

An aerial photograph of the Lafayette College campus, showing various brick buildings, green lawns, and winding paths. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent dark band across the center of the image.

LAFAYETTE
A GUIDE FOR LIVING IN
YOUR OFF-CAMPUS HOME
SPRING 2021

Welcome

Living off campus is an opportunity that many are interested in pursuing, but not all have the privilege to experience during their time at Lafayette. We hope you will find this experience rewarding and educational. Living off-campus adds a new and exciting dimension to your college experience that we hope will teach you invaluable life skills.

As you live in your off-campus home, you will have the opportunity to:

- Build on the community living skills you learned in Lafayette’s residence halls and apply them to your off-campus experience; for example, to resolve conflict and [negotiate living agreements with your roommates](#) and neighbors.
- Assume more responsibility for your housing and cleanliness needs, similar to what you will need to do after graduation. Students in College-owned off-campus housing must provide their own vacuum cleaners, toilet paper, and cleaning supplies.
- Appreciate and respect those around you –faculty, staff, students, and non-college community members alike—and be cognizant and respectful of the living differences (including sleep schedules, appropriate noise levels, and property boundaries) between you and them. Neighbors may have small children, early commutes to work, or other needs that will require you to be courteous and communicative.
- Take the initiative to meet your neighbors, who may include students, faculty, and staff as well as community members who live near you and introduce yourself to others when you first move in. Many students find it helpful to exchange contact information with their neighbors. This connection will be beneficial if issues or concerns ever arise.

Increased responsibility

The privilege of living off-campus comes with important responsibilities. Not only will you have household duties (e.g., grocery shopping and regular cleaning), but you also will have responsibility to the multiple communities around which you now live.

Ultimately, **you are a Lafayette College student no matter where you live** and that means the College expects you to be “honorable, ethical, and mature in every regard,” as stated in the Introductory Statement of Rights and Responsibilities found in the College’s [Student Handbook](#). This year, you also should be aware of the [COVID-Related Handbook Addendum](#) that outlines additional social distancing and

risk-mitigating expectations for students. These policies initially went into effect on July 21, 2020.

Your behavior, both positive and negative, will be noticed by community members who live around you and will help to shape their opinions of *all* current and future Lafayette students.

The **Lafayette Student Code of Conduct applies to all students throughout their time with the College**; its conduct expectations apply regardless of whether a student is on College property or in College housing. In addition, you must abide by the policies of the Lafayette College Housing Contract or the Private Off-Campus Agreement (and terms of your lease) as pertains to your circumstances.

You are also **responsible, as citizens of the City of Easton, for community ordinances and laws, including those related to alcohol, noise, cleanliness, and parking.**

Unfortunately, not all students demonstrate the maturity that living in the community requires.

Consequences of behavior inconsistent with expectations include, but are not limited to:

- Charges and sanctions through the College's Code of Conduct system
- Fines (from the College, the city of Easton, or both)
- Other city of Easton citations, including some that may result in district court proceedings
- Revocation of off-campus housing privilege (and a subsequent move into on-campus housing)

The College acknowledges that one of the typical benefits of living in off-campus homes is having the opportunity to **host small social events**. The ability to invite friends to watch a game or enjoy an evening in your backyard is not something that can be done comfortably within the typical residence hall room; it may be something you are looking forward to doing now that you live off-campus. The College and the City of Easton are supportive of community members holding appropriate, responsible, and legal social gatherings. Building community is important to the College and for your experience at Lafayette; however, when these social events do not meet the College's or City of Easton's expectations for appropriate, responsible, or legal behavior, they become antithetical to the educational experiences we seek to create for students at Lafayette.

