

# RESIDENTIAL LIFE MISSION, VISION, & VALUES

**MISSION:** Through caring, purposeful, and socially just connections, we help students embrace the joys and tensions brought on by community relationships, individual differences, and new discoveries.

**VISION:** Enriching student learning through innovative connections.

**VALUES:** We believe student learning and development occur when community members connect across difference, engage in individual self-discovery, and work together to navigate barriers and conflict.

Each of our five values are lived out on individual and community levels which are sometimes in conflict with each other. Through these values we strive to center the individual student and their life experiences. In our halls, we aspire to support our students' academic endeavors and personal development as they envision their future. These values serve as guiding principles as we help students navigate the ambiguity of life.



## CONFLICT

Conflict is normal and important in learning. Interpersonal conflict exists in any space where more than one individual is present and can result from differing individual backgrounds and points of view. We engage with conflict individually and as residential communities in order to come together and understand difference. How we engage in conflict differs based on our individual social identities.

We value the learning and growth that situations of tension present in the residential halls and engage with these tensions to further understand individual and community needs. We strive to help individuals and communities engage in conflict in productive ways that center and do not further harm already marginalized individuals.



## ENGAGEMENT

Community connection and involvement is critical to the residential experience and occurs when residents and staff both invest in this experience. We believe engagement is most purposeful when students have the agency to shape their experience and can be involved in their residential communities and across campus.

Our staff facilitate connections to meet both individual and community needs. We provide opportunities for residential students to establish friendships and develop a sense of belonging, care, and mutual respect among all members of the community.



## SAFETY

Feeling safe, physically and emotionally, is a key part of being well. Without feeling safe in their residential communities, it is difficult for students to learn and engage with others. Safety is a shared responsibility between Housing & Residential Life and the students and staff who live in our communities. How safe a student feels is relative based on social identities and shaped by the systems of oppression that pervade our society. We recognize that in providing a residential environment that feels safe for one individual we may impede another's feelings of safety. We also recognize and name that discomfort is not the same as being unsafe.

In our residential communities we strive to create space for residents to share concerns about their safety in order to shape an environment that meets multiple individuals' needs. We also provide staff support to promote the physical safety of our communities and monitor and intervene in any interpersonal interactions that makes an environment unsafe for students.



## SOCIAL JUSTICE

We recognize students' social identities and lived experiences affect how each individual student engages in their residential community. These individual experiences are shaped by interlocking systems of oppression that permeate our society and cause real and tangible harm to individuals in and beyond our residential communities.

We strive to learn about the individual experiences of residents and broader systems of oppression in order to work through and live out our vision. We do this by focusing on building awareness, analyzing situations, taking action against injustice, and showing care to and holding accountable both ourselves and our communities. We are all perpetual learners in the area of social justice, and as we engage in learning strive not to place the onus of our learning on those who are oppressed.



## WELL BEING

Wellness is both deeply individual and also affected by the communities where students live. We believe students are best equipped to find purpose and reach their potential when they identify and actively pursue the internal and external conditions that support their mental, physical, and emotional health.

Residential Life staff members will initiate conversations about wellness to help students reflect on the choices and behaviors that affect their individual well being as well as the communities to which they belong. Our staff will connect students to campus resources, further inviting them to become aware of the choices that will lead toward a healthy and fulfilling life.

