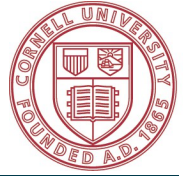


Learning Strategies Center  
Pre-Collegiate Summer  
Scholars Program



Welcome to Cornell  
and the  
Pre-Collegiate Summer Scholars Program!

# 2026 Pre-Collegiate Summer Scholars Program House Rules

The Pre-Collegiate Summer Scholars Program (PSSP) offers an early start to life at Cornell. Through course work, close interaction with faculty and advisors, and a community of motivated peers, you'll begin building the academic skills, confidence, and connections that matter most. PSSP is designed to help you take what you've already achieved in high school and turn it into a strong foundation for a successful first year at Cornell—academically, socially, and personally.

PSSP is an academic and social bridge to your first year at Cornell, and your residential experience is a key part of that journey. Living on campus gives you a preview of residence hall life while providing a supportive, structured environment to help you adjust. The following house rules, effective for the full duration of the program, are here to ensure a safe, respectful, and positive community—one that supports your learning, well-being, and transition to college living.

## **Cornell University rules, regulations, policies, and procedures**

Violations of Cornell policies, applicable to all university learning and residential spaces, will be documented by residential and/or academic staff and will be referred to the appropriate office for adjudication. Students are responsible for making themselves knowledgeable about any campus rule or policy that may apply to them based on use or agreement of the individual even if not listed here specifically.

[Cornell University Student Code of Conduct](#)

[Cornell University Policy 4.23 – Interim Expressive Activity Policy](#)

[Cornell University Policy 6.4: Prohibited Bias, Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual and Related Misconduct](#)

[Good Samaritan Protocol](#)

[Housing & Residential Life Community Rules and Standards](#)

## **PSSP Conduct Expectations and Standards**

Conduct expectations and standards are part of the university's commitment to provide a safe, inclusive, and respectful educational community and residential experience. During the first week of PSSP, you will have opportunities to engage in thoughtful discussions about your responsibilities in this scholarly community, including the expectation of appropriate and responsible behavior.

Cornell's [Community Living Standards](#) apply to all students in on-campus residential communities within Housing & Residential Life during both the academic year and PSSP. In addition, specific PSSP House Rules apply to all students enrolled in the program and must be followed to remain in good standing in the program.

## PSSP House Rules

**Alcohol and other drugs** – Alcohol and other illicit drugs are prohibited at all times. Any resident found to have been in possession, or under the influence, of alcohol or an illegal drug, on campus or off, at any time during the program will face disciplinary action and may be dismissed from the program. While marijuana is legal in NY, federal law prohibits it on campus.

**Nightly check-in** – Evening check-ins create a consistent point of connection between students and residence hall staff, contributing to a safe, supportive residential community. PSSP students will return to their assigned residence hall and check in with the staff between 7:00PM and 11:59PM each evening. While students will not be required to remain in the residence hall after check-in, it is expected that students will act responsibly regarding their health and safety and continue to uphold good standards of character.

**Floor Restrictions** - Students do not have free access to all areas of their designated residence hall. For all non-public spaces and non-assigned rooms, students should check with their Peer Mentors to confirm their level of access.

**Guests** – Guests are permitted to access the building during the hours of 9AM-10PM daily and are required to check-in at the Peer Mentor (PM) office. No student is allowed to have overnight guests or other PSSP students other than assigned roommate(s) in their room once quiet hours are in effect.

**Overnight** – By spending time on campus, including on weekends, students adjust to being in Ithaca and learn how to use their weekends effectively for both personal and academic growth. Students are not permitted to leave Ithaca overnight without permission. Time away requests are granted for extenuating reasons only and must be verified by the student's parent/guardian. Requests should be sent to [cu-pssp@cornell.edu](mailto:cu-pssp@cornell.edu) at least 5 days in advance of requested departure.

**Off Campus Prohibited Areas:** There are many exciting and interesting things for students to do off-campus, and while students are permitted to go off-campus (see below), the following important restrictions apply:

- **Gorges** - To enter any waters of Fall Creek, Cascadilla Creek, or Beebe Lake that are on or traverse the campus to swim, climb, or bathe is **strictly prohibited**, except in those waters officially designated as swimming or bathing waters and lifeguard is on duty. Climbing or being on the rocks in the gorges is also prohibited. Students must always stay on designated paths.
- **Fraternities and Sororities** - Entering fraternity and sorority houses is **strictly prohibited**. It is prohibited to be on the grounds of fraternity and sorority houses, including their front or back yards. Attending an event sponsored by a fraternity or sorority, including social events hosted in private off-campus residences, also is prohibited.

**Exploring off-campus** There are many fun and interesting things to do off-campus, such as dining and shopping, and students are encouraged to explore the Ithaca area. For safety and support, we encourage students to go off-campus with a friend whenever possible.

**Automobiles** – Students are not permitted to have cars on campus under any circumstances.

**Cooking** – Individual micro-fridges with microwaves are available to rent if desired.

**Respect the property, privacy, and personal integrity of others** - To promote students' growth and to be their best selves, residents' behavior should be considerate and respectful of other community members and the physical space. This includes engaging in debate and discourse in the spirit of understanding and with respect for others. We strive to be a welcoming, caring, and equitable community where all students, faculty and staff can learn, innovate, and work in an environment of respect, and feel empowered to engage in any community conversation.

Please familiarize yourself with all the policies, and if you have questions, talk to your Peer Mentor about PSSP-specific House Rules or your Residence Advisor (RA) for general Cornell Residential Rules and Community Standards. Violation of any of the policies, including Policy 6.4 and the Student Code of Conduct, or Cornell's Residential House Rules/Community Standards, or state/federal laws, on or off campus, will be documented and reported to the appropriate authorities and campus officials, and may become part of a student's permanent record. It is your responsibility to read through and adhere to these policies. PSSP and Cornell University rules may be modified at any time.

