

Black Student Commons - Community Guidelines

The Black Student Commons is a welcoming environment where all black-identifying undergraduate and graduate students at Saint Mary's University can study, relax and foster a sense of community.

Adhering to Community Guidelines

Ensuring a safe and respectful space is everyone's responsibility. Hence, as a user of this space, you are **required** to adhere to these guidelines, which are subject to change.

Access

The Black Student Commons is available **everyday** between **8:00 am - 10:30 pm**, when the campus is open. Opening and closing of the space is performed through the university security. Please note that students found in the space outside of these times will be asked to leave by security.

General Rules

1. Be respectful. People come to this space to study and relax; treat others the way you would like to be treated.
2. During exam periods there will be dedicated study/quiet space hours posted.
3. No overnight sleeping in this space. Daytime naps are alright so long as you are not disturbing others.
4. This space cannot be booked for Society meetings/events, as it is designated for shared use by **all** students.
5. Use of the space for the purpose of social gatherings such as events, workshops, meetings is approved at the discretion of the Black Student Advisor. The goal will be to keep these to a minimum to minimize disturbing students using the space.
6. No use/consumption of alcohol or other substances is permitted in this space.

Maintaining the Commons

1. **Clean up after yourself.** We all want to come into this space and feel comfortable and it is very hard to feel that way when the room is untidy. Use the furniture respectfully and do not remove any items without permission from the Black Student Advisor.
2. Please refrain from moving the furniture in this space as it is set up to allow for a portion of the space to be social and another part to be structured for students who may want to do individual or team-based academic work.
3. Items placed in the fridge are stored at your own risk. The university is not responsible for any items that are discarded, consumed, or removed.
4. If you bring something that is to be shared with others in the space, please mark it as such.

5. To maintain cleanliness and prevent mold in our new space, please do not leave items in the fridge for extended periods. Items will be allowed to be stored in the fridge for up to **1 week only or less if they appear spoiled**.
6. Equipment such as the Microwave and TV must be used with respect. If something needs to be repaired or changed, please notify blackstudent.advisor@smu.ca

What happens when the Community Guidelines are not followed?

If you witness unacceptable behavior, or if you have concerns that guidelines or relevant SMU policies are not being followed, please address it directly with the person in a calm and respectful manner. If you do not feel comfortable doing so, please reach out to the Black Student Advisor at blackstudent.advisor@smu.ca. Consequences for breach of these guidelines may include removal from the space, restricted or prohibited access, or other applicable consequences in accordance with Saint Mary's University policies.

What if I want to suggest changes to the Black Student Commons Community Standards?

Should you wish to suggest changes to the Community Standards, please reach out to the Black Student Advisor to discuss proposed changes and the rationale for bringing this forward.