

The university policy on tampering can be succinctly summarized as prohibiting tampering with windows and their components, doors and their components, and also elevators. The policy more or less covers the various methods of entry into a building and room. As the section on door locks pertains most to violations within my incident, I will elaborate on it. First, I will recapitulate what exactly happened during the incident, without names to maintain privacy of the involved persons. I was in my friend's room and found out that my other friend owned a lockpick set. Being just another Berkeley student with a thirst for a knowledge, my interest was piqued. From intuition, I decided to first check up on the legality of lockpicking in California. It is not illegal to own a lockpick set, but it is illegal to pick someone else's lock without permission. I thus obtained permission from my friend to attempt to lockpick his door's lock. Believing I had every right to do so, I proceeded to attempt to pick my friend's lock until the RA came. My mistake was that while trying to fulfill my intense desire to learn, I completely forgot to consider university policy on lockpicking and only made sure I complied with California law. While university policy on tampering doesn't explicitly name lockpicking, it is included under tampering with door locks. Before we proceed, we should more clearly define tampering as to reduce confusion. According to a Google search on the word, tampering is interfering in "order to cause damage or make unauthorized altercations." I also attempted to find a legal definition using US Legal and found that tampering is "an intentional act of interfering improperly or in a harmful manner." I am by no means trying to justify my actions, but according to these definitions of tampering, my violation doesn't deal with intentional harm to the door lock but instead more of being unauthorized, in which case I didn't realize that simply having my friend's permission to pick his own room's lock wasn't enough. In addition, only after my RA told me that lockpicking could break the lock did I realize that I could cause damage unintentionally. Doing some online research, I found that it was very unlikely to break a good quality lock, such as those I assume the university would use in our dorms if they are acting in the best interests of our safety and security, by lockpicking it. However, it is this very possibility of breakage that should deter students from even trying. Just looking online for lockpicking tutorials, I found that none mentioned that locks could break from trying to pick them, so I believe to prevent future occurrences like mine, students should be notified of this fact. Also, looking at a different section of university policy, entering someone else's "private room," even with their permission, is not allowed because only a "Residential staff member or other approved University staff" is allowed to give such permission. There is also mention of "security procedures," but it is undefined, so I am unable to comment on that. Thus, my

friend didn't have adequate authority to allow me to lockpick his room's lock. Likewise, in the future, whenever I so desire to, I should ask my RA if I can study with my friend in his room because only the RA can give such permission to allow me to.

The university, I believe, acts in the best interest of its students in terms of learning, safety, and security among other factors. The rationale behind the university policy on tampering logically follows this belief. Students have a right to feel safe and secure in their own rooms. Thus, prohibiting students from lockpicking a friend's door with the friend's permission, or even one's own room's lock logically follows.

Now let's look at what could happen if the university did not have such a policy. One day, a student will try to lockpick a door, with permission of course. Then they will find out that what they did was ok, so they keep learning how to lockpick. It's a pretty cool skill, so other students might also try learning how to lockpick as well. As with any skill, with practice they'll probably get pretty good. Perhaps this will spread across the university and soon enough everyone will know how to lockpick. Who knows, maybe one day someone will lockpick without permission, and perhaps even that will spread. Soon enough security as we know it will be dead because everyone can lockpick. Even worse, the rest of the world will likely hear that at UC Berkeley, #1 Public University, traditional security as we know it is dead. With nothing safe, the world falls into chaos. We are very thankful for this university policy.