Recovery Housing Agreement for Residential Life

Recovery-focused Sober Housing Description

Residential Life is committed to the development of cohesive Living and Learning Communities which emphasize active student involvement, inclusion, service, and appreciation of the diversity of MU. We understand that maintaining a sober lifestyle may be exceptionally challenging on college campuses and that students seeking support for recovery from alcohol or drug addiction have a greater chance of succeeding in college when those services are available on their campus. In order to provide a bridge between college and recovery that enables students to have successful, enjoyable, and authentic college experiences while also maintaining and thriving in their sobriety, Residential Life, in conjunction with the Wellness Resource Center, is piloting a new recovery-focused sober housing option.

The recovery-focused sober housing option is located in Discovery Hall, in an area that provides privacy while still being centrally located within the larger residential community on campus. This option houses up to 8 students within double suite-style rooms, with bathrooms in suite and a shared living room space. Discovery Hall offers coed floors that house men and women separated by suites (individual suites are not coed). It is important to note that although roommates and suitemates will be limited to other residents who demonstrate a commitment to this living option, the other members of the General Learning Community have not made a similar commitment nor necessarily share the same interest. Although alcohol and illegal drugs are not permitted anywhere in MU residence halls, and these policies are enforced—to the best of Residential Life’s ability, students should not assume that it will be impossible to encounter alcohol or other drugs while in this environment.

This housing option gives students in recovery from alcohol or other drug addiction the opportunity to meet and reside with other students in recovery, thereby establishing the foundation of a supportive and inclusive living-learning environment. For this reason, recovery-focused sober housing is exclusively offered on a case-by-case basis to students committed to their own recovery, sobriety or abstinence, and well-being, with a preference of three or more months of continuous sobriety. Because recovery means something different for each individual who seeks it, students will be asked to self-identify for the purpose of application to this housing option. Every effort will be made by both Residential Life and Wellness Resource Center staff to protect the anonymity of students in recovery living in this community.

At this time, students wishing to apply for recovery-focused sober housing must select the “Assign Me Later” box when completing ROAR and contact Residential Life to request recovery housing placement. Before students are eligible to select this option they must first read and acknowledge the following terms and conditions of the community and will be contacted by a Wellness Resource Center and/or Residential Life staff member to discuss individual and community expectations.

It is the student’s choice to communicate with parents or loved ones about the decision to live in recovery-focused sober housing. Residential Life and the Wellness Resource Center encourage students to have conversations about their housing choices with their family, sponsors, or other loved ones so that they can make the best choices to meet their needs with as much support as possible to ensure success in maintaining their sobriety throughout their time at MU.
Recovery-focused Sober Housing Agreement Statement

As a student selecting to live in recovery-focused sober housing, I agree and acknowledge to follow the terms and conditions that are listed below:

1. I understand that recovery-focused sober housing is defined as (a) a housing option in which two or more students share a multiple-occupancy suite, in mutual agreement, where all students within a suite are self-identified as in recovery from alcohol or other drug addiction. (b) The intent of this agreement is to give students in recovery the option to reside with other students in recovery in order to provide a supportive and welcoming living-learning environment that (c) allows students the option to find a more compatible roommate and living situation. (d) This living-learning community supports students throughout their process of recovery from addiction.

2. In order to be eligible for recovery-focused sober housing, I must self-identify as a student in recovery from alcohol or other drug addiction for the purposes of application. I understand that, going forward, every effort will be made by Residential Life and Wellness Resource Center staff to protect my anonymity as a person in recovery.

3. As a condition of my eligibility, I agree to attend the first meeting of the semester with Sober in College, a recovery support student organization based in the Wellness Resource Center. My attendance at this meeting will be documented by Wellness Resource Center staff only for verification purposes. Subsequent weekly meetings may be attended at my own discretion and will not be tracked by Wellness Resource Center or Residential Life staff.

4. While my participation in recovery groups, 12-step groups, or other recovery-related services or treatments will be neither documented nor mandated, I understand that it is the expectation of both Residential Life and the Wellness Resource Center that I am actively seeking and participating in such services on at least a weekly basis, either on campus, off campus, or, preferably, both.

5. I understand that this housing opportunity is offered to me as a privilege, and not a right. Therefore, I am committed to being an active, supportive member of a living-learning community focused on providing peer support to students in recovery.
   a. I agree to recognize and appreciate boundaries set by myself and others as they pertain to recovery, understanding that every individual’s journey to well-being takes them on a different path. In doing so, I agree to uphold the university’s core values of Respect, Responsibility, Discovery, and Excellence.
   b. I will respect the privacy and confidentiality of others in recovery, unless doing so is in violation of this agreement or threatens the safety or well-being of another student.
   c. I will not enable, assist, or encourage another student in recovery to use alcohol or other drugs.
   d. I will not admit any individual who is under the influence of alcohol or other drugs into the residence hall.
   e. I agree to remain abstinent from alcohol and other drugs and I understand that any violation of Residential Life’s policies regarding alcohol and other drugs in residence halls WILL result in consequences as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct, and MAY result in me being asked to complete alcohol or other drug tests. Based on the circumstances a first violation MAY but a second violation of this policy WILL result in relocation to a different housing accommodation owned or operated by the Department of Residential Life. I am aware that moving to another hall may result in an adjustment to a new, potentially increased room rate based on the hall.
f. I will immediately notify a Residential Life staff member if I learn or suspect that a fellow recovery housing student has relapsed or violated any of the above policies.

g. I understand that my failure to report a recovery housing student who is suspected of or known to be using alcohol or other drugs will make me subject to consequences as determined by Residential Life and the Wellness Resource Center.

h. I understand that, in the event of a relapse, Residential Life and the Wellness Resource Center will provide every resource possible to support my return to sobriety; however, I am ultimately responsible for maintaining my own sobriety and making choices that support my success.

6. I understand that this housing option has limited space, and if this community is full I may work with Residential Life staff to be added to a wait list or to seek alternative options that fulfill my needs as a student in recovery.

7. If my roommate or suitemate(s) cancel their Housing Contract, or moves out of the room for any reason related or unrelated to their recovery, the remaining roommate or suitemates will have the opportunity to identify a new resident to fill the vacancy. The Department of Residential Life will define the time allocated to find a new roommate/suitemate. This window of time will vary depending on time of year and status of the recovery-focused sober housing waitlist; however, during the academic year, residents will have no more than one week to identify another eligible roommate or suitemate. If a roommate or suitemate is not identified to fill the vacancy within the time period, Residential Life reserves the right to assign any student of the same sex who signs the Recovery-focused Sober Housing Agreement Statement.

8. I agree to abide by university policies and procedures outlined in the M-Book and Residence Halls Rules and Regulations.

9. I understand that it is my choice to communicate with my parents, sponsor, or loved ones about the decision to live in recovery-focused sober housing.

10. I permit information sharing between the Department of Residential Life and the Wellness Resource Center with the understanding that only information pertinent to my status as a student in recovery will be shared.