What’s the deal with... LIVING OFF CAMPUS?

It is important to recognize that in addition to abiding by community standards and District of Columbia, Virginia or Maryland laws, off-campus students are obligated to adhere to the George Washington University’s “Code of Student Conduct.” “The Code” applies to all GW students wherever they travel or live; the University may charge students for violation of laws or University policies on and off campus.

But what does that mean?

GW maintains the right to take necessary and appropriate action to protect the safety and well being of the campus community. This includes taking disciplinary action against those students whose behavior off campus is in violation of the “The Code of Student Conduct.”

Rule of thumb: If you weren’t allowed to do it on campus, you shouldn’t do it off campus either.

Disciplinary action carried out by the University does not prevent civil authorities from also taking action. The University and civil authorities are separate bodies that act on their own.

How does that affect life at GW?

The George Washington University has been an integral part of the District of Columbia community for more than 190 years, and works to continually improve our community relations. GW provides education, health care, employment, and other benefits and resources to District residents and has done so for decades. But GW’s positive impact on the community can become overshadowed when student conduct negatively affects the quality of life of community residents. While a GW student, you are responsible for behaving in a courteous manner. You must comply with GW policy, District law, and community standards that demand you respect the rights of others.

What if I choose to live off-campus??

Here are a few helpful hints on how to be a good tenant and neighbor:

- Say hello and get to know your neighbors.
- Watch out for the safety of your community and yourself (utilize safety precautions, i.e. locks and latches).
- Understand and follow the local community and landlord rules.
- Keep your noise and belongings within your own space and observe reasonable hours for noisy activities. The right to a quiet community supersedes your right to make noise.
- Don't let your right to party overshadow your responsibility to your neighbors.
- Take pride in your environment by keeping visible areas neat and tidy.
- Place trash cans out no earlier than 6:30 p.m. the night before collection and remove trash containers from public space by 8:00 p.m. on collection day. Store trash cans on your property, not in the alley or on the sidewalk.
- Familiarize yourself with the Guide to Living Off-Campus, available at: http://offcampus.students.gwu.edu/

For more information regarding off-campus life, please contact the Office of Off-Campus Student Affairs at (202) 994-6555 or via e-mail at ocsa@gwu.edu. You can also visit their website at http://offcampus.students.gwu.edu/.

For more information regarding the District of Columbia’s laws, please contact The Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs at (202) 442-4400. You can also visit their website at http://dcra.dc.gov.