

Gen-1 Theme House
RESIDENT CONTRACT
2009-2010

PURPOSE and MISSION

The *Gen-1 Theme House* is a University of Cincinnati housing facility designed to provide its residents with a safe, orderly, and highly structured environment in which to live, learn, and work. The objective of the *Gen-1 Theme House* is to provide first-year, first-generation, full-time freshmen with the support needed to make a successful transition from high school to college. The *Gen-1 Theme House* Policies & Procedures and expectations are established to support the purpose and mission of the house and to maximize the opportunity for each student to achieve success in his/her first year of college.

ELIGIBILITY

The *Gen-1 Theme House* resident must be a first-generation, Pell-eligible, full-time University of Cincinnati freshman unless this requirement is expressly waived by the CECH PASS Executive Director. The prospective resident must commit to abide by all *Gen-1 Theme House* Policies & Procedures, and must successfully complete both the University and the *Gen-1 Theme House* application/admissions processes.

RESIDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Gen-1 Theme House residents explicitly and expressly acknowledge their understanding that many first-year, first-generation college students, when first experiencing the freedoms and liberties available to young adults living on their own in a college environment, too often make poor personal choices and decisions that have a significant negative impact on their academic performance, the successful completion of their freshman year, and the continuation of a college education culminating in a degree. All residents further acknowledge that, as young adults fitting this profile, they are susceptible to the very influences and pressures that have contributed to the failure of other first-year, first-generation students.

ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS and CONDITIONS

Recognizing this susceptibility, all *Gen-1 Theme House* residents knowingly and willingly enter into this contractual agreement with the *Partner for Achieving School Success (PASS)*, a center in the College of Education, Criminal Justice, & Human Services (CECH) at the University of Cincinnati and fully accept and agree to abide by all terms and conditions of this Contract and all *Gen-1 Theme House* Policies & Procedures. This commitment will require the resident to fully and willingly participate in mandated activities, programs, and services despite contrary personal preferences in order to accomplish academic success as defined by Program Staff.

WAIVER OF SPECIFIC RIGHTS

With acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of this Contract, the *Gen-1 Theme House* resident voluntarily and expressly waives any specific rights contrary to explicit provisions contained herein.

GEN-1 THEME HOUSE CONTRACT PREEMINENCE

The *Gen-1 Theme House* Contract supersedes language in the University of Cincinnati's Student Handbook, Residence Hall Handbook, and other policies and procedures that are contrary to the specific Terms & Conditions of this Contract.

GEN-1 THEME HOUSE POLICIES & PROCEDURES

The resident acknowledges that the *Gen-1 Theme House* Program Staff reserve the right to establish new or modify existing Policies & Procedures and/or programs/services/activities as necessary and appropriate to ensure the efficient and orderly operation of the *Gen-1 Theme House* and to achieve the stated purpose and mission of the House.

One integral program component of the House is *Surviving & Thriving @ UC*, a year-long credit-bearing course that is unique to the *Gen-1 Theme House* and in which resident enrollment and participation is mandatory.

BREACH OF CONTRACT

Any breach of contract by the resident may result in a loss of rights or privileges, up to and including removal from the *Gen-1 Theme House*. In the case of removal, the resident is required to honor his/her housing agreement with the University and he/she will be relocated to other housing at the discretion of the University. The resident assumes full financial responsibility for any and all fees, charges, or assessments incurred as the result of his/her removal and relocation. Additionally, any outstanding financial obligations with the *Partner for Achieving School Success (PASS)* center must be satisfied at the time of removal/relocation. Pending removal/relocation, the resident is expected to abide by and comply fully with all House Policies & Procedures.

Once removed/relocated from the House for Breach of Contract, former residents are expressly prohibited from the House.

CONFIDENTIALITY/PRIVACY WAIVER

To assist *Gen-1 Theme House* staff in monitoring academic performance and status, each resident must sign the University-approved form to waive confidentiality/privacy rights related to his/her academic information and to provide Program Staff with full access to all academic information. *Gen-1 Theme House* staff agrees not to share resident academic performance and status information with any parties other than parents or guardians of residents who are under 21 years of age.

HOUSING/MEAL SUBSIDIES

Eligible residents may qualify for and receive financial assistance to partially offset their housing/meal costs. Such subsidies are based upon financial need and academic merit, and are conditional upon the resident meeting *Gen-1 Theme House* expectations relative to academic performance and Contract compliance.

Such financial assistance may be revoked if the resident fails to fulfill the terms and conditions of this Contract, fails to abide by House Policies & Procedures, or fails to meet House academic performance or effort standards as determined by the *Gen-1 Theme House* Program Staff.

IN-HOUSE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT

The resident is expected to remain in the House during the entire curfew period each night Sunday through Thursday, unless the University is closed and all classes are cancelled on the following day. If the resident believes that extenuating circumstances warrant an exception to this policy, it is the resident's responsibility to schedule a meeting with Program Staff to request and discuss a waiver.

