



Office of the Dean of Students

September 3, 2025

Dear Students in the AU Neighborhood,

Welcome to the 2025-2026 academic year. As a [student living in the nearby community](#), we are counting on your conscientious approach to health and safety as well as your considerations for others.

You are required, as a student with a 20007, 20008, or 20016 zip code (the areas closest to campus), **to complete the University's Off-Campus Living Orientation Program**. This is an annual requirement. Even if you have completed this orientation in previous years you must complete it again for the 2025-2026 academic year. It should take you no longer than one hour to complete. After taking this online course, which includes brief quizzes and ends with a signed commitment to being a good citizen and neighbor, you will know:

- the resources available to you as a student living in the District of Columbia;
- the ways that AU works with neighbors to address any concerns; and,
- the support that AU can provide you in navigating the responsibilities of living independently off-campus, as well as for your academic and personal success.

It is now available to you in Canvas. **Please access and complete this course by October 3, 2024**. Students who fail to complete the course as required will be

referred to the Office of Student Accountability and Restorative Practices for non-compliance. We are confident that, as in the past, off-campus students in these zip codes will be quick to fulfill this obligation.

We are grateful for the effort and cooperation we have already witnessed among our students. The number of concerns shared by neighbors has been very low, allowing our primary focus to remain on supporting you in achieving your academic goals.

We are available by appointment to provide support to you. We also need your cooperation in this partnership and need you to be aware of the expectations American University has for you.

We expect you to:

- know, understand and abide by local ordinances and laws;
- know, understand and abide by the terms of your lease;
- monitor and maintain the condition of your property; and
- manage the behavior of any guests.

As hosts in your off-campus residence, you assume significant responsibility for the safety and welfare of any guests and for the impact of your choices on your neighbors and the surrounding community. Please be aware of the disciplinary consequences of violating health and safety measures. Failure to comply with health and safety directives constitutes misconduct that is actionable under the [Student Conduct Code](#).

A very helpful resource that covers much of what you need to know is the [Eagle Living Guide](#). Please also familiarize yourself, your roommates and friends with laws around preservation of the public peace, protection of property, use of alcohol and marijuana, and other provisions, including noise ordinances between 10 pm and 7 am. The specific laws are covered in the [Good Neighbor Guidelines Policy](#).

If you'd like assistance in communicating with neighbors, or if you want to discuss ways to effectively manage your off-campus residence, please call the Office of the Dean of Students at (202) 885-3300 and schedule an appointment to meet virtually. We would be glad to help you develop strategies for living successfully in the local community. We look forward to your partnership in ensuring that this is a safe and successful year for the AU community and the neighborhoods in which we live.

Sincerely,

Justin T. Bernstine, Ed.D.
Deputy Dean of Students

Jason Millison
Director of Community Relations

Division of Student Affairs