During this current public health crisis, it is particularly important that any small gatherings that occur are consistent with guidance provided in the College's COVID Related Addendum to the Student Handbook, and with expectations set forth by the City of Easton, County of Northampton, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Centers for Disease Control, and/or the US federal government. The most restrictive policy outlined will apply and students should be aware that swift and potentially severe consequences may result from violating **social distancing and public health expectations**. *Students should have no expectation of receiving a verbal or written warning if conduct flagrantly endangers the health and safety of our campus community and city.*

A few important policies

The policies that inform our expectations and which should guide your behavior encompass not only those from Lafayette (found in the Student Handbook and COVID-Related Handbook Addendum) but also those ordinances and laws issued by the city of Easton. Some of these are listed below:

- **Guests (Lafayette)**

The [COVID-19 Related Handbook Addendum](#) and [Operational Level](#) of the college will provide the clearest information about current guest expectations for other on-campus students visiting College-owned and private off-campus houses where they do not reside.

- **Noise expectations (city of Easton)**

While there are no formal “quiet hours” for community members, it is a violation to create a noise disturbance (music, voices, TV, stereo, etc.) across property boundaries at any time. Someone walking past your home should not be able to hear what is going on inside. Similarly, you should respect your neighbors by keeping the noise from backyard and porch conversations and music contained within your property boundaries.

- **Disorderly conduct (city of Easton)**

Disruptive conduct is defined as **noise violations, alcohol violations, and any other criminal citation received for disorderly conduct** by you or any guest. It is illegal to disturb others with noise, intoxication, fighting, profanity, or obscene or indecent language on sidewalks, streets, or in any public places or buildings.

- **Alcohol (federal, state, and local law)**

- The legal age to consume, possess, purchase, or transport alcohol is 21 years old.
- Furnishing alcohol to minors could result in your arrest and a fine ranging from \$300 to \$1,000 and suspension of your driver’s license.
- Under Pennsylvania law, knowingly permitting underage individuals to consume or possess alcohol in your house or apartment still constitutes “furnishing” alcohol to minors, even if the host did not provide it. You should make **reasonable efforts** to ensure that alcohol is not freely available to possess or consume at your property.
- Regardless of age, it is illegal to possess an open container of alcohol outside your home (or openly on College property, for that matter). This includes porches, yards, sidewalks, and streets.
- The city’s indecent exposure ordinance prohibits any individual from relieving themselves “in or against any building, wall or fence, at or near any dwelling house, or in or upon any sidewalk, street or gutter.” If the offense is clearly related to a social gathering, hosts also can be held

accountable.

- **Alcohol (Lafayette policies)**

- Regardless of age, the Student Code of Conduct prohibits student participation in drinking games and possession or use of mass consumption devices for alcohol.
- Bulk containers, such as kegs or any alcohol-dispensing device requiring a tap, are not permitted anywhere on College-owned or operated property at any time.
- Housing and properties in the **Monroe Neighborhood** program are substance-free.
- **Organization events:** Any activity for which the organization pays, directly or indirectly, constitutes an event sponsored by that organization. Also, any event or activity that takes place in an organization's house (where applicable) is the responsibility of the organization. Other factors may be considered by a case administrator or committee in determining whether an event is the responsibility of an organization including, but not limited to, attendance at the event, publicity for the event, and reasonable perception of those in attendance or aware of the event. Organizations that use any private off-campus facility to host social events may be held accountable by the College for violations of city and commonwealth laws as well as the applicable policies outlined in the Code of Conduct.

- **Furniture outside Your home**

An advantage to living in an off-campus home is the ability to enjoy your porch or yard. Only furniture intended for outside use is permitted outside. Furniture intended for inside use (soft couches and chairs or any College-provided furniture) is not permitted on the porch or in the yard of your home. Take care to secure furniture left outside and keep these visible spaces clean. *A collapsible chair in a bag might be a useful item to pack or acquire as you settle into your off-campus home.*

- **Recreational fires and open burning**

The city of Easton prohibits open burning. Accordingly, "bonfires, open-burning, recreational fires, and other portable outdoor fireplaces (as defined by the International Fire Code as adopted by the city of Easton) are not permitted on College property. The exterior use of charcoal/barbecue grills is allowed. These grills shall be monitored at all times and be kept a safe distance from any vehicles, buildings or other structures." Students in private off-campus housing also should consult their leases.

