



## Residential Curriculum

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### Office of Residence Life

**Mission:** The mission of the Office of Residence Life is to provide inclusive communities that engage students in exceptional living and learning experiences within a welcoming, safe, clean, and well-maintained environment that fosters a sense of belonging and that encourage and support the academic and personal success of residential students.

**Vision:** Residence Life at St. Francis College will be a premier residential inclusive living and learning community where students will be actively engaged in their learning experience. We will provide programs that are directed at enhancing students' ability to connect with others, explore their personal identity, and develop a deeper understanding of their impact within our community and the world. Consistent with our Franciscan Values, our students will be civically engaged and sensitive to their impact in the larger community.

### **What is a residential curriculum?**

A residential curriculum is an intentional way of promoting learning and development for resident students. The Residence Life program at St. Francis College implements a multitude of strategies to advance learning and development within our residence halls. These strategies are directly related to the institutions Mission & Vision, as well as our department's own educational priorities.

### **Educational Priorities**

- Campus Affinity
- Service Learning & Community Partnerships
- Holistic Wellness
- Internationalization
- Academic Excellence
- Social & Emotional Intelligence
- Career Exploration
- Diversity, Inclusion, & Social Justice

### **Staff Roles**

#### *Professional Staff*

At St. Francis we have two, master's level live-in professional staff members and two para-professional staff members enrolled in a master's program. Other members of the St. Francis College Professional Staff will also be involved in the Residence Life curriculum. The role of these Professional Staff members is to serve as educators, providing opportunities and resources for resident students to meet Residence Life's Educational Priorities. Professional Staff should be the main sources of educational initiatives for resident students.

Professional Staff are also responsible for crisis intervention, including student of concern follow ups, and conduct hearings. As Professional Staff, these staff members are trained on how to provide the best care and resources for students, including involving health professionals as needed.

### Assistant Dean and Director of Residence Life and Student Conduct

The Assistant Dean is a live-in master's level professional staff member who oversees all operations of the Office of Residence Life and Office of Student Conduct. The Assistant Dean reports to the Dean of Students and directly supervises the Assistant Director of Housing Operations & Summer Conferences. The Assistant Dean directs the Residence Life program to ensure the fulfillment of the Office's Mission & Vision.

### Assistant Director of Housing Operations & Summer Conferences

The Assistant Director of Housing Operations & Summer Conferences is a live-in master's level professional staff member who oversees the day-to-day operations of the residence hall. The Assistant Director of Residence Life supervises the Graduate Assistants and Resident Assistants.

### Graduate Assistant (GA)

The Graduate Assistant is a live-in para-professional staff member currently enrolled in a master's program. The Graduate Assistant serves as a resource to residents, provides some educational programming, and supervises the Community Assistants.

### *Student Staff*

The Office of Residence Life has two job roles for undergraduate students in the residence hall. The Office of Residence Life ensures that its student staff members receive in-depth training, professional development opportunities, and transferrable skills during their time working in the residence hall.

### Resident Assistant (RA)

The Resident Assistant is a live-in undergraduate peer staff member. The role of the Resident Assistant is to develop a peer mentor relationship with its residents, provide recreational programming, facilitate educational programs by Professional Staff members, and identify concerning behaviors. Resident Assistants are also committed to their own development and implementation of the office's Educational Priorities.

### Community Assistant (CA)

The Community Assistant is an undergraduate office staff member that may or may not live in the residence hall. Community Assistants work in the Residence Life Office during structured hours to provide support for security, handle administrative tasks, and provide residents with resources.

### **Educational Strategies**

#### *Individual Meetings and Relationships*

Individual Interactions are designed to ensure that the Resident Assistant serves as a guide, mentor, resource, and friend to all resident students. At the center of our model is ensuring that all resident students feel welcome and safe in the residence hall. We believe that the relationship that Resident Assistants build with their residents is vital to their success. A strong relationship between a resident and their RA enables the RA to provide individually tailored resources, specific opportunities for development, and identify concerning behavior.

### RA One-on-One Meetings

RA one-on-one meetings are scheduled during certain points of the semester to address a variety of topics. These enable the RA to tailor the mentorship they provide to the time of the semester, as well as the individual student. RA One-on-One meetings will occur two-three times per semester.

### Routine Check Ins

When RAs are not scheduling one-on-one meetings with their residents, they are expected to do brief, regular check ins with their residents. These enable RAs to continue to build a relationship with their residents and establish rapport, so residents feel comfortable coming to their RAs when larger issues arise.

