



BENTLEY
UNIVERSITY

The Bentley Temperature Policy Simplified Guide

Bentley University

Academic Year 2019/2020

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Overview

This document serves as a high level summary of the Bentley University temperature policy; please see the full policy for more detail.

The primary objective of Bentley University's temperature policy is to create a reasonably comfortable living and working environment for Bentley's students, faculty and staff, while balancing the need to use resources and money wisely. Energy management prolongs heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment life, reduces greenhouse gas emissions and lowers utility costs.

Bentley's temperature policy is consistent with the policies of our peer institutions and is based on research performed by the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE).

The policy provides the university with a number of benefits:

1. This policy serves as a formalized standard for temperature ranges to be expected by building occupants on Bentley's campus. It also provides the Facilities Management department with a documented policy to stand behind in addressing questions regarding temperatures in buildings.
2. From a financial perspective, the policy supports the university's efforts to minimize room and board increases by reducing (or holding steady) utility costs associated with the consumption of energy generated from electricity or the burning of fossil fuels.
3. Finally, this policy supports Bentley's commitment to sustainability. Energy use reduction resulting from this measure helps curtail the global social and environmental impacts of climate change.

Applicability

This policy applies to all buildings on Bentley University's Waltham, MA campus. It applies at all times, from the academic year, to summer camps.

What is the policy?

Heating Season

During the heating season (generally mid-October to mid-April), a temperature range of 68.5°F - 75°F has been established as "the comfortable temperature for most people who are dressed appropriately for the season" per the **American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Standard 55, *Thermal Environmental Conditions for Human Occupancy***.

During the heating season when outdoor temperatures dip below 65°F, heating will be enabled and all interior spaces will be heated to a minimum of 68°F. Temperatures in interior spaces are considered within range if they are between 68°F - 74°F when occupied. All units do not heat in the same way-temperatures will vary in all buildings. Facilities Management works to ensure all buildings and rooms stay within 3°F of this range.

Cooling Season

During the cooling season (generally mid-April to mid-October), a temperature range of 75°F - 80°F has been established as “the comfortable temperature for most people who are dressed appropriately for the season” per the **American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Standard 55, *Thermal Environmental Conditions for Human Occupancy***.

During the cooling season when outdoor temperatures rise above 71°F, cooling will be enabled and all interior spaces will be cooled to a minimum of 74°F. Temperatures in interior spaces are considered within range if they are between 68°F - 74°F when occupied. All units do not cool in the same way- temperatures will vary in all buildings. Facilities Management works to ensure all buildings and rooms stay within 3°F of this range.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why did my unit stop?

There are a couple reasons for this:

Duty Cycling

Your unit may turn off because of **duty cycling**. Your unit needs time to take a break and rest. Duty cycling extends the life of the units and prevents premature freezing or burnout.

Target Temperature

If an indoor space has reached an ideal temperature (68°F to 74°F) the unit may switch between “off” and “on” to maintain that temperature.

External Temperature

All buildings are equipped with **external temperature sensors**. These sensors measure outside air and communicate the temperature back to your unit. When the external temperature is between 61°F and 75°F the unit will not turn on. When this happens you should open your window.

It's Broken

Your unit may have stopped because it's broken. This could have happened because of overuse, or age. Should your unit break during heating system, a supplemental heater will be provided. Supplemental electric heaters, or space heaters, will only be issued in the case of long-term system malfunctions and as authorized and provided by Facilities Management. Note that certain electric heaters can cause fires. Only heaters issued by Facilities Management are allowed on campus.

Medical Conditions

If a residential student has a medical condition that requires specific heating, cooling, air filtration, or dehumidification, they must contact the Residential Center prior to housing selection. The resident must present a letter from their doctor detailing the requirements. This shall include heating, cooling and humidification set points and air filtration needs. Facilities Management will review the requirements and provide the Residential Center with a list of buildings and/or rooms that meet the requirements. Please note that supplemental or space heaters are not permitted on campus, except

those provided by Facilities Management for temporary heat when a heating system has failed. Priority housing may be granted by the Residential Center in order to ensure the health and well-being of the resident.

Key Terms

Heating Season- The heating season usually runs from mid-October to mid-May.

Cooling Season- The cooling season usually runs from mid-May to mid-October.

Duty Cycling- When a unit turns off in order to preserve its useful life.

Internal Temperature Sensors- Sensors that measure temperatures in interior spaces.

External Temperature Sensors- Sensors that measure outdoor temperatures.