Definition of Residential Experience

Belonging & Community

- Build meaningful connections through shared experiences with peers, staff, and faculty
- Encourage self-awareness by exploring how personal histories shape individual belief and relationships
- Foster inclusive connections across diverse identities, values, and worldviews
- Promote open, respectful communication within 1:1 interactions and across groups
- Strengthen interpersonal skills and develop authentic relationships with diverse others
- Foster relationships that provide acceptance, sense of value, inclusion, and care to drive sense of belonging and connection

Learning & Discovery

- Develop life skills and intellectual discovery by living in a diverse environment
- Explore learning across contexts- through formal and informal interactions with peers, faculty, and staff
- Make connections across disciplines, cultures, beliefs to challenge and expand knowledge
- Reflect on new and lived experiences to gain new perspectives and deepen understanding
- Explore new ideas with curiosity, openness, and a willingness to grow and question among a community of learners

Agency & Independence

- Develop independence by setting goals, managing responsibilities, and navigating new or changing circumstances
- Build experience and confidence in making thoughtful decisions, solving problems, and balancing priorities
- Understanding and taking ownership of possible choices and outcomes considering impacts on self, others, and the community
- Learn life skills and self-advocacy to navigate conflict and change
- Grow through challenge and reflection in a safe, supportive environment that encourages risk taking and accountability

Well-being

- Recognize and practice self-care strategies that support physical, mental, and emotional health
- Learn and apply skills for resilience including developing healthy relationships, managing stress, adapting to change, and navigating roadblocks in order to thrive
- Utilize residential spaces to build sustainable healthy habits relative to sleeping, eating, and socializing
- Foster healthy relationships in a supportive community where students, staff, and faculty feel seen, safe, and connected
- Make thoughtful choices to manage time effectively to align daily actions with personal goals and needs

Equitable Experience

- Strive to deliver equitable access to resources, spaces, and opportunities so that all students can fully engage, live, learn, and succeed
- Design and adapt spaces that allow students to choose residential experiences based on their needs and aspirations, not limited by building conditions, amenities, or physical layouts
- Foster a culture of fairness where experiential goals are shared but the intensity and implementation can vary based on the unique contexts of each residential community

Safety & Comfort

- Maintain safe, clean, reliable, and comfortable facilities that meet or exceed university standards to promote students' well-being and peace of mind
- Foster a secure and supportive environment that promotes student success through appropriate staffing, policies, and responsive systems
- Create a welcoming atmosphere where safety, comfort, and belonging are prioritized
- Support students' holistic needs by providing spaces and services that promote foundational needs and allow for growth, learning, and connection