- **Garbage and recycling collection (also see [Green Move In/Green Move Out](#))**

The city of Easton collects garbage and recycling from College-owned homes on Mondays. Your garbage should be placed **directly on the curb** after 6 p.m. Sunday evenings. An exception to Monday garbage collection is when a holiday (Presidents' Day or Labor Day) falls on a Monday; in this case, garbage is

collected on Tuesdays. Please take note that you will be fined by the city of Easton and the College for not regularly emptying your garbage on this schedule. **Cans and bins not pulled all the way to the curb edge will not be picked up.**

- Students in private off-campus housing on College Hill also generally follow the city's [Monday trash and recycling schedule](#).
- Residents of 512 March Street should place garbage and recycling in the designated space behind the building.
- Curbside pickup of **bulk trash** is limited to one item per week. Bulk items are defined as chairs, couches, carpets, mattresses, appliances, or any other item that does not fit within a standard trash container.
- **Curbside recycling** is [single-stream](#).

Learn more about [drop-off recycling programs in Northampton County and surrounding areas](#).

Learn more about the [Easton Compost Program](#).

- **Other policies in the Student Handbook**

You should be familiar with the Student Handbook, which covers your rights and responsibilities. This is the best reference to know what the College expects of you as a Lafayette student and how you will be held accountable for community living and learning. If you are living in a College-owned house you also should refer to the Housing and Off-Campus Housing Contract.

Resources and problem resolution

It is important to be aware of your resources as you navigate the challenges and opportunities associated with your new living situation:

- **Reaching out/being responsive to neighbors**

Building upon the community living skills you learned in the College's residence halls, you should be in contact with your neighbors about any concerns you or they may have and work to remedy the situation responsibly and with maturity. **Remember, you represent Lafayette College and are a steward of its reputation. Please show pride for your alma mater by acting in accordance with our values.**

- **Report a maintenance or facilities problem in your home**

At some point, your home may require more care or maintenance than you can provide. If there is a maintenance or repair concern in your home, and you are renting from a private landlord, check the terms of your lease and follow up with your landlord as appropriate.

If you live in College-owned housing and your maintenance concern is an emergency (e.g., no heat, loss of water service, no hot water, broken pipe spilling water) you should call in your facility problem as follows:

- Weekdays 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Facilities Operations, 610-330-5373
- After 4:30 p.m. and on weekends, Public Safety, 610-330-5330

After hours, Public Safety will evaluate and may engage on-call Facilities Operations resources. For non-emergency problems, use the [Report a Problem form](#) to submit work order requests. *(Submissions through this form are not monitored overnight or on weekends or holidays.)*

In the event of an unexpected power outage, Met-Ed provides local services, and updated information estimating when service will return can be [found online](#).

For students in College-owned housing, the College maintains lawns and removes snow from walks and steps. Students remain responsible for taking trash and recycling bins to and from the curb and removing any debris, trash, and litter that may be present on the property. If you live in private off-campus housing, **read your lease to ensure you are aware of any responsibilities you have for lawn care, leaf removal, snow removal, etc.**

- **How to contact police or emergency response**

- Call Lafayette Public Safety
Non-emergency: (610) 330-5330, emergency (610) 330-4444. **Public Safety has jurisdiction in all College-owned and operated properties.** Public Safety provides lock-out assistance to registered

residents (fee applies) and may be able to assist you if a personal vehicle has a low battery and requires a jump start.

- A call to Public Safety is the fastest way to request emergency medical response from a local ambulance/EMS to college housing.
- Call Easton Police or 911
Non-emergency (610) 759-2200. Emergency 911. **Easton police officers have jurisdiction in non-College owned properties (privately rented houses and apartments, businesses, and City streets).** We have a collaborative relationship with the Easton Police Department. Even in instances that do not occur on College property, the Easton Police Department informs the College of violations involving our students and may request assistance from Public Safety.

