Internal Search Policy
Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs

The University reserves the right to enter student rooms/apartments/suites in University Housing for reasons of health, normal maintenance, upholding community standards (including safety and discipline), and inspection of or making necessary repairs to rooms, furnishings, or room equipment. Except in cases of health and safety inspections or genuine emergency, a search of the contents of a student’s room/apartment/suite will be made only with: (1) his or her consent; or (2) a University Search Authorization issued by the Vice President of Student Affairs or designee; or (3) a duly authorized search warrant from a local court.

The Vice President of Student Affairs will not issue a University Search Authorization unless presented with evidence sufficient to give rise to a belief that a search will demonstrate that a violation of University regulations or local, state, or federal law has taken place, is taking place, or will take place, or that a danger to the health or safety of the occupant(s) of the living unit or other members of the Boston College community exists. A University Search Authorization will set forth the premises, the person or persons who are the subject(s) of the search, the item(s) being sought, and the time within which the warrant will remain valid.

A search based upon a University Search Authorization will be conducted by the Boston College Police Department or the Director of Residential Life or their designees and other university officials deemed appropriate in the situation.