

Dare Night Policy

Effective: 01/01/2017

Last Updated: 03/21/2017

PREAMBLE

Western University believes strongly in eliminating and preventing behaviour that promotes a sexual violence culture as well as hazing activities on campus. Programs like Dare Nights contain highly provocative, sexualized, and risky activities that do not contribute to a safe residence environment. Further, in some cases this content is contrary to Western's Sexual Violence Policy, found on the University Secretariat's website.

Student leaders in residence, including members of Residents' Council, Residence Staff, and Residence Sophs, represent the Division of Housing and Ancillary Services and Western University. As such, they are expected to uphold the integrity of the University community at all times. While students may willingly volunteer to participate in such a program, there are inherent social pressures to participate and participants may feel compelled to engage in risky or sexualized activities. The inclusion of such challenges constitutes sexual violence. Those organizing the activity and some participants would be acting in violation of Western's Sexual Violence Policy and would be subject to appropriate sanctions under the Code of Student Conduct and the Residence Contract.

The membership of a Communications Meeting on February 9, 2017, made up of Housing professionals and the Residents' Council Presidents (2016-17), discussed the risks to students, the positive reputation of the University, and the integrity of the Residents' Councils.

In the spirit of this policy, a *dare night* is a program that encourages students to engage in behaviour that is—or ought to be—deemed high risk, out of the ordinary, or illegal. A scavenger hunt that challenges students to find specific locations or services on campus, as a way to orient students to Western, would not be considered a dare night program.

POLICY

Dare night programs (or similar programming under another name) are not permitted in Residence.

PROCEDURE

All questions regarding the **Dare Night Policy** (i.e. whether a proposed program constitutes a dare night) can be forwarded to the Programming Coordinator in the Office of Residence Education and Programs.