Visitation

**Summary/Purpose:** This policy defines the expectations for guest visitation in the residence halls. It also discusses the hours guests are permitted to visit, and the circumstances in which guests are permitted to stay overnight.

The visitation program in the Ole Miss student residences creates a structure for residents to bring guests into their rooms. In full support of the educational mission of the university, students living on-campus are expected to view academic responsibilities as their primary goal. Studying, therefore, takes preference over socializing in the student residences on weekday nights. On weekends, when fewer classes are scheduled, there is more leisure time and social or non-academic activities are usually more prominent. The guidelines for visitation are grounded in this academic schedule and are designed to balance a student's responsibilities with individual and group needs.

The visitation program is to function within the parameters and according to the procedures that follow. The existing programs have been developed recently through deliberate study by staff and student groups. Certain underlying assumptions are reflected in the visitation program at Ole Miss:

1. There is legitimate need for and benefit from providing greater opportunity for contact between students.
2. The nature of the physical facilities, particularly in the residence halls, places certain limitations on the visitation program.
3. The hours of the program accommodate, as best they can, the divergent lifestyles of students and variety of housing styles available on campus.
4. The purpose of a student's room is primarily for study and sleep, which take precedence over social privileges.
5. Respect for the wishes and well being of one's roommate(s) is more important than someone's desire to have guests.
6. Cohabitation is not permitted in any university housing facility.

All students have the opportunity to accept or reject participation in the visitation program at a building-wide vote that takes place during the first two weeks of classes in the fall. If sufficient interest in a nonvisitation area exists, specific arrangements will be made to accommodate that request. In the event that there are not enough requests to satisfy various options, no person will be forced to participate in a more liberal visitation policy.

**Visitation Hours**

At the beginning of fall semester, Residence Hall Visitation Hours are set at 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Sunday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. on Friday and Saturday. During the first two weeks of classes in the fall semester, students may vote to extend these hours. The maximum hours that students may choose to sign in guests, if approved through a vote of building residents, is 8 a.m. to midnight on Sunday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 2 a.m. on Friday and
Saturday. In order to validate the voting process, an 80 percent return is required on the visitation vote. Of the votes returned, 80 percent must be in favor of the change.

**Visitation of Overnight Guests**

You are permitted to have guests of the same gender stay overnight in your room on occasion. Only guests of the same gender, regardless of age, may remain overnight. Guests are to stay no longer than three nights in any given two-week period. A person may not be an overnight guest of more than one resident per two-week period. You should receive your roommate's permission prior to permitting a guest to use the roommate's bed. Guests are identified and registered through the Front Desk of each residence hall. Residents with non-registered guests will be subject to judicial action. Residents who host guests are responsible for the actions of their guests.

**Loss of Visitation Privileges**

Like most opportunities at the University, visitation is not a right. It is a privilege that may be suspended at any time for violations of policies stated in this book. Visitation privileges may be suspended administratively by Residence Life staff or by a student conduct administrator as a result of disciplinary action.

Suspension of visitation privileges for a specific period of time can include, but is not limited to, the inability to:

- sign in any individual
- be in or around specific residence halls
- visit specific people in the residence halls