NEW FRESHMAN IN-RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT

The resident must commit to full-time overnight residency in the *Gen-1 Theme House* through November 1. This requires the resident to be in the House during the entire curfew period each night.

RESIDENT ABSENCE

Following expiration of the *New Freshman In-Residence Requirement* on November 2, the resident must notify the Resident Graduate Assistant at least twenty-four hours in advance of any overnight absence from the House on a Friday or Saturday night.

COMMITMENT TO UC 'JUST COMMUNITY' VALUES

As members of the University of Cincinnati, all *Gen-1 Theme House Residents* commit to:

- *Pursue Learning & Scholarship*
- *Strive for Excellence* by aspiring to achieve our fullest potential in our educational pursuits.
- *Celebrate the Uniqueness of Each Individual*
- *Practice Civility*
- *Embrace Freedom and Openness* by working to create a safe environment.
- *Seek Integrity* by aspiring to the highest moral and ethical standards.
- *Promote Justice* by building a learning environment that offers everyone an opportunity to grow and flourish.
- *Accept Responsibility* by striving to build a learning community.

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

All University of Cincinnati students are expected to obey all federal, state, and local laws and to abide by all rules and regulations of the University and of *The Student Code of Conduct*. Residents are expected to refrain from either engaging in or aiding and abetting the behaviors defined as 'misconduct' by the *Code*.

AMENDMENT TO FAMILY RIGHTS & PRIVACY ACT

Program Staff reserve the right to contact the parents or guardians of any student under the age of 21 who is in violation of *The Student Code of Conduct*, the *Gen-1 Theme House Policies & Procedures*, or this Contract with respect to any federal, state, or local law or University policy governing the use or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Each resident has a personal responsibility to immediately remove himself/herself from any situation where federal, state, or local laws and/or University or House policies are being violated. A resident's continued presence will be interpreted as condoning, aiding and abetting, or participating in the violation. Furthermore, each resident has a personal responsibility to immediately report any violation. Failure to report a violation or providing false testimony regarding a known violation will be considered passive participation and subject the resident to disciplinary action.

THEME HOUSE PROGRAMS/SERVICES/ACTIVITIES

Attendance at and full participation in all *Gen-1 Theme House* programs/activities is mandatory unless otherwise noted/announced. The resident is required to take full advantage of and willingly participate in all *Gen-1 Theme House* services, including – but not limited to – academic sessions and support services deemed necessary and appropriate by Program Staff.

MINIMUM GPA REQUIREMENT

The resident must earn a minimum GPA of 2.25 each quarter and attain a cumulative GPA of 2.33 by the end of Winter Quarter in order to remain a *Gen-1 Theme House* resident in good standing. Any resident failing to meet this minimum standard will be placed upon ‘House probation’ for the following quarter and will be required to participate in supplemental activities, programs, and services for the balance of that quarter. A resident on ‘House probation’ for two consecutive quarters may be removed from the House if, in the judgment of Program Staff, he/she is not making reasonable progress or effort toward meeting the minimum GPA requirement.

TUTORING & STUDY SESSIONS

Residents are encouraged to attend all voluntary Tutoring & Study Sessions and are required to attend all mandatory Tutoring & Study Sessions provided by the University of Cincinnati, the House, or other agencies.

CURFEW

All residents are required to be in the House when it goes into effect each Sunday through Thursday night at 11:30 p.m. (and each Friday and Saturday night at 1:30 a.m.) and to remain in the House until it is lifted each Sunday through Saturday morning at 6:00 a.m.

Program Staff reserve the right to adjust curfew hours for the House or for individual residents on a short-term or long-term basis as deemed necessary or appropriate.

Residents acknowledge their full understanding and acceptance of a curfew policy that is unique to the *Gen-1 Theme House* (as no other university or university-affiliated housing imposes or enforces a curfew) due to the unique nature of the House and its mission.

The resident commits to full compliance with the established curfew.

QUIET HOURS

Quiet hours will be enforced on Sunday through Thursday from 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. and on Friday and Saturday from 10:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. Quiet hours are defined as conditions under which no noise may be heard from another room, the hallway, or any common area. If another resident requests quiet, immediate compliance is expected.

The resident is expected to take full advantage of quiet hours to maximize daily academic study time.

WORK HOURS

Work hours may not exceed 20 hours per week when UC is in session.

UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS

The resident is not permitted in any room/suite unless expressly invited by an occupant of that room/suite or in any other area of the house not explicitly designated as a common area.

Use of keys, IDs, access cards, etc. assigned to the resident is restricted to the resident. Their use by anyone other than the resident to gain access to or entry into the House, a suite, or a room is prohibited.

