

Syracuse University Increases Safety in Residence Halls

By: Bari Cohn

SYRACUSE, N.Y., Jan. 10, 2019 — Syracuse University implemented round-the-clock security at all residence hall entrances beginning this semester, in order to increase campus safety.

Students living in on-campus residence halls who wish to house short-term guests must request a guest pass 48 hours in advance of their arrival. Guests must have a form of legal identification in order to enter the residence hall and must carry their guest pass with them at all times during their stay on campus.

All residence hall residents must show their Syracuse University Identification Cards with the colored sticker matching their respective residence hall. Students who wish to visit other residence halls must have their SU ID and the resident must sign them into the dorm as a guest.

“The increase in security presence makes me feel more safe living in a dorm on campus,” Watson Hall resident and sophomore Sophie Winters said. “While it can be annoying to have to constantly sign in guests, it is extremely comforting knowing there is someone monitoring all entrances at all hours.”

Syracuse University hired ninety New York State certified residential community safety officers who are licensed and meet NY State Security Guard Act standards and qualifications. The majority of the RCSOs are SU students, who are required to work ten-hour shifts with rotating days off throughout the academic year.

In previous semesters, security personnel were stationed at all residence halls entrances and exits security from 8 p.m. until 6 a.m., checking to ensure all who entered were residents and signing in their on-campus guests. However, starting this school year, residents had to sign in on-campus guests after 5 p.m., until this semester when it became a requirement 24/7.

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“Personally, I find the new guest policy to be quite frustrating,” Resident Assistant Josie Burger said. “I don’t believe the administration is taking into account special events such as move-in weekend or graduation, when it becomes difficult and chaotic for students who have immediate family members frequently entering and exiting the dorms.”



Syracuse University Sophomore Jack Goldsmith shows his SU ID to the residential community state officer on duty at Watson Hall on Jan. 27. Photo by: Bari Cohn

While the increase in residence hall security was decided beforehand, additional security measures were implemented after a series of bias-related incidents occurred on campus last semester. According to Burger, the increased security measures do not combat the incidents which took place. Instead, more responsive actions should be taken to ensure students feel safe and comfortable on campus.

“I believe the added security is a step in the right direction for improving campus safety,” Winters said. “However, I think other actions could be taken in the future such as limiting available entrances to residence halls to even further improve security.” (Word Count: 427).

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