

ROOMMATE AGREEMENT CONVERSATION GUIDE

TRADITIONAL STYLE

PROCESS

1 Once all roommates have moved into the room, plan a time in the first week for everyone to discuss and complete the online roommate agreement. By talking about these items now, you can set expectations together for the space and decrease the chance for future conflict and misunderstanding

2 In the Resources and Forms section of the housing portal, one roommate will record group decisions to the prompted Roommate Agreement questions, saving often to not lose work. Roommate pairs will be prompted to set expectations for sharing the bedroom within distinct portions of the same roommate agreement.

3 While still together, all other roommate(s) will log into the housing portal individually to agree to the roommate agreement.



4 You've completed the roommate agreement! It will be accessible throughout the semester. If someone edits or adds to the agreement, roommates will be prompted to log back in to the housing portal to agree to submitted changes.

TIPS

- Be clear from the beginning.
- Address things when they're small.
- Respect your roommate's belongings.
- Be aware of who you invite into your room and how often.
- Lock the door and windows.

- Be friendly, without expecting to be best friends.
- Be open to new things.
- Be open to change.
- Address things.

QUESTIONS

This is a sampling of questions addressing common talking points for community members in traditional-style spaces. Questions in the housing portal may be slightly different.

SAFETY

- Discuss strategies for ensuring the security of your space and avoiding issues with locking one another out. And how will you communicate with one another if a lock-out does occur?
- If leaving to take a shower, we will:

- A. Take our keys with us in case a roommate leaves.
- B. Communicate with roommate(s) so they don't lock the door.

CLEANLINESS

- Be prepared to discuss what a comfortable level of clean looks like for your roommate group.
- For our space to be clean, the trash should be taken out:
- For our space to be clean, perishable food and other trash with strong odors should be thrown away:
- For our space to be clean, we will wash our own laundry:
- For our space to be clean, items such as clothes, electronics, books, dishes, and other personal items will be picked up and put away:
- For our room to be clean, we will make our beds:
- For our space to be clean, spills are cleaned up off of the floor and wiped up off of counter tops:
- For our space to be clean, the floor should be vacuumed or swept:
- For our space to be clean, all surfaces should be sanitized:

- A. Immediately
- B. Daily
- C. Weekly
- D. Monthly
- E. Twice per semester
- F. Once per semester

SHARING PREFERENCES

- Be prepared to elaborate on any specific items you want to share or not.
- Our expectation of sharing our items with each other is:

- A. Very comfortable sharing items; including clothes, food, TV, cleaning supplies, etc.
- B. Comfortable sharing items if our roommate asks first.
- C. Comfortable sharing some items but not others.
- D. Not comfortable sharing any of our items.

ROOMMATE COMMUNICATION AND RELATIONSHIP

- Our preferred method of communication to address situations:
- Be prepared to elaborate about the preferred method of communication selected in the previous question.
- Be prepared to discuss how you will handle a situation when we might not agree on something?
- Our ideal relationship as roommates is:
- Describe your ideal roommate relationship if not accurately reflected in the previous multiple choice question.

- A. In person as it arises
- B. In person at a scheduled time
- C. Phone call
- D. Text Message
- E. Written Notes
- F. Social Media Messenger

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

- Discuss with your roommate(s) how you will adhere to the Alcohol & Other Drugs standards.
- As stated in the Standards of Residence, *marijuana, even if it is medicinal, cannot be stored, used or possessed on campus property. In addition, only students 21 years of age or older can possess or consume alcohol in their living space.*

- A. Being respectful roommates is our goal. Making small talk or spending time together is not necessary for us to be happy living in the same space.
- B. We like it best when we can come home to a friendly face and ask how each other's day was, but may not talk beyond that.
- C. We would like to be friendly roommates who are comfortable spending time with one another occasionally, but may not spend a lot of time together or confide in one another.
- D. We consider one another friends in addition to being roommates. We would like to spend time with each other and each other's friends and talk regularly about things going on in our lives.

NOISE, SLEEP, AND TEMPERATURE PREFERENCES

- Discuss your ideal sleeping environment (consider noise level, temperature, light, different schedules and sleeping times, and how you will handle times when not everyone in the room is sleeping at the same time).
- Describe the ideal times to go to bed and wake up considering school nights, class or work in the morning, and weekends.
- When more than one roommate is in a shared space, how will we handle noise?
- Describe the ideal studying environment. Consider noise level, other people around, and quiet and courtesy hours.

- A. Background music is always okay, but headphones should always be used for videos.
- B. Music and videos can always be played without headphones.
- C. Music, video games, and TV shows with violent content or foul language should always be kept on headphones.
- D. Unless someone is studying or sleeping, music and videos can be played without headphones.
- E. We should always use headphones for music or videos.
- F. We will ask before turning on music or videos without headphones

GUESTS

According to the Standards of Residence, *overnight guests are permitted to stay a maximum of 3 consecutive nights with permission from all roommates.*

- We agree to the following regarding guests:
- Be prepared to discuss in-hall visitors in depth.

- A. We will always ask in advance before a in-hall visitor comes over, no matter the time of day or night.
- B. We will always ask in advance before an overnight in-hall visitor stays, but it is okay to have in-hall visitors during the day without asking in advance.
- C. We will not allow overnight in-hall visitors, but will allow in-hall visitors for socializing during the day with advance notice to roommates.
- D. We will discuss each in-hall visitor on a case-by-case basis.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Be prepared to discuss how you would like to use the space, be sure to:

- Consider any allergies/dietary preferences that would impact your roommate(s).
- Consider anything related to your identities that might be important to share, such as: familial background and practices, religious or cultural practices, political ideologies, vulgar language, taking shoes off, music, clothing when relaxing, etc. that affect how you would like to use your space. For a frame of reference, visit Housing and Residence Life's Commitment to Inclusive Communities.