

Resident rights and responsibilities



In order to help you understand the expectations for living on campus, the Housing and Residence Life Office has outlined rights that each individual resident has living in a university space.

All students have the right to:

- Live in a clean environment.
- Sleep with as little disturbance as possible.
- Have your personal belongings respected.
- Free access to your room and facilities without interference.
- Study free from undue interference in the room.
- Host guest(s) at agreed upon times with the expectation that guests will respect the rights of the host's roommate(s) and/or suitemate(s) and other residents in the community.
- Veto a guest(s) for justifiable reasons.
- Be free of intimidation, fear, and physical or emotional harm.
- Seek reasonable cooperation from your roommate(s) and/or suitemate(s).
- Speak out openly and constructively about ideas, opinions and grievances and to involve a residence hall staff member in such a discussion.
- And the responsibility to uphold these rights for myself and my roommate(s).

Any and all disagreements with my roommate(s) shall be discussed in an atmosphere of openness and mutual respect. All students commit to resolving conflicts using the following guidelines:

- Speak to their roommate or suitemate directly. Review and discuss the Living Agreement that is completed. State issues neutrally. Relate and discuss feelings and then offer resolutions. Be prepared to listen and to compromise.
- Students may ask their RA to intervene by meeting with them and the other person(s) involved. In their role as a neutral mediator, the RA will try to help you resolve the problem.
- Roommates or suitemates may ask an professional staff member to serve as the arbitrator in resolving the conflict. Individuals may be asked to sign an additional or edited Living Agreement. Failure to comply with a Living Agreement that has been arbitrated by a professional staff member could result in a mandatory room change.

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For many students, having a roommate in college will be the first time they have had to share their space. It is a time that each student learns how his or her behavior and actions affect others, both positive and negative. We encourage each student to be open and flexible while learning about themselves and others.

Our students will learn to set limits, hold others accountable, and to be held responsible. College involves learning, growing and changing inside and outside of the classroom.

The roommate experience can be an invaluable part of education. It will take effort, energy, and a healthy dose of understanding. The roommate relationship is like any other healthy relationship – it requires mutual respect, understanding, common expectations, and the ability to laugh and have fun with each other.

Our staff members are well trained in conflict mediation and can educate students on appropriate assertiveness, listening skills, and communication skills if needed.

To help our students prepare for living with a roommate, we have tips and guidelines for conflict resolution.

- Set clear expectations from the beginning.
- Keep an open mind.
- Treat your roommate how they want to be treated.
- Be realistic.
- Communicate.
- Be sure to have the facts, not what you think happened.
- Talk about concerns sooner than later. The longer a you wait to confront the problem, the worse it can become.
- Don't talk to others before talking to your roommate/
- Speak in terms of "me," not "we." It's important to talk for yourself, not everyone else.
- Talk face to face. Notes, email and text can lead to misinterpretation.
- You will often get better results by remaining calm and rational.
- Think about what you are going to say and a possible solution.
- To be heard, you need to listen.
- Often roommates have concerns with each other and that might come out in your discussion. Be ready to hear feedback from your roommate as well.
- Not doing anything is an option, but then you must accept the consequence of choosing no action.

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