### *Group Meetings and Relationships*

Living with a roommate and in a new community can be a transition for many students. Through guided conversations and meetings, with RAs and Professional Staff members, students will be provided the techniques and tools they need to be successful living in a residence hall community. Residence Life staff will help students learn how to be upstanding members of their community, compromise with roommates, and discuss conflict that may arise in a healthy and productive manner.

### Community Meetings

Community Meetings are held prior to move-in by the Assistant Director or a GA. Community Meetings discuss residence hall expectations, provide move-in resources, and review residence hall policies.

### Floor Meetings

Floor Meetings are facilitated by Resident Assistants so that RAs can effectively share information and facilitate community bonding. Floor Meetings provide residents the opportunity to meet and interact with their neighbors and discuss community guidelines.

### Roommate Agreement Meetings

At the beginning of each semester, RAs will have a meeting with all members of the suite to discuss shared space living expectations. This provides residents an opportunity to discuss their expectations, learn strategies to compromise with others, and build relationships with their roommates and suitemates.

### Mediations

Mediations are meetings held with the RA and members of a room or suite to discuss concerns or conflicts among those in a shared living space. Mediations can be requested by a resident or directed by the RA. Depending on the severity of the situation, the Graduate Assistant or Assistant Director may also assist with a mediation.

### *Resident Early Intervention*

Residence Life monitors resident students' academic and interpersonal success, and strategically intervenes as needed. Indicators that intervention is needed include class attendance concerns, low midterm grades, issues with roommates, disassociated behavior, etc. Residence Life intervenes through a variety of methods.

### RA Follow Up

For lower level concerns, such as poor class attendance, or a roommate conflict, the RA will have a meeting to check in on the resident and discuss success strategies. Depending on the conversation with the resident, RA may refer to professional staff to follow up as well.

### Professional Staff Follow Up

For higher level concerns, such as low grades or mental health concerns, a professional staff member will set up a meeting to check in with the resident. During this meeting, the Professional Staff member will assess the student's well-being and determine a success plan for the student.

### Referrals

Depending on the concern, Residence Life will refer students to other campus offices, to ensure they get the support and resources they need to be a successful Terrier. Offices that Residence Life may refer students to include:

- Health & Wellness
- Center for Learning & Leadership
- Center for Career Exploration
- Financial Aid
- Bursar
- International Student Services
- Student Affairs
- Center for Student Success
- Office of Accessibility and Accommodations

### Success Plans

Students who reach a high level of concern, and are at risk of being removed from the residence hall, will work with a Professional Staff member to develop a success plan. This plan will include regular meetings with a residence life staff member, structured meetings with campus services, and signed acknowledgement by the resident.

### *Programming*

Residence hall programs are designed to provide residents with educational and social opportunities within the residence hall and the larger community. Programs will be held throughout the semester by Residence Life staff, and in collaboration with other campus offices, to help create a thriving community within the residence hall.

### Educational Programs

Educational Programs can be organized by an RA or GA, but must be facilitated by a Professional Staff member at the College, or include an external educational resource. Educational Programs must also meet one of the department's Educational Priorities.

### Community Outreach Programs

Community Outreach Programs involve residents going into the local community to participate in community service initiatives. Community Outreach Programs enable residents to see the impact they have on the greater Brooklyn area and each other.

### Recreational Programs

Recreational Programs are designed to provide social opportunities for resident students. Recreational Programs provide students an opportunity to disconnect, relax, and bond with their fellow Terriers.

### *Residence Hall Resources*

Residence Hall Resources outline the multitude of strategies utilized by the office to ensure that resident students feel connected to their community. It is central to Residence Life's mission that all residents feel safe and welcomed in their home within the residence hall and at St. Francis College. These strategies outline how we create that 'home away from home' and keep students connected to campus events and resources.

### Newsletters

Residence Hall Newsletters are regular email correspondence that provide resident students with information about events in the residence hall, at St. Francis, and within the local community. Newsletters ensure that residents have up-to-date information.

### Door Decorations

Themed decorations placed on the door of each residents' room to help create a welcoming community feel. Door Decorations will be inclusive and custom to the theme of the RAs hall.

### Bulletin Boards

Themed boards to create a welcoming community feel and share educational and campus resources. Bulletin board themes are determined by the RA.

### Resource Room

A Resource Room will be available in the residence hall where campus partners can provide campus services right in the residence hall. This can include counseling appointments, career counseling appointments, and more.