

ROOMMATES

Everyone comes to college with certain expectations about what their relationships will be like with their roommate. Some of you will come expecting your roommate to be your best friend...someone you will do everything with—a roommate that will have “*all*” the same interests as you. Others will come wanting their roommate to be “*one*” of their best friends, but being glad that they have different interests which will expand their world of friendships.

Sharing a room with another person can be one of the most rewarding and enjoyable aspects of your college experience. The opportunity to become close friends or deepen relationships with another person provides a tremendous learning experience. There is always an initial adjustment period between roommates even if already acquainted. This adjustment period can be made much easier if roommates thoughtfully consider and honor the following:

Each student possesses the following rights as a roommate. Conversely, you should commit yourself to be the type of roommate who helps to insure that these rights exist.

- The right to read, study, and sleep in the room with as little disturbance as possible.
- The right to have personal belongings which are used by no one else except by mutual consent.
- The right to live in a clean and orderly room.
- The right to enter the room whenever one wants unless other arrangements are agreed upon by both residents.
- The right to have guests, provided they respect the rights of the roommate and abide by the policies of the university.
- The right to be free of physical or emotional harassment.
- The right to speak out openly with respect.

- The right to be treated considerately and thoughtfully.

These rights and responsibilities apply not only to roommates but also to other students living on the floor. As a part of the residence hall, the role you play in modeling these rights helps build a healthy and supportive community. Commitments to the following will enhance the chances of roommate compatibility:

- If you and your roommate experience problems, talk about these problems with each other instead of letting them frustrate you.
- Ask yourself what type of personal habits you have which may be irritating to others. Communicate with your assigned roommate as soon as you know who that will be and share information about yourself which you feel will help your roommate understand the type of person you are.
- Ask your roommate to tell you when you have said or done something that caused irritation.
- Seek counsel/advice from your Resident Assistant or Resident Director should an unresolved conflict arise.