

Housing and Residence Life

Guidelines for the Preparation of Food by Members of Residence Hall and On-Campus Apartment Student Organizations

In part, the University's Food Service Policy states the following:

1. All food prepared and/or service in dining facilities, public food serving areas, conference facilities, and other buildings and grounds shall be under the control of University Dining Services except food consumed in University housing by residents, their family members, and/or invited guests, at authorized group activities paid for by house or hall programming funds.
2. Registered University organizations, student organizations, and/or other groups wishing to sponsor activities at which food is served and/or sold on campus must obtain approval in advance from the Associate Vice President for Auxiliary Services or his/her designee, except:
 - a. "Fund raisers" (e.g., bake sales, candy sales, etc.) by residence hall students in University Housing approval is granted by the Department of Housing and Residence Life.
 - b. "Bake sales" conducted by registered student organizations, and specifically approved by the department of Student Activities and Leadership Programs, and scheduled with the Conference and Catering Department.

The following guidelines have been developed to ensure appropriate safety and sanitation when members of residence hall and on-campus apartment student organizations handle and prepare food. It is the responsibility of group members to follow these guidelines.

General Guidelines

1. Food prepared for sale by residence hall or on-campus apartment groups should, whenever possible, be purchased from University Dining Services. Food purchased from Dining Services should be ordered at least two weeks in advance of the sale date. Dining Services reserves the right to refuse to sell easily perishable food (i.e., potato salad, egg salad, macaroni salad, etc.) to any student group for consumption or resale.
2. Organizations sponsoring food sales should pick up/purchase the food as close to the sale date as possible.
3. The preparation of food for sale by members of residence hall or apartment groups must be conducted in University approved facilities (i.e. residence hall kitchenettes) and may not be conducted in student rooms.
4. When handling food for sale in residence hall areas, those people handling the food (whether during preparation or serving) should wear appropriate protective clothing (e.g., disposable plastic gloves and caps or hairnets).
5. Door-to-door sales are prohibited.

Specific Food Handling Guidelines

1. Clean To prevent the spread of harmful bacteria, wash hands, kitchen utensils and surfaces often.
 - Wash hands in hot soapy water for at least 20 seconds and rinse thoroughly before preparing food as well as after using the bathroom.
 - Use plastic or other non-porous cutting boards. Carefully wash them, utensils, and counter tops with hot soapy water after preparing each food item before going on to the next one and after use.
 - Paper towels are preferred. If cloth towels are used, they should be washed often in hot water.

2. Separate Bacteria can spread from one food product to another, especially raw meat, poultry and seafood. Experts caution individuals to keep them and their juices away from ready-to-eat foods.
 - Separate raw meat, poultry and seafood from other food in the grocery cart and store them on the bottom shelf of the refrigerator so juices don't drip onto other foods.
 - If possible, use one cutting board for raw meat products and another for salads and other ready-to-eat foods.
 - Always wash cutting boards, knives and other utensils with hot soapy water after they come in contact with raw meat, poultry and seafood.
 - Never place food items on a plate which previously held raw meat, poultry or seafood.

3. Cook to Proper Temperature Food items are properly cooked when they are heated for a long enough time and at a high enough temperature to kill the harmful bacteria that cause foodborne illness.
 - Use a [meat thermometer](#) which measures the internal temperature of cooked meat and poultry, to make sure that the meat is cooked all the way through.
 - Cook roasts and steaks to at least 145°F. Whole poultry should be cooked to 180°F.
 - Cook ground meat, where bacteria can spread during grinding, to at least 160°F. If a thermometer is not available, do not eat ground beef that is still pink inside.
 - Cook eggs until the yolk and white are firm, not runny. Don't use recipes in which eggs remain raw or only partially cooked.
 - Cook fish until it is opaque and flakes easily with a fork.
 - Make sure there are no cold spots in food (where bacteria can survive) when cooking in a microwave oven. For best results, cover food, stir and rotate for even cooking. If there is no turntable, rotate the dish by hand once or twice during cooking.
 - Bring sauces, soups and gravy to a boil when reheating. Heat other leftovers thoroughly to 165°F.

4. Refrigerate Promptly Refrigerate foods quickly to prevent harmful bacteria from growing and multiplying. Set the refrigerator temperature at 40°F and the freezer at 0°F and occasionally check these temperatures with an appliance thermometer.
 - Refrigerate or freeze perishables, prepared food, and leftovers within two hours.
 - Never defrost or marinate food on the kitchen counter. Use the refrigerator, cold running water or the microwave.
 - Divide large amounts of leftovers into small, shallow containers for quick cooling in the refrigerator.
 - With poultry and other stuffed meats, remove the stuffing and refrigerate it in a separate container.
 - Don't pack the refrigerator. Cool air must circulate to keep food safe.