

Roommate Bill of Rights

It is important to note that a room is a private space that should be shared equally by everyone living there. As a responsible roommate, it is not appropriate to engage in any activity which would deny your roommate(s) access to the room or make them feel uncomfortable while in the room. When one roommate has a friend or friends visiting, it is always with the consent of the other roommate(s). When this isn't happening and roommates cannot figure out how to confront the problem, we suggest involving one of the Residence Life staff (RAs or RDs). Should roommates not be able to come to a resolution, or should one roommate continue to exhibit behavior that is inconsiderate or inappropriate, the Residence Life staff may take further action to resolve the conflict. This may include disciplinary action or a room change.

For some, living with a roommate may be a new experience. You will find that sharing a room with another person(s) requires open and honest communication, cooperation, and compromise. Relationships of any kind involve a bit of work, some give and take, and an understanding of each other. The rights listed below are a suggested basis for agreements between roommates. It is worth spending time discussing these rights and using them as a basis for communication between you and your roommate(s). To a large extent, your relationship with your roommate(s) is dependent on mutual consideration of your feelings and needs, as well as those of your roommate(s). Please remember that with every right goes the responsibility to respect that same right when it is exercised by another person(s).

- Each person has the right to read, study and sleep without undue interference from roommates & guests.
- Each person has the right to expect that their personal property will be respected and that their property is secure when it is in the room.
- Each person has the right to a clean environment, and the responsibility of doing their fair share to keep the environment clean.
- Each person has the right to having free access to their room whenever they need/want to be in it.
- Each person has the right to a reasonable level of personal privacy.
- Each person has the right to expect that the rules and regulations of the Residence Halls, and the campus, will be followed, and that no one will be put at risk of harm through actions that violate policies.
- Each person has the right to be free from pressure, intimidation, physical or emotional harm, and/or behavior that is demeaning or disrespectful.
- Each person has the right to discuss issues constructively, openly, and timely—either in private or with the assistance of Residence Life staff.
- Each person should expect that in order to have a positive relationship, they are likely going to need to compromise.
- Each person has the right to be listened to when they are articulating one's feelings.
- Should a person wish to host a guest (defined as anyone who does not live in the room), it must be done with the permission of the roommate(s) and also follow the guest policies outlined in the Residence Life policies. In addition, the host of the guest is responsible for the behavior of their guests.

