Living successfully with roommates requires flexibility and the willingness to communicate in an honest, yet tactful, manner.

Understandably, it may be challenging to share living space at times; schedules, personalities, habits, stresses and lifestyles vary from person to person. **Communication is the key.**

One way to help avoid potential conflicts and misunderstandings is to sit down during the first week of living together and discuss your expectations of each other as roommates. By establishing some agreed upon ‘rules’ early and keeping the lines of communication open throughout the year, roommates increase their chances of having a positive experience. Getting to know one another takes time, and while it can be a lot of fun, it may also require patience at times.

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**Suggested Topics For Discussion**
- Study habits (times/areas)
- Sleeping habits
- Noise levels (music/TV)
- Security (locking doors/windows)
- Guests (male/female)
- Overnight guests (male/female)
- Gatherings
- Cleaning (who/how often)
- Borrowing items
- Hygiene/Cleaning (personal living area)
- Mail pick-up
- Pet peeves
- Smoking
- Food (sharing/cooking)
- Room temperature
- Decorations
- Alcohol (consumption values & practices)
- Telephone/payment/usage/messages

**Room/Apartment Changes**

Room/Apartment changes are made only under exceptional circumstances. If a conflict arises in your living situation, all those involved are expected to make their best efforts to resolve the problem. **Housing staff is available to assist residents with roommate issues.** Housing reserves the right (as per the contract) to temporarily or permanently relocate a student if deemed necessary to resolve a conflict. If a student is experiencing exceptional circumstances and wishes to change their housing assignment, the following guidelines apply:

- **Individuals interested in a change should first communicate existing issues to their respective RA, and with her/his assistance, work toward a resolution.**
- **Formal written approval must be received by the appropriate professional staff person in your community prior to any move. Your RA will be able to advise you on specific approval processes.**
- **Your room keys must be returned, and your space must be inspected for damages and/or excessive wear and tear by an appropriate staff member.**
- **Room change requests will not be processed during the first two weeks of the fall quarter in any of the communities, unless an urgent and compelling circumstance warrants it.**
- **Unauthorized room/apartment changes are not permitted. Residents in violation of this policy will be required to move back to their original rooms and are subject to disciplinary action and/or financial assessments.**