

Organizational Report: University of Virginia College at Wise Residential Life Organizational Relationships

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PAPA 5315
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May 9, 2025

In this assignment, I worked with 3 other MPA Candidates to analyze a public organization in Behavioral Skills. The organization we chose was the University of Virginia Wise's Residence Life department, as it was the employer of one of my group members. My section of the paper, following below, reviews the organizational relationships between UVA Wise's Residence Life and other important stakeholders on campus. Our group also presented this analysis to our classmates in Behavior Skills as our final assignment. Through this work, I was able to gain a deeper understanding of how organizations interact with each other to provide services to their community.

Organizational Relationships

University of Virginia's College at Wise (UVA Wise) Residence Life plays an essential role on campus. The organization maintains relationships with a multitude of partners, both on and off campus. These partnerships are critical to the success of UVA Wise Residence Life, as they further advance the mission and values of the department. Their relationships and partners both on and off campus are crucial to the success of their department.

Building Management Partners

UVA Wise Residence Life operates in close collaboration with several on-campus and external organizations, each playing a vital role in the department's ability to support students and maintain a safe, functional, residential environment. One of the most essential partnerships is with the Facilities & Housekeeping team, who is responsible for residence hall maintenance, repairs, and general campus upkeep. Their support is especially critical during facility emergencies, such as water leaks or building floods, where a swift and coordinated response is needed to minimize disruption to students' living conditions.

In addition to local operations, the department works regularly with Construction Managers based at UVA Charlottesville, despite being in Southwest Virginia. These partnerships are necessary for long-term planning and capital projects, including dormitory renovations, infrastructure updates, and the development of new residential facilities on the UVA Wise campus (J. Scott, personal communication, April 11, 2025). Residence Life also works with both

Facilities and UVA Construction Management to coordinate with external public entities—such as the City of Norton and Wise County—to ensure that all residence halls have reliable access to essential services like water and electricity.

Another critical on-campus partner is the UVA Wise Campus Police Department. Residence Life and Campus Police share mutual responsibility for maintaining student safety and responding to concerns within residential buildings. This partnership includes regular coordination for wellness checks, policy violations, crisis situations, and after-hours emergencies, helping ensure that student well-being always remains a top priority.

Together, these collaborations reflect the interconnected nature of campus operations and highlight how Residence Life must maintain strong relationships across departments and jurisdictions to provide a secure, well-maintained, and supportive environment for all residential students.

Student Centric Partners

UVA Wise Residence Life maintains several key partnerships that support student wellness, engagement, and enrollment planning. One of the most important is Counseling Services, which works closely with Residence Life to respond to mental health needs on campus. Resident Assistants (RAs) refer students through CARE reports, allowing for early intervention and connection to support resources. This collaboration prioritizes students' health while they are studying at UVA Wise.

Residence Life also collaborates with the Division of Student Affairs to enrich residential experience through joint programming, student leadership development, and community-building efforts. In addition, coordination with Financial Aid and Admissions is essential for monitoring enrollment trends and housing demand. These partnerships help Residence Life anticipate student needs and ensure a smooth housing process for incoming classes.

Together, UVA Wise Residential Life's collaborations with both Building Management and Student Centric partners reflect a holistic approach to supporting students both inside and outside of their residential environments. Their conscious approach to working with key departments supports their overall mission of maintaining a safe residential space for students.

Appendix

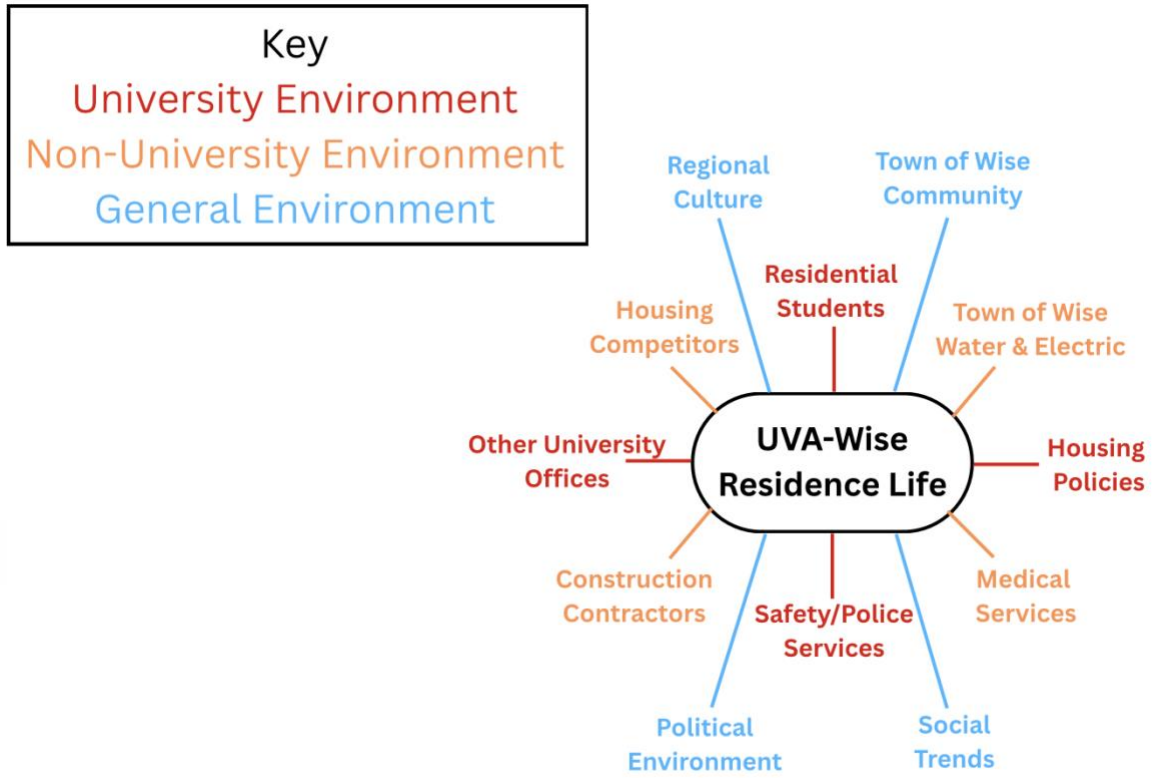


Figure 1 – Organizational Environment of UVA-Wise Residence Life Environment