

Room Search and enter policy

Lakeland University reserves the right to enter and search any of its residence halls including rooms, apartments, and its contents if any authorized personnel (e.g., Department of Campus Safety Officers, Law Enforcement Officers, Director or Assistant Director of Residence Life, and or Hall Directors) has reason to believe:

- There is a possibility of imminent danger to any person(s) or property.
- A crime is occurring or is about to occur.
- Any illicit drugs, including marijuana and alcohol, if prohibited by state law or university policy, are observed and deemed to be contraband and are in plain view.
- If authorized personnel are conducting a “Care for Welfare” or “Missing Person” investigation;
- Or if a student gives consent to have his or her room searched;

Contraband items in plain view (e.g., items prohibited by law or University policy) may be confiscated by University personnel and used as evidence in student conduct hearings or turned over to law enforcement officers.

If a room search is necessary, it will be conducted by Campus Safety Officers (non-students), or by a law enforcement officer executing a valid search warrant.

If possible, a residence hall director will be present during the room search. When practical, the resident(s) whose room is to be searched will be allowed to be present during the search and will be informed of the reason for the search.

Unannounced room searches will only be conducted by campus safety officers if probable cause exists.

Example: If a Campus Safety Officer is conducting a campus round, and smells the odor of marijuana emanating from a Lakeland Residence hall room or apartment, and the campus safety officer can reasonably pinpoint the source from which the smell is emanating from. That Campus Safety officer has probable cause to conduct a full investigation into a drug law violation, including, but not limited to a search of the room and its belongings.

During a room search, Campus Safety Officers shall make a reasonable attempt not to unnecessarily disrupt belongings, and every effort shall be made to leave the room in the condition that it was found. A resident who believes his or her room has been wrongfully entered and searched should report the matter to the Director of Residence Life or Director of Campus Safety.

Facilities and or Maintenance employees may enter a Lakeland University residence hall or apartment, after first knocking and announcing themselves. If no one responds, Facilities and or Maintenance employees may enter the area and begin the necessary repairs.