

Policies of the University of North Texas	Chapter 7
07.022 Administrative Entry and Searches of University Residence Halls	Student Affairs

Policy Statement. UNT respects its resident students’ reasonable expectation of privacy in their rooms and makes every effort to ensure privacy in university residences. However, in order to protect and maintain the property of the university and the health and safety of the university’s students, the university reserves the right to enter and/or search student residence hall rooms in the interest of preserving a safe and orderly living and learning environment.

Application of Policy. Resident students.

Procedures and Responsibilities.

1. Administrative room inspections
 - a. Designated university officials are authorized to enter a residence hall room unaccompanied by a resident student to conduct room inspections under the following conditions:
 - i. To perform reasonable custodial, maintenance, and repair services.
 - ii. To conduct monthly safety checks.
 - iii. To recover university property.
 - iv. To inspect for damage to university property or cleanliness.
 - v. In case of emergency.
 - b. University officials conducting administrative room inspections may conduct a visual inspection of the room and may authorize or engage in a more extensive search if items in plain sight provide reasonable suspicion that the room is being used for purposes in violation of university policy or which may threaten the health or safety of the university community. Items discovered during an administrative room search that may violate university policy or present a threat to the health and safety of the university community may be disposed of or confiscated.

Responsible Party: Residence hall staff, facilities personnel

2. Room searches based on reasonable suspicion

- a. A designated university official may enter and search residence hall rooms upon proper approval and with or without the consent of a resident student if the official has a reasonable suspicion that the premises are being used for a purpose that violates university policy or regulation including the Code of Student Conduct or Housing policy.
- b. Searches must be based on timely information and conducted as soon as possible after a reasonable suspicion is established.
- c. Searches must be limited to areas and items related to the objective of the search, although other items discovered during the search that also evidence violation of university policy or a threat to health or safety may be noted and/or seized.
- d. Residents must comply with directives of Residence Life staff when conducting a search.
- e. If a search provides reasonable suspicion that evidence of a violation of university policy may be concealed in a closed or locked container or area, or on the resident's person, the Residence Life staff may conduct a search of such areas or the resident's person and the resident's cooperation to access the areas or items to be searched is expected. If the resident is not present at the time of the search and there is reasonable suspicion that a locked item may contain evidence of a violation of university policy, the locked item may be removed from the resident's room with notice requesting access to the container provided to the resident.
- f. Evidence of a violation of the Code of Student Conduct will be reported to the Dean of Students office for possible disciplinary action.
- g. Except as set forth below, evidence of a violation of university policy collected during a search, may be confiscated and turned over to the Dean of Students office.
- h. Illegal contraband or evidence of illegal activity collected during a search will be turned over to the university police for further action in accordance with law as determined by the university police.

Responsible Party: Residence hall staff

4. Searches by Residence Life staff will not be conducted under the direction of university police or on behalf of university police. Law enforcement officials may enter, search and seize evidence in accordance with applicable law, however.

Responsible Party: University law enforcement

5. The Director of Housing will develop procedures for conducting residence hall searches which will be distributed annually to the residence hall staff and incorporated into all training materials.

Responsible Party: Director of Housing

References and Cross-references.

UNT Policy 07.012, Code of Student Conduct

Forms and Tools. None.

Approved: 8/1/1994

Effective: 10/26/2012

Revised: 11/05; 10/2012