BEING A
STUDENT-CITIZEN
OF TUSCALOOSA
BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOR IS A LIFELONG EXPERIENCE
Being a college student means learning new things every day – in and out of the classroom. One of the most important life lessons you will ever learn starts when you live off-campus. For the rest of your life, whether you live in an apartment or a house, whether you live alone or with family or friends, what you do matters to the people who live in your neighborhood.

Especially when you live in the neighborhoods that are close to campus, you are part of a community that includes people from all stages and walks of life, not just other students. Your decisions and behavior impact everyone living there, not just you and your roommates. Being a good neighbor starts with respecting your neighbors and following the laws and ordinances that govern your community.

Be a good neighbor because it’s the right thing to do.
DAY-TO-DAY LAWS AND ORDINANCES YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

SINGLE FAMILY HOUSING:  
City ordinances govern how many unrelated people can live in one residence

- Generally, no more than three (3) unrelated people may live together in a house in any zoning district.
- The exception to this ordinance is in the Historic Districts, many of which are located between campus and downtown. In the Historic Districts, no more than two (2) unrelated people may live together.
- Depending on the area, no more than four (4) or, in some cases, five (5) unrelated individuals may live in a single dwelling. To learn the zoning requirements for your neighborhood, please call 311.

NOISE:  
City ordinances govern how loud noises can be between certain hours

- Noise should not expand beyond the property on which it is generated, 24 hours per day.
- Specific ordinance provisions require that no noise can be heard at more than 80 dB from the structure or property line between 6 AM and 9 PM. From 9 PM to 6 AM these restrictions are further reduced to 75 dB at any property line within a residential district.

To evaluate noise levels, consider how easy it is to have a conversation with someone sitting or standing near you, given the volume level of the noise around you. If you can talk easily, the decibel level is approximately 65 to 70 dBs. If it is difficult to talk in a normal way, the decibel level is approximately 70 to 75 dBs. If you have to raise your voice to be heard, the decibel level is approximately 75 to 80 dBs. If the room or area is too loud to have a normal conversation, the decibel level is at 80 dBs or greater.

PARKING:  
City ordinances prohibit parking anywhere but your residence’s driveway

- Vehicles may not be parked in the front or side yard of residences except in driveways.
- Parking ordinances downtown and in single-family residential neighborhoods are strictly enforced by towing, booting and/or significant fines.
- Don’t park against traffic; your passenger side tires have to be within 18 inches of the curb.
- Don’t park on or block sidewalks, or between the sidewalk and the curb.

INTOXICATION:  
Being intoxicated in public is against the law

- Being intoxicated in public is prohibited. This includes boisterousness, indecency, vulgarity, profanity and loud or unbecoming language.

Options for transportation back to your on- or off-campus residence after hours include:

- 348-RIDE and the 348-RIDE Express (http://348ride.ua.edu), which operates Mon. - Fri. 10 PM to 6:50 AM and Sat. - Sun. 24 hours. For more information, call 205-348-7433 or visit the Transportation Services website at http://fawp.ua.edu/crimsonride/.
- The Downtown Express. Routes are available at http://fawp.ua.edu/crimsonride/downtown-express/.
GARBAGE & LITTERING:
Garbage cans must be placed at and removed from the curbside prior to and following collection times

• Throwing litter on public or private property is prohibited.

• Renters should observe garbage pick-up dates and place trash at the curb only on their assigned collection dates.

• Garbage carts must be placed at curbside before the route start time to ensure collection. Routes begin at 6 AM from Memorial Day through Labor Day (summer) and at 7 AM from Labor Day until Memorial Day (fall, winter, spring).

• Garbage carts must be removed from the curbside by 8 AM the day following collection.

• In the Historic Districts, carts must be stored behind your house and may be located in the front yard only when placed at the curb the day of collection.

TRAFFIC:
Drivers and pedestrians must observe traffic signals and crosswalks

• Observe speed limits and traffic control devices.

• Avoid aggressive driving.

• Pedestrians should observe traffic signals and cross only at marked crosswalks.

• Pedestrians in crosswalks not governed by traffic signals have the right of way over vehicles.

BICYCLES:
Bicyclists are required to follow the same traffic rules as cars

• Bicycles must observe the same traffic rules as motorized vehicles.

• Any person over the age of 12 is prohibited from riding a bicycle on sidewalks.

Fines and other penalties can be imposed for violating these laws and ordinances.
IF YOU ARE HAVING A PARTY:
Since both you and your landlord can be charged and fined for rowdy parties, illegal drugs, assault, obstructing an officer, vandalism, furnishing alcohol to minors, etc., make sure your parties are conducted responsibly

- Invite only people you know and have a guest list of who should be attending. Keep the number reasonable for the size of your residence.
- Let your neighbors know when you plan on having a party. Discuss an acceptable start and end time for the party so that you don’t disturb them.
- Give your neighbor a name and phone number to call should the party get out of hand. This way, you have an opportunity to quiet things down before the police are called. If the police do arrive, be compliant and respectful.
- If the party is at night, plan on being inside. Do not let the party spill over into the street, the neighbor’s yard, the parking lot, etc.
- Serve beverages in plastic or Styrofoam cups or aluminum cans. Glass bottles can break and pose a danger to your guests.
- Always clean up afterwards, inside and outside, and check your neighbors’ lawns as well.
- Many noise complaints are the result of an out-of-control party, so make sure you maintain control of any party or gathering in your residence. A noise disturbance is any sound that disturbs the peace and quiet of a residential area, as well as any public street or right of way bordering a residential district. It is unlawful for anyone to make, cause or continue any noise that disturbs the peace and quiet of a residential area.
- Don’t let disorderly conduct become an issue. Disorderly conduct is defined as: someone who engages in a fight or threatening behavior, makes unreasonable noise, uses obscene or abusive language, makes an obscene gesture, disturbs the lawful assembly or meeting of persons, obstructs vehicular or pedestrian traffic, or gathers in a public space and refuses to comply with a request to disperse as issued by a police officer or other law enforcement representative. Disorderly conduct is considered a Class C misdemeanor.

GOOD THINGS FOR GOOD NEIGHBORS TO REMEMBER:

- Your neighbors may not all be students, so be respectful of their different lifestyles, especially if they have children.
- Obey traffic laws in your neighborhood. There may be small children or pets in the area.
- Don’t park on your lawn or on your neighbor’s lawn.
- Don’t block your driveway or mailbox and don’t block your neighbor’s drive or mailbox.
- Don’t use furniture or appliances that are not manufactured for outdoor use on the outside of your house or apartment.
- Be sure to keep the outside of your house or apartment clean.
- Don’t take up too much street parking space. Be considerate of others who need street parking space.
- Take care of any pets you may have inside or outside. Be courteous of your neighbors and quiet a barking dog, especially at night.
- It is your responsibility to make sure your guests abide by any laws or ordinances for your neighborhood or complex.
ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

CITY OF TUSCALOOSA (http://www.tuscaloosa.com/students)  
Call Tuscaloosa 311 at 205-248-5311 for all non-emergency inquiries regarding city services and information.

- 311 is a single, 3-digit phone number that can be dialed from anywhere in Tuscaloosa. You may report broken streetlights, potholes, get assistance with permits or licenses, get information on a city-sponsored event or report a problem with any city-related service.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

- Housing and Residential Communities Off Campus website: http://offcampushousing.ua.edu
- Crimson Choice: http://crimsonchoice.ua.edu/