AUTHORIZED ROOM ENTRY

Program Staff reserve the right to enter rooms and suites to turn off unattended equipment constituting a loud nuisance or upon reasonable suspicion of any safety or health risk. Any materials or behaviors in plain view that violate the law or University or House policies may subject the resident to judicial, criminal, or disciplinary action.

GUESTS

A resident is permitted to have one guest in his/her room when quiet hours are not in effect with the expressed permission of his/her roommate. A resident is permitted to have a maximum of two guests in the common areas of the House when quiet hours are not in effect. Exceptions to these limitations that support the academic mission of the House are permitted subject to the approval of the Resident Graduate Assistant. The resident must remain with the guest(s) at all times. The resident must sign the Guest Log and provide all required information. All guests must have an approved photo ID and present same to Program Staff upon request.

The resident is responsible for ensuring his/her guest's behavior conforms to all University and House policies/procedures and expectations. The resident is accountable for any guest violation of policies and procedures. The resident is responsible for reporting any guest misconduct to Program Staff.

Visiting-privileges for guests and guest-privileges for residents may be revoked, either temporarily or permanently, by Program Staff for guest or resident failure to comply with University or House policies or procedures.

OVERNIGHT GUESTS

Following expiration of the *New Freshman In-Residence Requirement* on November 2, overnight guests are permitted on evenings when there are no classes the following day. Overnight guests require the expressed permission of all roommates/suitemates. The resident must sign the Guest Log and provide all required information. All guests must have an approved photo ID and present same to Program Staff upon request.

Residents are restricted to one (1) overnight guest per night and five (5) guest nights per quarter.

HOUSE MAINTENANCE

Each resident will be responsible for maintaining a neat and clean personal space (rooms, suites, and bathrooms) and for cleaning up after themselves in all common areas. Maintaining common areas will be a shared responsibility of the House residents and chores will be assigned and rotated by Program Staff.

Acceptable standards of cleanliness and neatness will be established and enforced by the Resident Graduate Assistant and Program Staff. Failure to meet or maintain those standards is grounds for disciplinary action.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

Residents are responsible for refraining from participation in any action or activity that might result in damage to the House or its furnishings. The use of dartboards is strictly prohibited.

HOUSE FURNISHINGS

Furniture may not be removed or transferred from or exchanged between rooms, suites, or common areas. The removal, transfer, or exchange of furniture may be considered theft.

BUILDING SECURITY/PERSONAL SAFETY

The main entrance (front door) is the only authorized point of entry into/exit from the House. Unlocking or propping open any exterior door or interior stairwell door is strictly prohibited. Non-emergency use of the designated emergency stairwell is prohibited. All windows must be closed and locked at all times. Room doors must always be locked.

FIRE SAFETY

The use of candles, incense, lighters, matches, or any open flame is strictly prohibited.

Ceiling and wall hangings, floor coverings, electrical appliances, extension cords have serious fire-safety related restrictions. Residents are responsible for checking with Program Staff to ensure full compliance with fire-safety restrictions. Rooms/suites are subject to fire safety inspection to verify resident compliance. Inspections will be scheduled with reasonable advance notice to residents.

SMOKING

The *Gen-1 Theme House* is a smoke-free facility. Smoking or use or possession of tobacco products is strictly prohibited.

ALCOHOL-FREE & DRUG-FREE

The *Gen-1 Theme House* is an alcohol-free and drug-free residence and all *Gen-1 Theme House* residents are expected to be and remain alcohol-free and drug-free. Residents in possession of or under the influence of alcohol or drugs are subject to disciplinary action, including immediate removal from the House. This provision prohibits the possession or use of empty alcoholic beverage containers (cans and bottles) as room decorations. Alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs are subject to confiscation and disposal.

GAMBLING

Any form of gambling is prohibited in accordance with applicable State of Ohio laws.

DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

Disciplinary action for violations of this Contract or House policies may include, but not be limited to, reprimand, loss or privileges, fine/restitution, removal/relocation, and/or referral to University or law enforcement officials.

My signature below indicates my agreement to abide by all University policies and procedures contained in the University of Cincinnati Student Handbook and *The Student Code of Conduct*, all policies and procedures contained in the University of Cincinnati Resident Handbook, all Policies & Procedures of the *Gen-1 Theme House*, and all terms and conditions of the *Gen-1 Theme House Contract* for the period from September 15, 2009 through June 15, 2010.

Further, this signed Contract confirms my full understanding and acceptance of the policies and procedures of the *Gen-1 Theme House* and my total commitment to abide by, comply with, fulfill, and honor those policies and procedures through full and active contribution to, involvement in, and participation in all House activities, programs, and services.

Resident's UC ID No. _____

Resident's Full Legal Name (Printed)

Resident's Signature

Date

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Parent/Guardian (if resident is under 18)

Parent's/Guardian's Full Legal Name (Printed)

Parent's/Guardian's Signature

Date

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