

Philosophy of a Residential Campus

Because UAS Student Housing residents willfully make the university their home, the Residence Life Staff will take great lengths to ensure that each student resident is provided with the security of community and personal boundaries, but at the same time encouraged to grow and learn to the fullest extent possible within this structured environment. The living/learning environment provides many educational opportunities that might otherwise not arise in the classroom.

Residential UAS students can expect to grow in their awareness, understanding, and appreciation of diverse cultures, beliefs, backgrounds, and lifestyles of their peers. They can expect to gain experience in conflict mediation, compromise, communication, and collaborative efforts to community issues. They should plan to have opportunities for social interaction, recreation and entertainment, leadership skill development, and campus and civic engagement readily available to them. Finally, residential students should expect to learn from those around them about themselves at such a turning point in their lives; the communal living environment further stimulates exploration and consideration of career and vocational plans, awareness of relationship issues and desires in potential partners and friends, reevaluation of belief systems, realizations of personal spirituality, discoveries of modes for personal expression, definition of political views, and assimilation into civic roles and a greater purpose in life. The Residence Life & Activities Staff serves to provide support students need to succeed physically, emotionally, scholastically, socially, and spiritually during their stay here. The expectations of the staff and students exist to foster a positive living and learning environment that benefits both the individual and the community as a whole.

There are many struggles involved in sharing space with others, regulated by the university. However, the education students acquire from the social and interpersonal experiences of residential life plays a vital role in their total development as concerned, engaged, inquiring human beings.

The aims and goals of UAS' residential learning component complement the stated mission of the University. Thus, the objectives and mission of the Residence Life Program, like those of the total school, focus on the individual and his or her relationship to the community in which he or she lives. To this end, the Residence Life Staff will strive to achieve the following goals:

- to provide a physical environment that is compatible with the needs of the student residents, including health and safety.
- to maintain an environment that recognizes the school's academic and vocational programs and places a high priority on the pursuit of scholastic achievement.
- to assist students in developing a positive regard for their living area as well as that for the larger Auke Bay and Juneau communities.

- to promote acceptance and mutual respect among all residents by developing an awareness of one's own responsibilities and rights, as well as the rights and responsibilities of others.
- to promote an environment in which students are encouraged to develop a broader understanding, acceptance, and appreciation of those with diverse attitudes, views, and cultures, while allowing them to explore and embrace their own.
- to help residents become aware of their emotions and to develop constructive ways of expressing them.
- to provide opportunities through which one is able to develop and practice mature interpersonal relations and social skills.
- to provide opportunities for students to develop and apply effective leadership skills.
- to provide programs which supplement and complement classroom experiences and objectives.
- to promote an environment which recognizes each individual's need for some degree of privacy.
- to acquaint students with the numerous campus and community resources through which one may obtain specialized assistance.
- to build strong, supportive relationships with each student so as to best help them to develop positive developmental assets and a support network of protective factors for increased resiliency in life's endeavors.