● Parking

Parking permits can be acquired by [registering through Public Safety](#). This must be done before obtaining a permit from Easton.

Students living in off-campus properties can then apply through the city of Easton for an Easton Residential Parking Permit (RPP). The Easton Traffic Division is sent a list of registered off-campus students. You have to take your license and registration to the Traffic Division to obtain the RPP. Both the city of Easton and Public Safety parking stickers/tags must be displayed on your vehicle. Having an RPP will allow you to park overnight on College Hill streets.

When parked on city streets, note signs about **street sweeping** (April 1-Dec. 1), three-hour parking limits, and designated spaces for drivers with disabilities. Your car may be ticketed if it is left in a space for more than 72 hours. This is considered a stored vehicle, which is not permitted by the city of Easton. Ticketing results in fines paid to Easton and possible charges through the College's Code of Conduct process.

If you are parking in metered spaces in downtown Easton, you can use the [ParkMobile](#) app.

● Local service providers (phone, TV, internet)

Some local providers are listed on the [Residence Life website](#). Installation of satellite equipment is not permitted on College houses and apartments.

WiFi is installed in the apartments at 512 March St. but not in other College-owned off-campus buildings. Students at 512 March St. can choose to [participate in the cable package](#) available for purchase by residents on campus.

- **Laundry**

Students residing in private off-campus housing are responsible for their own laundry arrangements and do not have access to campus facilities.

Students living in the apartments at 512 March St. have laundry facilities in the building.

All other students living in College-owned off-campus housing have checkpoint access to the laundry room in the basement of Soles Hall. Entry is from the rear parking lot area near Bailey Health Center only.

Problems with the laundry machines in the Soles basement or 512 March St. should be reported to Residence Life using the [Report a Problem form](#).

- **[Green Move In/Green Move Out](#) (also see [Garbage and Recycling Collection](#))**

Students moving into off-campus houses and apartments are encouraged to minimize their environmental impact when arriving and departing from their units.

- **Off-campus businesses and Pard Dollars**

Residents in off-campus housing continue to have a meal plan requirement with Pard Dollars unless a waiver or exemption is requested and approved. *Requests for exemptions can be sent to reslife@lafayette.edu.* The list of [local businesses that accept Pard Dollars](#) may change during the course of the year or year-to-year.

- **[College Hill Neighborhood Association](#)**

Students living off-campus may benefit from connecting with this group. General meetings are typically held the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at College Hill Presbyterian Church. You may also [find them on Facebook](#).

- **City and state government, voting information (as of 1/29/21)**

[Easton](#) is led by Mayor Sal Panto Jr. and the [City Council](#).

Easton is part of the Pennsylvania 18th State Senate District, served by Sen. Lisa Boscola.

Most of College Hill is part of the Pa. 136th District for the Pennsylvania State House of Representatives, served by Rep. Robert L. Freeman.

Easton is part of the Pennsylvania 7th US Congressional District, served by Rep. Susan Wild.

The governor is Tom Wolf.

Pennsylvania is represented in the U.S. Senate by Robert Casey Jr. and Pat Toomey.

For U.S. citizens eligible to vote:

- [Voting information for college students](#)
- [Voting information for first-time voters](#)
- [Applying/registering to vote in Pennsylvania](#)
- [Where is my polling place?](#)

Other topics

- [Ordering produce deliveries from LaFarm](#) (free delivery to College Hill locations)
- [Typical furnishings in College-owned off-campus housing](#)
- [Student or personal property insurance](#)
- [Policy on window air conditioners in College housing](#)
- [Public Safety: transportation, LCAT shuttles, and free LANTA bus service](#)
- [Bailey Health Center](#)
- [Off-campus health services](#)
- [Counseling Center](#)
- [Dining Services](#)
- [College Post Office](#)
- [Recreation Services](#)

Contact information

Residence Life Office

Academic year hours: 8:45 a.m.-5 p.m, call or email to make an appointment

Summer hours: 8:15 a.m.-noon, 1-4:30 p.m.

reslife@lafayette.edu

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