



THE YOCUM LIBRARY STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR POLICY

PUBLIC ACCESS

The Yocum Library is the library of Reading Area Community College (RACC). It is located on floors 2 and 3 of the Yocum Library Building. Although RACC students, staff, and faculty are the focus of the library's resources and services, the library is open to the public. The Academic Learning Commons located on floor 4 in the Yocum Library Building provides study space and tutoring for RACC students, staff, and faculty. Non-RACC patrons must limit their use of the Yocum Library Building to floors 2 and 3. All standards of conduct and sanctions listed in this document apply to the use of the Academic Learning Commons.

Any patron over 18 years of age may use the library. However, children under 18 who are not RACC students or participating in a RACC-sponsored event must be accompanied by an adult, who is at least 18 years old and responsible for the child at all times. Proof of age may be required. Children under 18 must be under direct adult supervision of a caregiver who is able to attend to the child's safety and ensure appropriate behavior. The supervising adult is responsible for the behavior and safety of minors. Library staff does not have custodial responsibility and cannot assume liability for unattended children. If a child is found unattended in the library, staff will attempt to locate the child's parent/guardian. If staff cannot locate a parent/guardian, RACC Security will be notified. Adults who cannot care for themselves must be monitored by their caregivers.

The library honors all Berks County Public Libraries consortium cards (adult and children), but the Yocum Library only issues library cards to RACC affiliated borrowers.

The library's computers are available only to current RACC students as well as current and emeriti RACC faculty, staff, and trustees. RACC students, staff, and faculty have access to the RACC wifi. There is no public wifi network in the Library.

The library staff reserves the right to remove any patron whose behavior violates the library's Standards of Behavior Policy.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

While the Yocum Library staff wants to provide an environment that is friendly and comfortable for our patrons, we must emphasize that the library is a center for learning. Some people need a quiet place to learn while others learn best through group collaboration. It is also a center for teaching because both teaching and librarian faculty instruct individuals and groups in the use of library resources and services.

Individual students may need to concentrate while studying in the library. Headphones that are able to block all sound transmission must be used when listening to audio on computers or other equipment.

Patrons who do not conform to the acceptable noise level of the library will be asked to modify their behavior or move to a more appropriate area. Patrons who do not agree to conform to the acceptable noise level of the library or agree to use another area of the library will be asked to leave the library.

Please contact a library staff member if you have a concern about noise levels at a specific time.

EXPECTED BEHAVIORS

- Patrons shall follow all RACC policies and federal, state, or local laws, including, but not limited to, the RACC Student Bill of Rights (RACC students only), RACC Computer Usage Policy which is posted on the library's website, and the Academic Honesty Policy; Federal laws on copyright infringement and peer-to-peer file sharing; and Pennsylvania laws on mutilating and stealing Library materials such as the Pennsylvania Library Theft Act which is posted on the Library's website and information kiosk at the entrance of the Library.
- Library patrons shall respect the rights of all other patrons and staff at all times. Patrons are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that enables patrons and library staff to accomplish their intended library tasks in a safe, civil, and orderly atmosphere. Patrons are urged to report disruptive behavior to library staff. Staff will take appropriate action when patron behavior causes disruption in the delivery of services.
- Patrons must wear appropriate and complete dress, including shirt and footwear, at all times.
- Patrons are responsible for their own property and should not leave personal items unattended. Unattended items may be subject to inspection and/or removal.

- If the security gates sound an alarm as a patron exits, the patron must return to the Service Desk to verify that the materials were handled properly by the staff. All briefcases, handbags, backpacks, duffle bags, overcoats, shopping bags, luggage, and other packages may be subject to inspection by library or Security staff.
- Patrons must leave the library at the designated closing times or upon request from library staff or RACC Security staff. If the library's emergency systems are activated, patrons must follow all staff directions and instructions.

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIORS

Unacceptable behaviors are those that, by the assessment of the library staff, interfere with the use of the library by other patrons, create a risk of injury to other patrons and/or library staff, interfere with the work of library staff, or create a risk of damage to library property. The library reserves the right to interpret this standard, to apply it, and to change it as necessary. This is not an exhaustive list; unacceptable behaviors include, but are not limited, to:

1. Harassing or discriminatory behavior based on race, color, religion, gender, age, national origin, veteran status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or any other status protected by law.
2. Any type of behavior that detracts from the teaching/learning process such as running, throwing objects; yelling; climbing on furniture; following patrons or staff throughout the library; annoying fellow patrons by talking to them while they are trying to read, study or contemplate; abusing, verbally harassing or intimidating patrons or staff; use of profanity, abusive or threatening language; use of threatening gestures or unwanted physical contact.
3. Intentionally damaging, destroying, or stealing any property that belongs to the library, a staff member, or a patron.
4. Possession or consumption of alcohol except at authorized RACC functions.
5. Possession or consumption of illegal drugs, narcotics, or controlled substances.
6. Consumption of tobacco products including vaping products.

7. Inappropriate sexual behavior including engaging in lewd or lascivious behavior, solicitation, sexual harassment, indecent exposure and/or voyeurism.
8. Possession of weapons of any kind, except by authorized RACC staff or law enforcement officers.
9. Roller blading, roller skating, or skate boarding on library premises.
10. Bringing animals into the library except those that are part of a RACC program or are service animals.
11. Distributing, posting, or placing on library property any printed materials except through authorized RACC procedures.
12. Selling or soliciting in the library unless authorized by the RACC administration such as for RACC clubs.
13. Entering areas marked "Library Staff Only" or using library staff telephones or other staff equipment without permission.
14. Inappropriately or excessively using the restrooms including bathing, shaving, or clothes washing.
15. Sleeping in the library.
16. Viewing on computer or phone screens images that are not appropriate for a public and open environment and that create a hostile or offensive work environment.
17. Using emergency exits or setting off fire, elevator, and/or exit door alarms when no emergency exists.
18. Blocking walkways, exits, or entrances with electrical cords or personal belongings.

SANCTIONS

- RACC students, faculty, and staff are liable to the sanctions as defined in existing RACC policies. These sanctions may include warnings, immediate removal from the library by Security staff, and/or permanent banning from the library. Appeals may be made following established RACC policies.

- Non-RACC patrons who violate The Yocum Library's Standards of Behavior Policy may receive sanctions that include a warning, immediate removal from the library by Security staff, permanent banning from the RACC campus, and/or criminal prosecution if the conduct constitutes a violation of local, state or federal law.

August 2022