## **Pre-Collegiate Summer Scholars Program House Rules Disciplinary Process**

### **A. Notice of Violation**

At the request of any student, faculty or staff member, or independently, residential staff may file a complaint against a student. The student will be notified of the meeting and specific charges and will be expected to attend a conduct meeting within 1-2 business days for minor violations. In the case of violations that may result in dismissal, the student can expect to talk with a staff member within 24-hours of the filing of violations. That staff member will set up a conduct meeting to occur either the same business day or the next business day, depending on the timing of the violation.

### **B. Conduct Meeting**

At the conduct meeting, the nature of and the responsibility for an alleged offense is discussed. The student will also be advised of their options for resolving the matter. Failure to respond to the Notice of Meeting will be considered Failure to Comply, which results in an additional violation.

### **1. Minor Violations**

For violations, that the residential staff, in their discretion, considers minor, the following outcomes may occur: (a) a sanction may be imposed following the conduct meeting, or (b) the charge(s) could be dropped. There is no appeal for minor violations. Minor violation sanctions may include, but are not limited to, verbal warnings, formal warning, loss of privileges, and/or educational sanctions. Minor violation judicial meetings are held by the appropriate staff governing the violation. Outcomes of these meetings will be shared with the PSSP Director, Assistant Director and student's college. There is no appeal of the decision at this level.

### **2. Repeated Violations and/or More Serious Violations (House Rules and/or Code of Conduct)**

For repeated violations and/or infractions that Residential Staff, in their discretion, consider more serious, the following outcomes may occur: (a) a sanction may be imposed following the conduct meeting, or (b) the charge(s) could be dropped. Sanctions for repeated violations and more serious violations may include, but are not limited to loss of privileges, educational sanctions, probation, and/or dismissal. Conduct meetings for repeated violations and/or more serious infractions will be held by the leadership of PSSP or Housing and Residential Life depending upon the violation. The outcomes of these meetings will be shared with the student's College Associate, the PSSP Program Director, and other appropriate university personnel. Students may appeal the decision **only** when a sanction of probation or dismissal has been issued. Such appeals may be made only when there is additional information to be reviewed.

### **3. Violations of the Student Code of Conduct or Policy 6.4**

Allegations of violations of the Student Code of Conduct or Policy 6.4 will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards or the Cornell Office of Civil Rights to be investigated and adjudicated under the applicable procedures.

### **4. Parental Notification**

It is the discretion of PSSP professional staff (Program Director, College Associate, Assistant Director) when and if to notify parents or guardians prior to, or as the result of, a conduct meeting consistent with the University's Student Privacy Record Statement. Generally, parents will be notified prior to the judicial meeting when an incident has occurred that could result in dismissal and after the dismissal decision has been made.

## **C. Sanctions**

### **1. Dismissal and Restriction**

"Dismissal and restriction" is a separation of the student from the PSSP program. Students can be dismissed from PSSP for serious infractions, for repeated violations, or if they have clearly demonstrated, in the opinion of PSSP professional staff, that they are not acting responsibly toward themselves or others (whether or not their actions are covered by specific rules). Immediate dismissal could result from the

use/presence of alcohol or drugs; theft; possession of a fake ID; violent, threatening or harassing behavior of any kind; swimming in the gorges, a violation of community standards, or any other serious violation. Dismissal can also result from a series of incidents that have been documented through the progressive discipline process that indicate that the behavior of the student has not changed or improved.

The student is required to leave campus within twenty-four hours of parental notification. While departure is being arranged, students may not participate in trips or other program activities.

In cases warranting dismissal, sanctions may not necessarily follow the sequence indicated above. Following any dismissal from the PSSP program, the student's College/School will follow up as to if this affects the student's admission to Cornell University as a student. Please note dismissal is serious and dismissed students may have their admission to the University rescinded.

## **2. Probation**

Probation is a final notice given to the student where any further violations of policies may result in the student's dismissal and restriction. Probation will include restrictions on privileges such as adjustment to student's check-in and/or the ability to participate in certain activities, and possible other sanctions. The student's parent or legal guardian is notified if the student is placed on probation, consistent with the University's Student Privacy Record Statement.

## **3. Formal Warning**

A formal warning is an official notice to a student that their behavior is unacceptable. The student will be asked to attend a conduct meeting during which they will be advised that any further violations of policies may result in more severe disciplinary action.

## **4. Verbal Warning**

A verbal warning is a documented conversation with a student to notify the student that their behavior is unacceptable. The student is advised that any further violations of policies may result in more severe disciplinary action.

## **5. Other Sanctions**

Other sanctions may be imposed instead of or in addition to those specified above, such as restrictions upon privileges, educational service projects, restitution, or other appropriate sanctions.

## **D. Appeals**

An appeal of probation or dismissal may be made, in writing, by the student to the Program Director or their designee(s) within 8-hours of the decision. The Program Director will review the written communication with the PSSP Leadership Committee. Appeals must include new information about the incident that may

change the outcome of the dismissal decision. If there is no new information an appeal meeting will not be granted. If an appeal meeting is granted the Program Director will assign a designee and arrange a meeting for them with the student, either that day if the appeal meeting is granted during an active business day or the next business day if the appeal is received after hours, to discuss the new information. Deadlines to leave campus will be adjusted accordingly. Students should expect to miss class as needed to participate in the appeals process. If appeals are granted other sanctions may be applied such as warnings, probation, or educational sanctions depending on the final nature of the case.

Students who are appealing a decision of dismissal and restriction should be prepared to leave within twenty-four hours if the appeal is denied.