

## Communicate openly with your roommate

**The** following information provides a guide to roommate relations, and gives you some helpful information to read and consider before you arrive. By keeping these guidelines in mind, you can pave the way to a happy and healthy relationship with your roommate.

### Roommate Bill of Responsibilities

- The responsibility to maintain a clean living area.
- The responsibility to respect your roommate's belongings.
- The responsibility to resolve grievances. Residence staff are available for assistance in resolving conflicts.
- The responsibility to allow your roommate to read and study in your room/suite free from undue interference. Unreasonable noise and other distractions inhibit these activities.
- The responsibility to allow your roommate to sleep without undue disturbance from noise, guests, or other disruptions.
- The responsibility to allow your roommate free access to his/her room and facilities.
- The responsibility to provide your roommate with privacy.
- The responsibility to allow your roommate to be free from fear of intimidation and physical or emotional harm.
- The responsibility to ensure that your guests respect the rights and privacy of your roommate and other residents.
- The responsibility to behave privately and discretely, particularly with intimate relationships.

## I have never shared a room with anyone before!

Sharing a room with someone is similar to other relationships – to be successful it requires openness, flexibility, and respect. Right from the beginning, it is important to communicate openly with your roommate. Learning to live with another person, to acknowledge and respect each other's differences, and to allow one another the space to grow are some of the most valuable parts of the residence experience.

It is important to remember that roommates do not have to be the best of friends. There will be times when you and your roommate disagree on issues within your living environment. You will receive a tool to help you get started on the right foot during Orientation Week.



**Experience has shown that discussing the following issues can help roommates prevent misunderstandings:**

- Use of personal items
- Study time in the room
- Different sleep schedules
- Visiting and guests
- Cleanliness/tidiness of room
- Use of stereo/TV/telephone/computer
- Time for socializing
- Space for clothes/luggage
- Food in the room
- Lifestyle