helpful to talk about your needs early in the year to establish an acceptable arrangement.

**6. Noise:** In every student's life, there comes a time when the room or building will seem too noisy. Music may be too loud, an alarm clock may ring at 4 a.m. or your roommate may get a phone call late at night. These may be occasional, unavoidable annoyances or situations that disturb you regularly and that call for discussion.

**7. Personal habits:** The quiet rumble of your roommate's dresser drawer opening and closing may be loud enough to awaken you early in the morning. One of you may sleep better in a cold room, while the other likes to turn up the heat at bedtime. Chances are there will be some habit or personal preference that becomes a problem. In the case of a noisy dresser drawer, a little oiling or a gentler touch may go a long way. To resolve the hot-or-cold question, one of you may wear extra (or fewer) clothes or covers to bed, open the window a little more (or less), or adjust the room temperature after the other is asleep. Residents are encouraged to discuss and resolve differences in personal habits.

## **HOW CAN YOU DEVELOP A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR ROOMMATE?**

Don't be afraid to communicate with each other about your needs and feelings, rather than keep them pent up. Most roommate problems are on the level of, "I don't like the way you keep your side of the room." They're not really hard to work out.

In the early part of the school year, you may not feel comfortable talking openly with your roommate about your differences, but as you get to know each other, you'll probably be more outspoken. As academic pressures mount and winter sets in, some things may bother you more than they previously did. This is to be expected. It helps to know in advance that people's sensitivities change during the year.

Compromise doesn't necessarily mean accepting an unsatisfactory solution. Compromise actually is a problem-solving skill that challenges your creativity to find ways where there can be two winners. Be willing to experiment. If one approach doesn't work, talk things over and try new ideas.

Many potential conflicts involving roommates can be resolved by the participants themselves, but sometimes a concerned third party can help. FSCC has dorm staff to hear students' problems and help resolve them.

