Dining Services

All resident students are required to have a meal contract. First-year students are required to have the Full Meal Plan, but may upgrade to the optional Anytime Meal Plan. Upper-level resident students may choose either the Anytime Meal Plan, the Full Meal Plan, or the Any-14 Meal Plan. Nonresident students may arrange on a term basis for the Off Campus Meal Plan, the Full Meal Plan, the Any-14 Meal Plan, or Eli Bucks for the purchase of individual meals. Follow the appropriate links to obtain more information about meal plans, the Yale Dining calendar and the operating schedule.

A. Charges

Students who have a dining contract are required (except as provided in Financial Services) to pay the charge of the contract until the end of the term for which it was taken. Bills for additional charges, if incurred, will ordinarily be rendered monthly or before the end of each term. Board bills for nonresident students will ordinarily be rendered on a term basis in advance.

B. Refunds

No refunds or rebates can be given for meals not taken during a term. In order to receive a refund due to a withdrawal or leave of absence, students are required to submit a written request to the Yale Dining Business Office (yale.dining@yale.edu). No board rebate can be given for any day before the day on which the student advises the Yale Dining Business Office of her or his status change, or the day on which notification is received by the Yale Dining Business Office.

For more information about Refunds, see Financial Services.

C. Dining Hall Access

All undergraduates must present their University identification cards to access any Yale dining hall. Upon entering a dining hall, students present their University identification cards for electronic scanning. Students who do not present a valid Yale identification card may be denied access to a dining hall. The individual residential colleges reserve the right to limit access to their dining halls at specified times.

D. Misuse or Misappropriation of Dining Services Privileges

Dining privileges are not transferable and may not be given or sold to another person. If meals are improperly obtained in a dining hall or in a University retail location, the executive director of Yale Dining or the director’s designee has the authority to impose fines and charges on the offending person or persons.

1. A student who gives, lends, or sells the use of a Yale identification card to a non-Yale person will be fined $100 and required to pay at the current guest rate for the meal or meals taken.
2. A student who gives, lends, or sells the use of a Yale identification card to another Yale student will be fined $100. The student who receives the card will also be fined $100 and will be required to pay at the current guest rate for the meal or meals taken.
3. A nonresident student without a dining contract who has not paid for a meal but who takes food available for self-service or who takes food from another person’s tray will be fined $100 and required to pay for the meal at the current guest rate. (See also section F, “Nonresident students (p. 2).”)
4. If a student brings a guest to a dining hall with no payment being made for a meal for the guest, and the guest takes food available for self-service or takes food from another person’s tray, the student who is the host will be fined $100 and required to pay for the meal at the current guest rate. (See also section G, “Guests (p. 2).”)

Fines and charges will be billed to the student’s account with Student Financial Services. When the executive director of Yale Dining or the director’s designee imposes a fine on a student, he or she will so notify the student in writing, describing the evidentiary basis for his or her decision. The executive director will also send a copy of this notice to the student’s residential college head and dean and to the chair of the Yale College Executive Committee, and will, at his or her discretion, request that further disciplinary action be taken by the Yale College Executive Committee. The Executive Committee itself may also, at its discretion, assume disciplinary authority with regard to the offenses described in these paragraphs.

E. Transfers

An undergraduate with meal privileges may take meals in other residential colleges, Commons, or the Hall of Graduate Studies Dining Hall by exhibiting a Yale identification card.

Additionally, students with classes in the area (which make it difficult or impossible to return to a dining hall for lunch) are allowed to transfer their meal contracts on a cash equivalency basis to the following retail food services at lunch: the KBT Cafe, Thain Family Cafe, Durfee’s, Cafe Med and the Divinity School Refectory. The value of the transfer for meals is limited to the cash equivalency for the meal taken. As there are time-period restrictions, students should check with these units before attempting to use their meal contract equivalency. (See section D, “Misuse or misappropriation of dining services privileges (p. 1).”)

Off-campus students who purchase any meal plans (the Off Campus 5 Meal Plan, the Anytime Meal Plan, the Full Meal Plan, or the Any-14 Meal Plan) are entitled to transfer meals to the dining halls at the KBT Cafe, the Divinity School Refectory, the Hall of...
Graduate Studies and Cafe Med. As there are time-period restrictions to eating in those facilities, students should check with them before attempting to use their meal contract equivalency. Dining Points or Eli Bucks may be used at these facilities.

Transfers are not accepted during special events. Dining hall managers reserve the right to limit transfers at specified times, as directed by individual masters, or at any other time when transfer requests cannot be accommodated.

F. NONRESIDENT STUDENTS

Off-campus students are encouraged to come frequently to the dining halls of their residential colleges. They may purchase the Off Campus 5 Meal Plan, the Anytime Meal Plan, the Full Meal Plan, the Any-14 Meal Plan, or the Eli Bucks Plan for the purchase of individual meals. Such a contract, when purchased, remains valid for the term and cannot be redeemed. Nonresident students may also charge meals to their Yale student accounts with Student Financial Services or pay for them cash by credit card (MasterCard, Visa, Discover or AmEx) at the guest rate. (See section A, “Charges (p. 1).”)

