

# Res Hall Roommate Agreement

This agreement between roommates is to ensure that basic needs have been discussed. Roommates should discuss each topic and agree to guidelines that each can live with reasonably. This agreement is not meant to be a means of control but a tool to get roommates to talk about expectations and experiences and how they impact the roommate relationship.

1. **Roommates should work together to complete this agreement – your RA or MA can be of assistance.**  
*Be willing to compromise, but also assert your rights. Be honest about your feelings. Consider not what is ideal, but **reasonable**. Start with easy, win-win items. Go on to what you can then agree upon reasonably. Use your RA or MA to negotiate the difficult topics. You can always revisit over the course of the year if necessary.*
2. **Agreement needs to signed and dated by all roommates.**
3. **Due to Housing being full in the fall semester, room changes will not be allowed until all students from temporary housing have been assigned permanent spaces. This makes is critical that roommates try their best to compromise.**

## Things to Consider:

While living in the residence halls, each resident has the right to...

- \* Read and study free from undue interference in one's room. Unreasonable noise and distractions inhibit the exercise of this right.
- \* Sleep a reasonable amount of hours each night without undue disturbance from noise, roommate's guests, etc.
- \* Expect that a roommate will respect one's personal belongings.
- \* A clean & healthy environment in which to live.
- \* Free access to one's room and facilities without pressure from a roommate.
- \* Personal privacy.
- \* Host guests during agreed upon hours with the expectations that guests are to respect the roommate's right, and follow all hall policies.
- \* Be free from fear if intimidation, physical, and/or emotional harm.
- \* Expect reasonable cooperation in the use of "room shared" appliances (such as a fridge, tv, etc.) and a commitment to honor agreed upon procedures.

**Remember: only you can assure that you and your roommate(s) enjoy these rights.**

## Breaking the Ice

Before you start to talk about the specific details involved with living together, it will be helpful for you to get to know each other better. In your conversations be sure to talk about all of the following topics: past experiences with roommates, feelings about living with someone, hobbies and interests, academic major, career aspirations, personal and family values, faith and spirituality, lifestyle choices – such as those around food, exercise, sleep, etc.

1. Feelings about living with a roommate. Past experiences and expectations.
2. Who are you? What do you do in your free time? Hobbies/interests?
3. Parts of your identity you are COMFORTABLE sharing. (i.e. race/ethnicity, religion, ability, sexual orientation, etc.)

## Topics:

1. **VISITATION and GUESTS:** What will we do if friends want to visit when one of us is studying? How many? How often? Specific hours for guests? Prior notification to roommate? At what time should they leave? Same gender vs. other gender guests? If you are away for the weekend, may I have a guest use your bed?
2. **STUDY & SLEEP HABITS, HOURS and NOISE:** Studying environment? Music? Headphones? Sleeping? TV? Skype/Facetime? When do you typically go to bed? Wake up? What time do we want to have lights out during the week? On the weekend? How will we work things out with different sleeping patterns? If one person is sleeping, what activities are acceptable in the room?

3. **PHONE USE:** Specific times? Usage in room? Do you do a lot of texting? Alerts on or off? What is an appropriate ringer volume/tone?
  
4. **CLEANLINESS:** Dishes? Laundry? Vacuum? Who/How often? Schedule? Personal Habits? Food? Storage? Who cleans what? How often will we take out the trash?
  
5. **PERSONAL PROPERTY:** Permission to borrow? What can be shared? Fridge? Printer? Clothes? Food? Include any costs that will be shared. What's not ok to borrow without asking? What shared belongings do we have (e.g. refrigerator, microwave, tv, window fan)? How will we share them?
  
6. **PERSONAL/COMMON SPACE:** Decorations? Furnishings? Carpet? Temperature? Windows? Do you like to be hot? Or cold? Do you like to have the window open?
  
7. **COMMUNICATION:** Who? What? Where? When? Where will messages be left? Someone stops by? How will we communicate when something is bothering one of us? How would you like to be approached if I have a question for you about cultural differences, religious differences, lifestyle differences, etc.?
  
8. **BEHAVIORS:** What specific behaviors are desired? Which are not desired? How do we resolve conflict when we disagree? How will we confront each other if one of us or our guest is violation a University Housing "Hallmarks" policy or campus policy in the room?
  
9. **OTHER:** Was there anything not covered? Are you allergic to anything? (certain foods, cologne/perfume, etc.)

The signatures below indicate that this Roommate Agreement was completed by all residents of the room along with a Resident Advisor and that all residents agree to abide by the conditions and work to resolve any conflicts.

\_\_\_\_\_

Room # and Hall

\_\_\_\_\_

RA Initials

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Roommate 1

\_\_\_\_\_

Roommate 2

\_\_\_\_\_

Roommate 3