



Consequences for Residential High School Students

Your goals for student behavior are to ensure (1) that everyone in the community can have a safe, healthy, and successful summer and (2) that the program can continue to run on campus in the future. For some of your students, this program will be the most freedom they have ever had and for others it will be more restrictive than they're used to. Explain to students at the start of the program that you have a responsibility to their parents and the college to keep everyone safe at all times, and that you can only do that by knowing where everyone is at all times. All of your program's rules will stem from that guiding principle.

At Columbia, the student manual includes an explicit list of activities and behaviors that will cause students to be removed from the dormitories or program. Depending on the circumstances, students may be allowed to continue as commuter students if they are removed from the dormitory:

1. **RESPECTING COLUMBIA'S CAMPUS:** We are all guests of the university, and as such we need to respect the buildings, policies, and people on campus. If a student loses the trust of the program staff they will be asked to move out of the dorms, and possibly leave the program. They can lose that trust by:
 - a. Keeping or using drugs or alcohol
 - b. Vandalizing, damaging, removing, or stealing property
 - c. Bullying, harassing, or hazing others
 - d. Being somewhere they are not permitted
 - e. Endangering themselves or others
 - f. Having sexual encounters with others on campus
 - g. Ignoring Covid-19 protocols.

Most of the behaviors you want to correct will not be this severe (Columbia has hosted more than 300 students since 2009, none have been removed from the program, and less than 5 have been removed from the dormitories).

The most effective consequences are those that are tied directly to the behavior in question. Students who are late for class or breakfast may need more sleep, so setting their curfew earlier is a natural response. But changing curfew for a student who is talkative during reading hours does not make as much sense. Instead, that student may need to be moved away from their peers or seated next to a staff person so that everyone can concentrate.

Below is a list of potential behaviors and consequences. For many, we recommend first talking with the student and either explaining why their behavior is not acceptable or working with them to find a way to prevent it in the future. For example, after speaking with one student who was constantly late to class Columbia staff learned the student didn't have a cell phone or alarm clock. Setting an earlier curfew did not fix their problem, but buying a \$5 alarm clock for the student did. Having students help in adjusting their own behaviors will go a long way in preparing them for college.

Behavior	Consequence
Talking during reading hours	Rearrange seating: TA sits next to student or student is moved away from the group. TAs can also prevent giving consequences by giving students guidance of what they should do when they think they are finished working.
Falling asleep in class	An embarrassment for everyone (especially when we have guests)! Staff should check in about the student's mental and physical health first, and find out what is at the root of the behavior. Students who fall asleep in class clearly need more sleep and may need an earlier bedtime or curfew until they can figure out how to keep their eyes open.
Texting or use of phones during study periods	<p>A lot of students have difficulty disconnecting, not just from their friends and social media, but from problems at home. Your goal here is to train students to better manage their time by eliminating distractions. Rather than pose consequences, try helping them figure out what would work. Could they keep their phone on them but turn off notifications or put it on airplane mode? Should the whole class put their phones in a box to the side? Try offering rewards: if you can make it 20 minutes without picking up your phone everyone can have a 5 minute texting break.</p> <p>If a student is texting during class, first check in with them about whether there is an urgent issue at home. If there isn't, ask them to place their phones on the chair behind them. Teenagers do <u>not</u> like handing over their phones, but may be amenable to placing it somewhere that is in sight but away from their body.</p>
Locked out of dorm room	This happens so often at Columbia that the staff created "lockout hours"--specified moments throughout the day when someone would unlock rooms with the master key. Students who missed a lockout hour might have to go to the gym without proper gear or to the library without their books. Amazingly, when students realized their staff would not drop everything to locate the master key they figured out how to stop locking themselves out of the dorms.

Unprepared for class or study periods	There are natural consequences to being unprepared, and rather than have staff run back to help them get their stuff it is perfectly appropriate to let them experience the inconvenience they created.
Plagiarism	A professor can not write an honest letter of recommendation about a student who plagiarizes so the student should try to earn back a letter of recommendation by making up the stolen work and writing an apology to the professor.
Late to study periods	Reducing free time before or after: maybe they need to stay late to finish the work they missed or maybe they need to leave their previous activity early.
Late for curfew	Depending on how late the student is the first consequence will likely be an earlier curfew for the next night (15 minutes, perhaps). The student can earn back trust from the staff by returning on time. A second consequence could be a much earlier curfew or staying in entirely for one or two nights.
Out of rooms past curfew	This happens every summer, and requires your judgment. If a student is alone and gives a reasonable explanation you might just have them sit down with the program director for a serious discussion about what would happen if they were found out at night again. If a student is on the wrong floor, with others, in outdoor clothing, or you have other reasons to doubt their explanations you can call their parents and move them out right away.
Pranking/bullying	<p>If they have damaged or dirtied campus property during their free time they can spend their next free period cleaning up the dorms, repairing the property, or otherwise improving campus. Serious damage could mean removal from the dorms or campus. If they have targeted an individual this may be bullying and could warrant removal from the program.</p> <p>You can also redirect their creativity towards planning a fun program for the whole group. Rather than use pranks to make peoples' lives worse they can plan something that improves morale for everyone.</p>