The service standard in the Yale College dining halls, which provides free access to the dining hall and unlimited second helpings, makes it inappropriate to charge by the item; payment for the full meal is consequently required. Off-campus students who come to a dining hall must therefore pay for the meal being served or refrain from eating. (See section D, “Misuse or misappropriation of dining service privileges (p. 1).”)

G. GUESTS

Students are welcome to have guests in the dining halls. Payment at a guest rate may be made by credit card (MasterCard, Visa, Discover or AmEx) or may be charged to the student’s Yale account with Student Financial Services. Dining Points or Eli Bucks may be used for guests’ meals also. (See section A, “Charges (p. 1).”) For reasons given above, payment for a full meal is required, and it is not possible to pay by the item. Hosts may not share food from their own trays with guests. (See section D, “Misuse or misappropriation of dining services privileges (p. 1).”)

H. REMOVAL OF FOOD

Meal contracts and guest payments entitle a diner to the food being served at a meal for consumption at that time. Food may not be taken from the dining hall to be consumed later. Only the following items are permitted to be eaten “on-the-go”: a single beverage in a refillable mug no larger than 24 ounces; a sandwich, burger, or pizza slice; a cookie or brownie, an ice cream cone, or a single piece of fruit.

Students with meal contracts who cannot eat a lunch or a dinner in a dining hall may obtain a sack lunch or a late plate by filling out a form online at http://hospitality.yale.edu/orders2go.

I. MODIFIED DIETS AND FOOD ALLERGIES

A student with food allergies or other medical condition which requires dietary restrictions should fill out the Special Dietary Needs Self Identification Form and follow the instructions at http://hospitality.yale.edu/special-dietary-needs. Students with allergies or who need a modified diet are strongly encouraged to speak to the manager of his or her residential college dining hall. Arrangements will be made to accommodate reasonable dietary restrictions at no extra charge. Students may be asked to provide supporting medical documentation from the student’s physician and/or Yale Health; this documentation is evaluated by and registered with the Resource Office on Disabilities. Additional information about dining accommodations can be found at http://hospitality.yale.edu/special-dietary-needs.

J. CHINA, FLATWARE, AND GLASSWARE

Removing china, flatware, and glassware from the dining hall constitutes theft and is forbidden. Disciplinary action may be taken.

K. USE OF THE DINING HALLS AFTER MEALS

Students or groups wishing to use a dining hall after meals for such events as dances or plays must first secure the permission of the head of the college and then coordinate the usage with the dining hall manager. Food purchased outside of Yale Dining is not allowed in any dining hall. There may be a charge for use of the dining hall. It is important to maintain the general condition of the dining facility after an event. Due to risk of injury and potential damages to furniture and facilities, students may not move dining room furnishings. Any such movement must be arranged through the dining hall manager and may require a fee for labor. Any special cleaning or damages will be charged to the student account or to the student organization sponsoring the event.

L. CONDUCT IN THE DINING HALLS

The dining halls are important social centers at Yale, and in the residential colleges especially they are the focus of much of the social life of the community. So that they may be places where everyone can eat and talk in comfort, certain activities must be regulated or entirely prohibited.

1. Annoyances. Loudness and offensive boisterousness are inconsiderate invasions of the rights of others and are not allowed. Food-throwing is absolutely forbidden.

2. Soliciting. Permission of the head of the college is required for solicitation in a residential college. (See Student Activities and Extracurricular Activities, section I, “Solicitation and sales in residential colleges and other buildings”.) Table-to-table solicitations and sales are prohibited. Students wishing to solicit for any purpose must consult the dining hall manager; at most times in
most of the residential colleges, tables and chairs can be provided for such students near the entrance to the dining hall. Public announcements, except with the approval of the dining hall manager and the head of the college, are not allowed during meals.

3. Photographing. In general, photographing during meals is not allowed because it interferes with the privacy of others. Written application for an exception to this rule must be made to the dining hall manager and the head of the college. Photographing a dining hall when meals are not being served can be arranged by contacting the dining hall manager who will obtain permission from the Director of Yale Dining.

4. Table Tents and Other Notices. Table tents and other notices are no longer permitted on tables in any of the dining halls. Students are encouraged to use electronic bulletin boards, websites, and social media to advertise their events.

5. Smoking Regulations. Smoking is not permitted in the public areas of University buildings.

M. PENALTIES

For penalties for misuse of dining hall privileges, see section D, "Misuse or misappropriation of dining services privileges (p. 1)."
The dining hall manager will refer other violations of the Dining Services Regulations to the head of the residential college or to the Yale College Executive Committee for disciplinary action. The head of the college has the right to forbid a student who violates the regulations to enter the dining hall, either permanently or for a specified period of time.